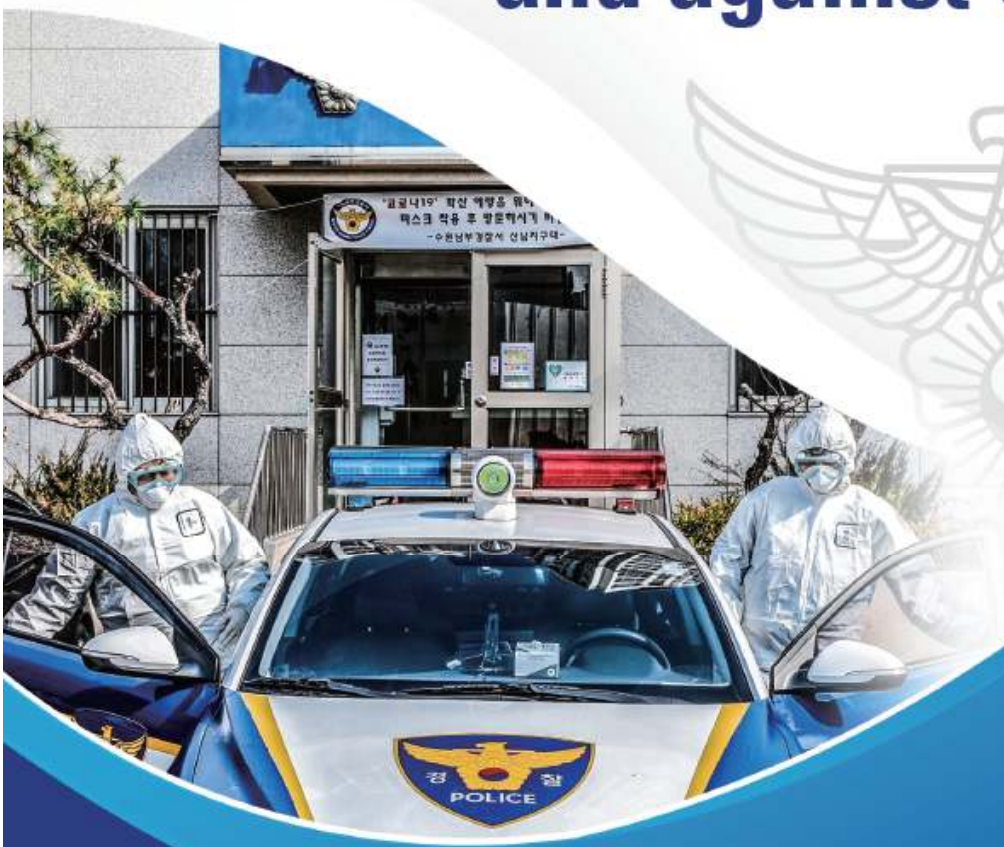
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Policing under and against COVID-19



KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY

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01 Overview of the Government's Response and Roles of the Korean National Police Agency

1. Overview of the Government's Response

☐ **The Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) leveled up the warning on the national infectious disease crisis to 'Serious' on 23rd February 2020. Since then, Prime Minister of the ROK Government has led the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters (CDSCH), which is responsible for the holistic government response to the disaster situation.**

* Crisis warning levels: **Attention (blue)** → **Caution (Yellow)** → **Alert (Orange)** → **Serious (Red)**

'**Serious**' means the start of community transmission or nationwide spread of a new infectious disease from abroad.

○ CDSCH led by Prime Minister is participated by heads of 25 ministries and agencies responsible for dealing with a national crisis, including the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA), Ministry of the Interior and Safety, and Ministry of Health and Welfare. CDSCH holds a meeting of those heads or their delegates every day who report the relevant situation and the actions thereof and share information.

[Reference]
'Korea's Fight against COVID-19' (4th edition) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
'Tacking COVID-19' by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

2. Roles of the Korean National Police Agency

☐ **The Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) is the leading law enforcement agency in the Republic of Korea responsible for protecting people's lives, health, and properties as well as maintaining public safety and order.**

○ Under this disaster situation with COVID-19, the KNPA concentrates all resources on its core tasks: namely strengthening law and order with proactive crime prevention; providing police enforcement to the Government's disease prevention and control; investigating and countering illegal activities generated from social disorder; and protecting essential public facilities.

□ **The Korean Police actively respond to the COVID-19 situation according to counter-disaster manuals at the government and agency levels, respectively.**

○ The Standard Manual of Crisis Control and Infectious Disease Disaster of the ROK Government stipulates police roles, namely: public order management by supporting isolation of patients and access control; protection of essential facilities including ones for saving disaster management resources; police enforcement for prevention and management of infectious diseases; and cooperation by providing location information of individuals under quarantine control.

- The Police systemically conduct the detailed tasks as follows as per the functional and operational manuals which have been developed in advance.

【Police tasks in the operational manuals for infectious disease disaster】

Tasks	Details
Securing Chain of Command	▸ Securing the reporting line on crisis management
Enhancing cooperation with airport and port authorities	▸ More cooperation with residential authorities and sharing of information ▸ Request to strengthen screening of travelers and shipments
Sharing and distributing data with local and relevant authorities	▸ Cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Welfare, local governments, collating and relaying information ▸ Rearranging cooperation channel with each entity
Access control support	▸ Access control in quarantine places ▸ Cooperation with medical/quarantine authorities
Maintaining public law and order	▸ Maintaining public safety and security ▸ Various actions for crime prevention and public relations
Strengthening criminal justice	▸ Blocking fake news and canard ▸ Criminal investigation of illegal activities ▸ Tracing missing persons and identifying a corpse.

○ Commissioner General of the KNPA is one of the principal heads of central agencies comprising the whole government response system. He has participated in daily video conferences of CDSCH and reported the KNPA's actions against the disease. Commissioner General also gets requests and actively answer to other government offices by providing police enforcement.

02 Systemic Response of the Police

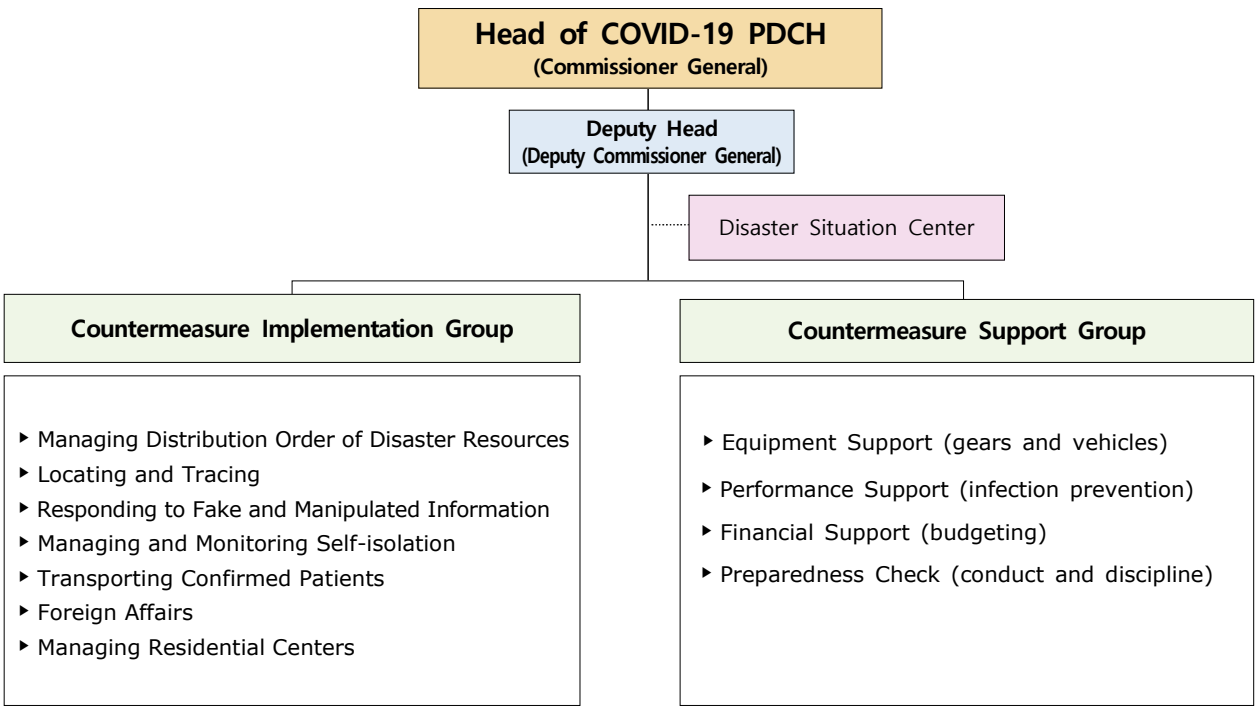
□ **Recognizing how severe the COVID-19 crisis is, the KNPA runs COVID-19 Police Disaster Countermeasure Headquarters (PDCH) for a comprehensive response to the disease.**

○ At the KNPA, the main office in charge of responding to COVID-19 is Police Situation Control Center (Crisis Management Section). On 27th January 2020, when the crisis warning level was raised to 'Alert,' the center was rearranged as Disaster Situation Center, where a task force on COVID-19 was embedded to cope with a quickly degrading situation.

○ As the level rose to 'Serious' on 23rd February, the center was expanded on 27th February to COVID-19 Countermeasure Headquarters, led by Deputy Commissioner General of the KNPA, covering 24/7 situation of the infectious disease.

○ Since 6th March, the Countermeasure Headquarters was upgraded again to **COVID-19 Police Disaster Countermeasure Headquarters (PDCH).** Commissioner General has been the head of PDCH since then, leading Director Generals for all police functions. PDCH holds daily briefing and high-level meetings to share measures and specifics of policing as far as COVID-19 is concerned. This rearrangement enabled the Police to strengthen systemic approaches and focus expertise in dealing with the COVID-19 situation.

<Structure of PDCH>



○ PDCH is composed of three main pillars.

① **Disaster Situation Center**, running 24/7, is equipped with an immediate response system headed by a Poice Situation Management Officer supported by a coordination team (crisis management center), and staff officers seconded from respective bureaus of the KNPA.

② **Countermeasure Support Group** is in charge of financial planning for enhancing on-site response to COVID-19 and providing protective resources, such as masks, protection suits, and other gears to field officers.

③ **Countermeasure Implementation Group** is composed of the various elements to support relevant policies of the ROK Government in line with current core issues discussed at CDSCH.

Teams	Major tasks
Management of Distribution Order of Disaster Resources	‣ Investigation and intelligence on illegal activities such as hoarding masks and fraud.
Locating and Tracing	‣ Tracing the movement of unaccounted patients ‣ Investigation of violation of quarantine rules ‣ Tracking of a person upon the request from CDSCH
Response to Fake and Manipulated Information	‣ Investigation of fake news or personal information leaks ‣ Monitoring and blocking manipulated information ‣ Public relations with accurate policy information
Management and Monitoring of Self-isolation	‣ Support to self-quarantine management ‣ Support for testing non-cooperative patients ‣ Transportation of self-quarantined or non-cooperative patients
Transportation of Confirmed Patients	‣ Escort of severe patients to the hospital or mild patients to residential care centers. ‣ Facilitation of movement and response to unexpected incidents.
Foreign Affairs	‣ Tracking of unaccounted foreign students ‣ Intelligence on foreigner communities ‣ Locating foreigners under risk of infection
Management of Residential Care Centers	‣ Support for the management of residential care centers ‣ Police reinforcement to maintain external and internal order

○ All 18 provincial/metropolitan police agencies have upgraded their situation centers to Disaster Countermeasure Centers following the KNPA's upgrade. The heads of those agencies directly control countermeasures to the disaster. Their system has been aligned as the one in the headquarters to cover 24/7 response to the outbreak.

○ The KNPA regularly hosts **leadership-level video conferences** to share information and check the respective responding system to the disease of each local police agency. All the senior leadership of the headquarters and the local police agencies participate in the video conference to share the situation and measures covered by the central Government and the KNPA. Chiefs of municipal police stations can also watch the video conference for sharing information to the fullest extent possible.



【Nationwide leadership level video conference】

□ **The KNPA has issued a nationwide order of ‘Police Emergency Duty’ to utilize its full resources to cope with the countrywide disaster crisis.**

○ The Agency issued a national order of **'Police Emergency Duty'** on 24th February by the Rules on Police Emergency Duty on disaster situations with infectious diseases. 'Eul' Emergency Alert, which is the second-highest level, has been put on police stations in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, the hardest-hit region of the country. Other local agencies are under the fourth level of 'Enhanced Alert.' The period and scope of these alerts depend on the extent of disease spread.

* Under 'Eul' Emergency Alert, all leaves are suspended, and a half of the whole police force is mobilized. Leadership and high-level staff officers must work full-time in the office. With the Enhanced Alert, chiefs and staff officers must remain within one hour distance from their work while all officers should be ready to respond to emergency calls at all times.

03 Managing the Self-Isolated and Tracing the Unaccounted

1. Support for Epidemiology Investigation

☐ **The KNPA has developed and run the 'COVID-19 Epidemiology Investigation Support System' in cooperation with the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC), mobile carriers, and credit card companies.**

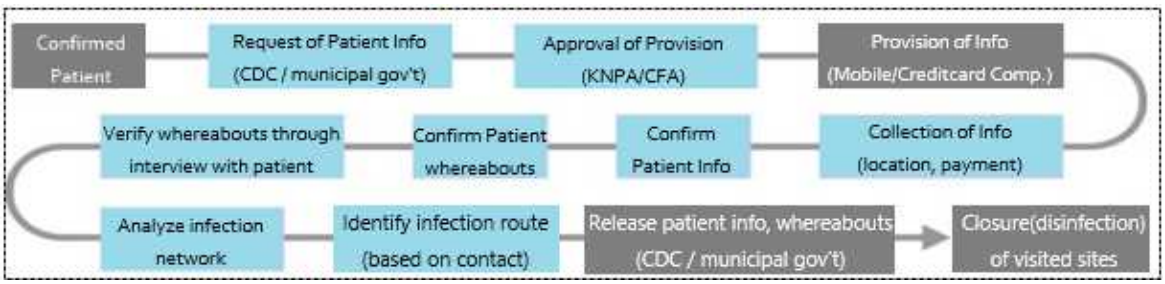
* Collected personal data will be destroyed immediately after the system is abolished as the COVID-19 situation improves.

○ The system is temporary only for the epidemiology investigation of confirmed patients, which drastically reduces time spent to track the movement of patients with rapid verification of credit card transactions and cell phone GPS data through the newly introduced electronic network.

○ The system enables the KNPA, upon the request from KCDC or municipal governments, to garner location data of a person confirmed with the virus quickly from the mobile carriers and relay the information to the requesting entities.

※ Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Act stipulates that mobile carries may provide cell phone GPS data only through chiefs of the Police to other government agencies.

< Process of Epidemiology Investigation on COVID-19 cases >



☐ **Police Quick Response Teams (QRTs) are formed to support quarantine authorities managing the patients, such as enlisting, locating, and epidemiology investigation, with securing evidence and police enforcement.**

○ The QRTs are composed of investigators and detectives, and work together with medical and quarantine officials checking the list and status of patients.

- The officers in the QRTs help the medical authority warn the uncooperative patients for being charged with violations of relevant laws, stop illegal activities, and start the criminal justice process in case of violence happening during the examination. This assistance facilitates testing, treatment, and isolation of confirmed patients.

2. Preventing Violations of Self-Isolation

□ **The Korean Police take proactive and preventative measures as far as violations of self-quarantine are concerned.**

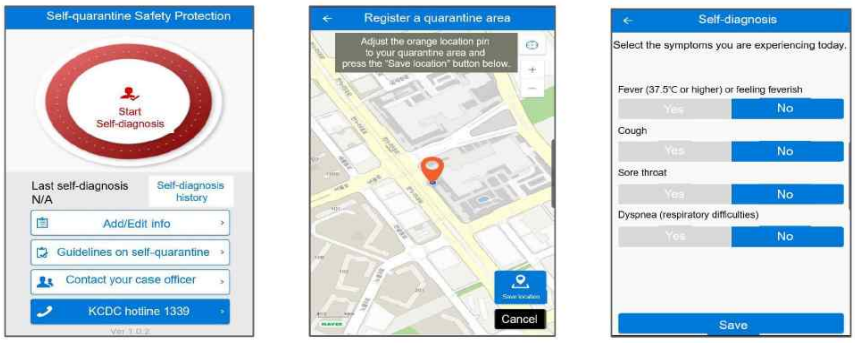
○ The number of self-quarantined has increased since the Government announced the strengthened quarantine management for travelers from abroad. So has the requests for police support to find unaccounted self-quarantined personnel from local government. Hence, the Police answer by providing dispatch of officers and investigation.

○ The Police check residences of frequent violators of self-quarantine orders jointly with local authorities. Even without the request, the Police regularly patrol around these places as a proactive measure. When violations are noted, the local authorities are informed immediately, and strong measures are taken on the spot. If the reason for such violations is unreasonable, violators are criminally charged and seriously scrutinized as per ‘zero tolerance.’

○ Public medical authorities are in charge of the simple monitoring of self-quarantined citizens. When requested for assistance, the Police may stay outside and monitor the situation while medical officials are examining the self-quarantined person. If the Police need to check the status of the self-quarantined without health officials, then they should utilize non-contact ways such as phone calls or bare vision, preferably. If these ways are not available and there are no other options, forceful entry to the residence is also allowed for preventing danger based on Article 5 of the Act on the Performance of Duties by Police Officers.

○ When self-quarantined patients have fled, and quarantine authorities have notified of the flight by visiting the residence or the ‘Self-quarantine Safety Protection App,’ the quarantine authority can report the flight through 112 emergency call. Then the Police start a search operation with cell-phone GPS date and dispatch of officers.

* The Ministry of the Interior and Safety has developed the app which gives notice to designated officials when the quarantined citizens have walked away from the isolation. Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act allows the Police to conduct search operations and tracking down the movement with cell phone GPS data.



Self-quarantine Safety Protection App: A designated official can check the status of self-isolated patients twice a day and notify any walk-out without authorization.

3. Measures on Violations of Self-Isolation

☐ **The Police, together with quarantine authorities, robustly tackle the violations, making the violators return to the original isolation places and responsible for the break.**

○ If the patient who has fled is found, public medical officials are brought to persuade the patient to go back to the self-quarantine place and verify the return. When the patient goes back to his or her residence, they cannot use public transportation but must use their private vehicle or a separate transportation method such as an ambulance.

- When the patient turns down the return request and becomes violent against the medical staff, he or she is put on forceful isolation at a medical facility. The Police enforce its power to facilitate this process in consultation with the medical authority. Under the 'Serious' national crisis warning, the Police are allowed to take necessary actions in this regard alone if the public medical officials come late or cannot intervene. If the patient continues to resist and use violence, forceful movement and isolation are allowed based on the immediate police enforcement for public interests. This enables the Police to use the necessary and appropriate equipment and gears as well as arrest the offender for interfering lawful execution of public duties by public officials.

○ The offender is charged for violating Article 79 of the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Act, punishable up to one-year imprisonment or a fine of 10 million Korean Won. Return to the first isolation place is the priority, however.

○ If a suspicious patient refuses to take a test, the Police in PPE first let the medical authority convince and warn the patient to be tested. If the refusal continues, the Police can take necessary actions as per the request from medical authorities. If needed, arrests at the scene are permitted as a part of administrative support to essential quarantine measures. The Police can impose their steps alone if no intervention is available by medical authorities.

※ Police cars can be used for transportation of suspicious patients if no medical or emergency vehicle can come. Before doing this, the police officers on the ground check the availability of hospitals with proper treatment capacity. If there is no hospital available, they are supposed to control all access and contact to the patient until other means are available.

4. Tracing Unaccounted (Suspicious) Patients

○ The Police also support medical authorities to find unaccounted patients by providing cell phone numbers, immigration records, and residence registration number of such patients. This information is available upon the request of the medical authority and from relevant authorities and private companies. The Police get the information in the middle and relay it to the entities in need. This process is to fill any gaps in epidemiology screening and monitoring of isolated patients.

○ When requested by proper authorities, the Police provide location data of a specific person who is under the remit of such jurisdictions. The requesting authority should officially ask for location data of such person according to the Article 76-2 of Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act.

- When locating the patient is urgently needed but not possible even with cell phone GPS tracking, the Police physically go to the residence and neighborhood of the patient to check whether he or she stays there. If that still does not work, chief of the police station decides to mobilize other investigative resources, including detectives, investigators, or cyber-crime investigators for further steps.

※ The request from the medical authority should be on paper in principle. However, an emergency call (112-call) can be used in case of an emergency.



【Support to locating (suspicious) patients】

5. Police Services for Foreigners

☐ **Aliens in Korea are under the same quarantine measures as Koreans in terms of locating and treating probable patients.**

○ The same process of finding Korean patients applies to suspicious patients among foreigners. QRTs comprising officers from Police Foreign Affairs work together with medical authorities.

- Various measures are coordinated to verify the location and treatment of the patients.

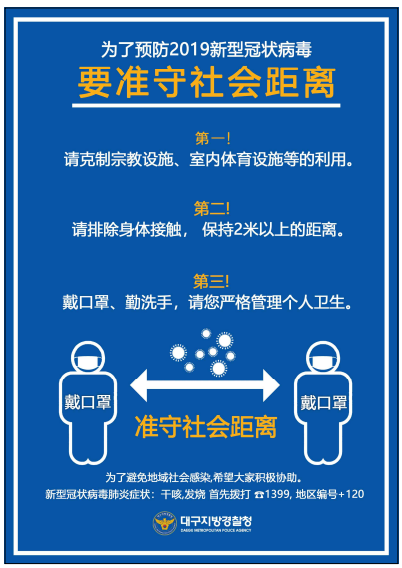
☐ **The Police identify risk factors and initiate awareness campaigns among foreigners**

○ The Police proactively monitor any risk factors or vulnerability of group infection among foreigners on a voluntary basis from foreign and diplomatic communities in Korea,

- Relevant information is shared through the KCDC meetings or directly informed to responsible authorities to improve any systemic gaps.

○ The Government's initiatives for disease infection have been put into many kinds of media, including leaflets, online announcements, and social media messages, which also have been translated into various languages. The Police distribute this information to all contact points such as already-established online communities, residential areas, public offices for foreigners.







【Campaign for social distancing policy】

04 Examination of Crowded Public Venues

□ **The Korean Police are vigorously checking public venues of religion, sports, entertainment, and other businesses together with local governments.**

○ Local governments are the main lead of this examination and request for joint examination more and more with the Police. Upon the request, the Police send officers to examine whether the facilities on the subject abide by the administrative quarantine regulations.

- When such a violation is found by the Police alone during patrols or responses to an emergency call, the officers warn and tell someone in charge of running the facility to follow the local government's regulations. The violations are also immediately informed to the local authorities. When they ask for additional help, the Police support actively.

○ The Police exercise its enforcement power by checking whether facilities violate administrative orders banning close gatherings, persuading the owners to follow the restriction, and actively responding to any violence occurring during the examination.

※ The ROK Government strongly advises places of close gathering, such as churches, indoor gyms, clubs, and bars, to close since 22nd March. Local governments have been issuing administrative orders to ban all close gatherings, preventing further spreads of COVID-19.





【Joint examination with local public authorities】

05 Response to Illegal Activities

□ **The Police vigorously crackdown varied illegal activities related the COVID-19 situations, preventing social disorder and anxiety as well as securing public safety.**

○ The Korean Police take robust posture against opportunistic crimes under crisis and obstruction of public quarantine measures.

- The spotlighted crimes include: cornering and hoarding of quarantine materials; violations of the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act; frauds in selling sanitation materials; and distribution of fake news and manipulated information.

○ **(Cornering and hoarding)** The Police vigorously tackle disturbing the market of face masks and hand sanitizers, the items under temporary and urgent control of the Government. Major illicit activities are targeting price spike by not releasing the items in stock and not reporting the price and quantities of such items, which results in hampering public health.

○ **(Violations of the disease prevention act)** The Police actively embark on an investigation of walking away from self-isolation, providing fake evidence in epidemiology investigation, obstructing quarantine measures, and refusing hospitalization. Those activities interrupt the Government's public business to stop further spreads of the disease. The police investigation is also ongoing about not following banning orders on large gatherings by local governments.

○ **(Fraud in selling sanitation materials)** Frequent online scams are selling defective products or not sending purchased items after payment. Criminals also pretend to be a producer of such items, receive money and then disappear. The police investigation vigorously tackles such deviations, focusing its resources and time.

○ **(Fake news and manipulated information)** Fake news seriously affect public concerns. They are reported to related government offices to be deleted or blocked to the access of the general public. The Police trace the origin and distribution channels of the false information depending on the severity of the case.

※ The false information is construed narrowly and limited only to specific cases, such as raising ungrounded rumors about the disease, defamation of a particular person being a confirmed patient, personal information leaks, and obstructing business being a contaminated place. Simple questioning, expressing contrary opinions, or blaming the Government's policy is not subject to the police scrutiny to protect freedom of expression.

06 Police Support to Quarantine Measures

□ The Korean Police actively respond to the request for police support from KCDC and other quarantine authorities.

○ Among many quarantine measures, the ROK Government tests all travelers from abroad, regardless of their nationality, for COVID-19, who are put on self-quarantine for two weeks to see any progress of suspicious symptoms. Patients with mild symptoms are treated at residential care centers* while hospitalization is provided to severe cases.

* Patients confirmed with COVID-19 but with mild symptoms are isolated at the residential care centers, not a hospital, for appropriate treatment provided by medical professionals who stay there and regularly check the condition of the patients. The patients could be hospitalized if needed.

○ The Police support these endeavors by providing escorts to the movement of patients and patrols for maintaining order both inside and outside the residential care centers.

< Example of the police support >

- As of 7th April, the KNPA deploys ten police liaison officers to the KCDC and other government agencies while mobilizing 700 officers to support various examinations and quarantine controls of different departments.
- On 31st January, Korean nationals were brought back to Korea from Uhan, China by a chartered plane. The Korean Police provided its Police Human Resources Development Institute (PHRDI) as a residential care center, transportation (including drivers) and escorts of those people from the airport to the center, and external and internal guard for the facility.
- On 23rd March, PHRDI, with three officers deployed, was again provided as a temporary waiting place for testing the Korean citizens without any symptoms traveling from Iran and Europe.
- On 28th March, public order units were deployed to protect Korean nationals coming from Peru by a chartered flight.
- As all travelers from abroad should go through special screening and quarantine since 1st April, police officers have been deployed to support the movement of Korean nationals from abroad without a symptom.
- Similar police supports were provided for Korean citizens coming from Italy on 1st and 2nd April.





【Escort for Korean nations coming from abroad and public order for quarantine facility】

07

Protection of Officers and Quarantine for Police Facilities

1. Protection Equipment and Gears

☐ **The KNPA provides PPE and disinfection methods to field officers for their safety and infection prevention under the COVID-19 outbreak.**

○ The KNPA does its utmost for the safety of police officers on the ground to protect them from COVID-19 infection. ‘Level-D Protection Suits,’ which have been stored for disaster situations, are provided to field officers in advance. All officers are told to wear the protection suits anytime when dispatched to a scene with a possible COVID-19 engagement.

Protection suit (Level-D)	Others	
	 <KF94 face mask>	 <Hand sanitizer>
▸ (Specs) full body suit, N95 face mask, gloves, protection goggle, and galoshes ▸ used for high-risk contamination source	 <Sanitation glove>	

【Personal Protection Equipment Set】

- Fire agencies also provide disinfection for police officers who have been sent to a call related to COVID-19 or dealing with such cases, Police vehicles and equipment with possible contamination are sterilized as well at nearby fire stations.

○ The KNPA analyzes use patterns of protection suits by local agencies and prioritizes distributions to those with a high number of confirmed patients and PPE use. The Agency also continuously tries to retain enough protection suits in preparation for further spreads of the disease.

- Field officers in police precincts or boxes, detectives, and traffic officers have been given protection suits in their vehicles and offices for immediate use. Video instructions are available online if they are not familiar with how to wear and get off the suits.

- Further, the protection suit has a police mark on it to identify better who are police officers at the scene to increase police visibility and public awareness.



【Police logo on the protection suit】



【Video instruction on how to wear PPE】



【Disinfection of police equipment】

○ The Central Government coordinates distributing face masks nationwide as it is the priority to the public in preventing the disease. KCDC is in charge of deciding the priority and quantity of face masks distributed to each government department and agency, including the Police, as well.

- The KNPA secured 700,000 face masks for police officers as decided by KCDC on 29th March and has distributed them preferentially to provincial police agencies, which have a high number of confirmed cases but lack face masks for officers as they are the most vulnerable to the infection.

○ The KNPA actively participates in the comprehensive countermeasures against COVID-19 of the ROK Government, providing its resources to movements and isolation of confirmed or tested patients. The staff mobilized for this are provided with PPE for a safe work environment by the guidelines established on the basis of the proportional possibility of contacting confirmed patients.

【PPE management and provision for staff working in quarantine facilities】

Facility / Subject	Contact Limits with confirmed patient	The Standard for wearing PPE	Support of Protection Equipment
Living Treatment Center (Employee) Mild-symptoms	Non-contact ※ Contact is allowed only if anything particular is found	‣ Routine basis: face mask ※ CCTV control within an isolated area ‣ Situations: protection suit	‣ Government support
Temporary Living Stations (Employee) All travelers (Isolation for 14 days)	Close contact for check in·out ※ Contact is allowed only if anything particular is found	‣ Check in·out: protection suit ‣ Routine basis: face mask ‣ Situations: protection suit	‣ Government support
Temporary Testing Stations (Employee) Asymptomatic foreigners	Close contact for check in·out Non-contact for routine basis ※ Contact is allowed only if anything particular is found	‣ Check in·out: protection suit ‣ Routine basis: face mask ‣ Situations: protection suit	‣ Government support
Quarantine Support Personnel All travelers	Close contact for temperature checks	‣ Face mask+glove ‣ Situations: protection suit	‣ Quarantine Station(KCDC)
Drivers of vehicles Asymptomatic foreigners	Non-contact	‣ Face mask	‣ CDMH ※ Consult with Crisis Management Center

2. Protection of Officers on the Ground

☐ **Police officers should act based on the detailed guidelines when they respond to 112 calls related to COVID-19. The guidelines are to stop officers from being exposed to infection and transferring disease to the public.**

○ The Police should respond to an emergency call together with medical authorities in principle. Call-takers inform medical authorities of all necessary information including caller ID. If the situation is urgent, call-takers tell the caller to report to medical authorities at the same time.

- Before embarking on anything on the spot, field officers should be fully aware of the protocols on how to deal with various COVID-19 situations, including forceful separation and isolation of patients as well as contact details of local medical authorities and KCDC.

※ With officers arriving at the scene, the call taking system automatically sends a safety text message to the caller to garner information concerning COVID-19.

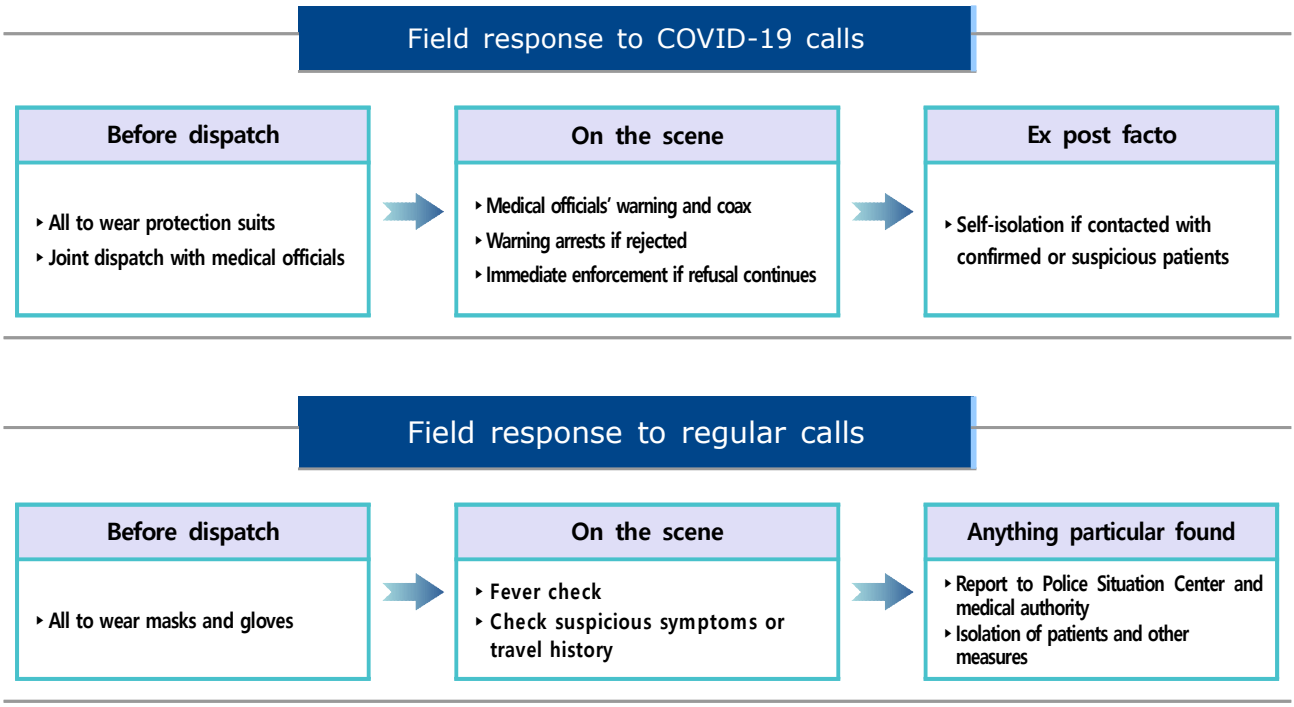
< Safety Text Message >

Please wear a face mask when you meet a police officer. Let the officer know if you have any fever, cough, or a history of contacting COVID-19 confirmed patients. Your cooperation will secure everyone's safety and facilitate the officers' service for you.

○ Officers on the scene must wear the protection suits as per the previous instructions and minimize contacts as far as they can. If they confront suspicious patients or anybody who has contacted with a confirmed patient in an open area, they must wear a face mask and protection gloves.

* Level-D protection set includes a protection suit, overshoes, goggle, N95 face mask, and gloves.

○ Used PPE is discarded through appropriate procedures upon the consultation with a public medical office. Officers who have treated COVID-19 calls must wash their hands thoroughly and keep up personal hygiene. Patrol cars should be sterilized by a professional disinfection company or local quarantine authorities such as a public medical office or an emergency medical service.



○ Police actions and enforcement requested by medical authorities should be quickly reported through the situation reporting system.

○ When a call to a police situation center is only about medical issues, police officers are not to be deployed. Instead, the caller is informed of contact details of the KCDC or local public medical offices. If necessary, the Police can relay the calling to relevant authorities and share information obtained so far with them.

○ When there is a call to transport a suspicious COVID-19 patient by a private citizen, not by an appropriate authority, the Police do not respond to the request in principle. A medical ambulance should be called in such cases.

※ Emergency communication network with quarantine and medical offices has been set up in all situation rooms of local police agencies and stations.

- If a police patrol car needs to be deployed to a suspicious COVID-19 situation and medical staff and ambulance are not available, all police officers must wear Level-D protection suits. After transporting the patient, they must discard the suits as per the appropriate process and sanitize the vehicle used for transportation. The police patrol car cannot be used at least for one hour after the sanitization.

- When a suspicious patient is noted at the scene of a regular police call, all officers there first should wear PPE and block all access to prevent further infection. Then the situation should be reported to their police situation center, which informs public medical authorities of the said case and asks for support. The officers on the site control the access until the medical staff evacuates the patient and completes follow-up quarantine process.

○ When the criminal justice process, such as an arrest or a voluntary company to a police station, is needed, all measures must be taken to reduce the chance of contact with a suspect. The suspect should be checked for any fever with a non-contact thermometer or respiratory symptoms. If there is any suspicious symptom, it should be reported immediately to the police situation center. The suspect should be isolated in a police car or a separate place and referred to medical authority to check whether he or she has been contracted with COVID-19. All officers who had contact with the suspect should also be isolated in a separate place while other co-workers remain in their offices until the test result of the suspect has come out. The investigation division should be consulted to decide if the police custody of the suspect should continue or not.

※ When arresting a flagrant offender, the Police consult with public medical officials and take into consideration the isolation of the offender at a separate facility according to the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act.

○ When there is a call for unnatural death, the Police situation center asks for a joint response with the fire agency. Officers are dispatched in PPE and, while going to the scene, contact with family members of the deceased to check any previous history of suspicious symptoms or travel to a hot-spot with COVID-19. If they find anything particular, medical authorities should be informed as well. Even without any specifics, the officers should wear face masks and protection gloves just in case.

○ Interviews for deposition or statement should be postponed or minimized unless necessary.* Indirect ways, including phone interviews or documentation, are encouraged.

* (I.e.) △ arresting flagrant offenders, △ felons to be incarcerated △ impending statute of limitation

- When confrontation is inevitable, all interviewees should go through screening with a checklist and temperature checks. Anyone with the symptoms is to be immediately isolated and referred to medical authorities.

  ※ The checklist includes whether the interviewee has ① shown any suspicious symptoms, such as fever or respiratory symptoms, and ② exposed to risk factors such as visits to contaminated areas or hot spots, and contact with a confirmed patient. If either one of the two is checked, it should be consulted with and treated by local medical authority immediately.

○ Investigators transport the arrestees or search a crime scene wearing a face mask and protection gloves. They also use hand sanitizer for thorough sanitation. If necessary, the officers doing outdoor investigative activities secure their safety by wearing the protection suits.

- When a suspect is arrested or transported, even if he or she does not show any related symptoms, the suspect is given a face mask to wear and double-checked for body temperature and the history of the previous contact with a confirmed case. Forensic officers wear disposable sanitation gloves when they touch any evidence on a crime scene to minimize possible exposure to contamination.

- Vehicles used for investigation have protection suits all the time in case that investigators deal with COVID-19-related cases.




【Wearing PPE and disinfection of a police station】

3. Quarantine Measures for Police Facilities

□ **Each police facility has developed its quarantine plan stressing personal hygiene and health guidelines, facility quarantine, and prohibiting large gatherings and face-to-face contacts.**

○ **(On human)** Police officers, civilians staff, and members of auxiliary police have been fully informed of guidelines for preventing infectious diseases. Step-by-step measures have been established as far as a contact to confirmed patients, or indication of suspicious symptoms is concerned. Everyone should wear masks in a police facility while delivery services are prohibited and substantial access control is put in place. The invitation to outside personnel is not advised.

- If a staff member has contacted with a confirmed patient, he or she must be on special paid leave for 14 days. If there is any fever or respiratory symptom, it should be reported through the reporting line and consulted with the medical hotline and local public health centers. Once a staff member has been tested, he or she should stay at home until the test result has come.

○ **(On place)** People visiting police agencies or stations can see a large information banner on recommendations to prevent infectious disease. There is hand sanitizer on almost every entry of the building or offices. All visitors should wear a face mask and go through a screening process to check body temperature (to be lower than 37.5℃), any respiratory symptoms, or history of travel to domestic or foreign hot spots with widespread infections.

- Offices visited or stayed by any confirmed patient are to be temporarily shut down for at least one day and thoroughly sterilized before reopening.

- Elevator buttons are covered with antibacterial films, while ID cards are used for all personal identification systems instead of fingerprints.





【Thermometer and hand sanitizer, anti-bacterial film, social distancing floor stickers】

○ **(On event)** All planned activities should be carefully reviewed in terms of urgency, risk factors, and vulnerability of the participants. Unless necessary, all events with high risks are strongly advised to be postponed or canceled. Online meetings and video conferences are preferred, while essential offline meetings can take place after thorough quarantine measures with all participants wearing masks.

- All training courses, such as physical exercise or martial arts, are replaced with online ones to prevent group infection.

□ **The Korean Police has developed a Standard of Operations to avoid infections at police detention cells. The SOP includes measures to be taken at the first admission of a detainee, occurrence of a suspicious patient, and sanitation controls.**

○ **At the first admission to the detention,** all detainees should go through the screening process to check: fever; suspicious symptoms; any previous contact with confirmed cases. When associated symptoms show, the detainee should be isolated and immediately consulted with quarantine authorities.

○ **When a detainee has been contacted with confirmed patients or shown suspicious signs of COVID-19,** he or she is isolated immediately and treated appropriately in consultation with the prosecutor's office and medical authorities.

- Detention officers and investigators who have closely contacted with the quarantined detainee are self-isolated until the medical authority allows a return to normal.
- Other detainees who happen to be held at the same detention center at the same time are moved to a substitute detention facility for isolation, and new detainees are sent to another detention center in the vicinity.

○ For stronger sanitation, detainees are told to wash their hands for more than 30 seconds and cover their mouths when coughing. They are checked for body temperature twice a day.

- The cells are sterilized both externally and internally at least twice a week. Local public health centers also provide disinfection regularly inside the detention cells as much as possible.

○ Lawyer's visits take place, not in an open space but a visiting room with glass walls installed. If it needs to happen in an open area, everybody should wear a face mask.

- The online video meeting system is introduced and encouraged for family visits instead of a physical visit.

- If they still want a face-to-face meeting, visitors and detainees should be checked for body temperature, suspicious symptoms, and previous contacts to a confirmed case.

□ **Public Services Centers, where the general public visits the most for police businesses, are also equipped with preventative measures and contingency plans.**

○ **When a visitor is later being tested for COVID-19,** the center where he or she has visited is temporarily shut down until the test result has come. If the test is confirmed positive, the center is closed and all staff working there are sent home for self-quarantine.

- A temporary Public Service Center is open to the public in a separate place or a nearby police station to minimize any possible gaps in its work.

  * Documentation, paperwork, counseling, etc.

○ When a visitor shows unusual symptoms, such as fever of 37.5 or more, he or she should stay outside the building and be double-checked for temperature. The public health center or KCDC is informed of the situation immediately for the next step.

○ Some provincial police agencies and local stations installed transparent plastic windows block possible transmissions between the workers and visitors. Visitors are introduced to the 'self-checking desk' where they can check themselves with a thermometer and a questionnaire of possible symptoms and history.



【Transparent Plastic Windows installed at Public Service Centers】

4. Contingency Work Plans

□ **If a police officer is confirmed for COVID-19, the office or division of the officer should be shut down. To minimize the impact of such closure, the Police have introduced substitution of work unit by unit or department by department.**

○ If a whole police station needs to close, another station in the vicinity will take the work of the closed one. When the same happens in a police precinct or box, the work shift is conducted following the 'human resource management SOP' below

○ When a section or a team is isolated in a police station, another section or team in the same division does the work for the isolated ones. If the whole division is shut down, then another division is appointed as a substitute one.

□ **Local precincts and boxes reorganize the shift system to make the best of available human resources. Previous restrictions in human resource management have been lifted for filling possible gaps.**

○ If the number of isolated officers is small, and the period is two days or shorter, the current shift system remains intact. Other officers in the same precinct are deployed or distributed to nearby jurisdictions to respond to emergency calls.

○ If the short isolation applies to three precincts or more, or one or two precincts are quarantined for more extended period (14 days or more), then the number of sifts is to be reduced accordingly to secure enough workforce. If necessary, reinforcement should come from the local police agency by rearranging the workforce among police stations.

○ If three or more precincts are isolated for more than 13 days or only 70% of the workforce are available because of the quarantine measures, all shift systems of all precinct should be reorganized, and the provincial police agency rearranges human resources completely.

○ When confirmed cases and following isolation make only 50% of the whole police force available, all police precinct and boxes open for regular business hours, and then only a small number of 'flexible police boxes' are run for the night time. Among them, there is a central police box in which all officers on duty and equipment are integrated and dispatched.

○ Local precincts with confirmed cases minimize the scope of the activities except for 112 emergency calls. Back-up from other shift teams or precincts is allowed without any limits.



Policing under and against COVID-19

This paper on "Policing under and against COVID-19" is prepared by Foreign Affairs Bureau of the Korean National Police Agency(KNPA). Please contact International Cooperation Division at **icsknp@police.go.kr** or **+82-2-3150-2880** for further information.

KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY