

# Plan to Enhance Infection Prevention and Control Measures in the Seoul Metropolitan Region

Aug.18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## 1 Background

- **From Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>**, the Seoul Metropolitan Region (SMR) has been witnessing **150 to 200 new cases per day alongside rising mass infection** in several areas.

\*The number of confirmed cases in the SMR: 145 (Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>) → 245 (Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>) → 163 (Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>) → 201 (Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>)

- The concern is that **lack of cooperation from Seoul's Sarang Jeil Church**, including submitting **inaccurate lists of churchgoers**, is **disturbing the implementation of diagnostic testing and following quarantine and isolation**, raising the risk of **secondary community transmission and spread**.
- Currently, **additional transmission** from workplaces of the churchgoers **to other religious facilities and medical institutions** is taking place and **some confirmed cases** are turned out to have **attended large-scale rallies**.

\*Currently, 457 confirmed cases are related to Sarang Jeil Church (as of noon on Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>)

- Currently, enhanced Social Distancing Level 2 is implemented in Seoul and Gyeonggi **but some compulsory measures in Level 2, such as banning assemblies/gatherings/events.**
- Taking into account the severity of current transmission and spread, decision is made to promptly implement **enhanced infection prevention and control measures within the scope of Social Distancing Level 2 in the SMR**, and apply the **enhanced measures to churches in the SMR in cooperation with church authorities.**

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Implementation plan of enhanced infection prevention and control measures within the scope of Level 2

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### [1] Addition of areas subject to Distancing Level 2

- In addition to Seoul and Gyeonggi, which have been under the strengthened social distancing from Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>, **Incheon** became a new target area of **enhanced Level 2 measures** as they are all **in the same living zone.**

### [2] Enhancing infection prevention and control measures of Distancing Level 2 in the SMR.

- **Seoul/Gyeonggi/Incheon** is to be placed on the following **enhanced measures with effect from midnight on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>.**

- First, **ban gatherings**, including **private/public face-to-face \*assemblies/gatherings/events of 50 or more people indoors and 100 or more people outdoors.**

- \*Assemblies/gatherings/events: **temporary** assemblies/gatherings/events where people **with the same purpose gather in the same place** according to the **agreed, promised, and announced schedule in advance.** Below are some of the examples.

**<Ban on gatherings of 50 or more indoors/100 and more outdoors>**

▲**(Events)** Exhibitions/expos, presentations, public hearings, academic conferences, memorial ceremonies, retreats, assemblies, festivals/feasts, large-scale concerts, autograph sessions, lectures, etc.

▲**(Private Gatherings)** weddings, reunions, club meetings, outings, sixtieth-birthday parties, funerals, first-birthday parties, workshops, *kye* (Korean-style rotating-credit association) get-togethers, etc.

▲**(Exams)** Employment exams, certification exams, etc. (The only exceptions are those with fewer than 50 people per classroom.)

- Those violating the ban on gatherings will be **imposed with a fine of KRW 3 million or less**, in accordance with subparagraph 7 of Article 80 of the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act. The right to **indemnity can be exercised** against confirmed cases to have **treatment/hospitalization or quarantine costs** reimbursed.

- In principle, the **ban on gatherings** is implemented **depending on the size** of the assembly/gathering/event, but:
  - Exams are permitted **depending on the number of people** in a **separate unit** (e.g., classroom) if the exams take place in **divided and separated spaces** where **movement or physical contact** can be **prohibited**. In this case, **adhere to the infection prevention and control rules**, such as mask-wearing and physical distance.
  
- In case of public affairs of central/local **governments** and **public institutions** and **mandatory business activities** of corporations, assemblies/gatherings/events of 50 or more indoors and 100 or more outdoors are allowed after **consultation with the local government in concern** in consideration of **\*legal obligations and urgency**. In this case, **adhere to the infection prevention and control rules**, such as mask-wearing and physical distance.

\* ① Activities under binding regulations such as laws, articles of incorporation, agreements, etc., ② where at least a certain number of people are required to ③ gather face-to-face, and ④ whose cancellation or postponing is impossible due to the previously-set time limitations.

**<Examples of exceptions>**

▲Regular shareholder meetings of companies, which shall be held within 90 days from the settlement date under the Commercial Law

▲Meetings to conclude labor-management agreements for wage negotiation

- Second, **12 types of high-risk facilities** including clubs, singing rooms, buffet restaurants, PC cafes are **under the ban on gatherings**.
- However, the only **exceptions** among high-risk facilities are **distribution and logistics centers** because they are **essential industrial facilities**.

<High-risk facilities subject to the ban on gatherings>

▲Bars including night clubs and room salons ▲*Colatech* (Korean-style cabaret) ▲Karaoke bars  
▲Pubs ▲*Hunting Pocha*  
▲Singing rooms ▲Indoor standing performance halls ▲Indoor gyms for intense group exercise (GX) ▲Buffet restaurants ▲PC cafes  
▲Direct sales (e.g., door-to-door sales) promotion centers ▲Large (at least 300 people) private educational institutions (*hagwon*)

- Those violating ban on gatherings will be **imposed with a fine of KRW 3 million or less**, in accordance with subparagraph 7 of Article 80 of the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act. The right to **indemnity can be exercised** against confirmed cases to have **treatment/hospitalization or quarantine costs** reimbursed.
- Third, **stop the operation of indoor national and public facilities** run by **the government, local governments, offices of education and affiliated agencies**.
- In addition, **the Level 2 measures**, which were **announced on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>** and **took effect from midnight on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>** in Seoul and

Gyeonggi region, are **maintained** as they are.

- **The same measures** are to be applied to **Incheon from midnight on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>**.
- Besides, **administrative measures to restrict and ban gatherings**, which are **independently** implemented by **local governments**, will remain **in effect until they are lifted by the local governments in concern**.

**<Level 2 measures currently in place in Seoul/Gyeonggi>**

**▲Sports events** are held **with no spectators**.

**▲Some of the high-risk \*publicly used facilities** (12 types), including wedding halls, movie theaters, and bathhouses, are **required** to comply with **key infection prevention and control measures** (ban on gatherings).

\*hagwon, arcades, general restaurants bigger than certain criteria (e.g. 150m<sup>2</sup> or bigger), water parks, religious facilities, indoor wedding halls, concert halls, movie theaters, bathhouses/saunas, indoor sports facilities, multi-rooms/DVD rooms, funeral halls

**<Key infection prevention and control rules>**

<b>Business Owners/Managers</b>	<b>Users</b>
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<p>▶Keep the entry logs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Install and use digital entry logs or place handwritten logs. (For handwritten logs, users write down their names and phone numbers and then the person in charge checks the information along with the users' ID cards. The information is retained and destroyed after four weeks.)</li> </ul> <p>▶Employers/employees should wear a mask.</p> <p>* Unless they are eating or engaging in water activities.</p> <p>▶Manage the number of users to maintain a distance of two meters (at least one meter) between users in the facility.</p>	<p>▶Check in digitally or manually.</p> <p>When checking in manually, users should provide their actual names and phone numbers and then present their ID cards.</p> <p>▶Wear a mask.</p> <p>* Unless they are eating or engaging in water activities.</p> <p>▶Keep a distance of two meters (at least one meter) from other users.</p>
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**▲Social welfare facilities and daycare centers are recommended to be closed.**

**▲\*Population density adjustment for kindergartens/schools**

\*If cluster infection continues, the *Si/gun/gu* in concern should switch to distance learning. If not, the population density should be lowered to the one-third of students for kindergartens/elementary schools/middle schools and two-thirds for high schools in the SMR.

**▲Lowering population density in institutions/businesses**

3	<p>Plan to enhance infection prevention and control measures in churches</p>
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- In accordance with administrative measures (ban on gatherings), which are implemented and take effect from midnight on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>,

**all churches in Seoul/Gyeonggi/Incheon** are allowed only **non-face-to-face services** and are **prohibited to hold any kind of face-to-face meetings and events as well as group meals.**

- To this end, **church authorities** have been **agreed on cooperation in enhancing infection prevention and control measures.**

#### 4 | Future plans

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- **From midnight on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> enhanced infection prevention and control measures** are to be implemented alongside reinforced **on-site inspection and management** to ensure that the enhanced measures are fully implemented.
- The enhanced measures are planned to last **until Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>**, but **the period can be adjusted** in line with the **further evaluation of the transmission and spread.**

Note 1

Measures of Social Distancing Level 2 in the SMR (from Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>)

※ The measures written on the dark background are newly implemented ones as of midnight on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Category		Measure (in the SMR)
Assembly/Gathering/Event		○ Ban on assemblies/gatherings/events of 50 or more indoors and 100 or more outdoors
Sports Event		○ Switch to non-spectator games
Publicly Used Facility	Public	○ Operation suspension of indoor national/public facilities
	Private	<p>○ Operation suspension of *12 types of high-risk facilities (excluding distribution and logistics centers)</p> <p>*Bars including night clubs and room salons, <i>colatech</i> (Korean-style cabaret), karaoke bars, pubs, <i>hunting pocha</i>, singing rooms, indoor standing performance halls, indoor gyms for intense group exercise (GX), direct sales (e.g., door-to-door sales) promotion centers, large-scale (300 or more people) hagwon, buffet restaurants, PC cafes</p> <p>** Local governments may add types to this facility category.</p> <p>▲ Some of the high-risk *publicly used facilities (12 types), including wedding halls, movie theaters, and bathhouses, are required to comply with infection prevention and control measures (ban on gatherings).</p> <p>*Hagwon, arcades, general restaurants bigger than certain criteria (e.g. 150m<sup>2</sup> or bigger), water parks, religious facilities, indoor wedding halls, concert halls, movie theaters, bathhouses/saunas, indoor sports facilities, multi-</p>

		rooms/DVD rooms, funeral halls  ** Local governments may add types to this facility category.
		<b>▲Social welfare facilities and daycare centers are recommended to be closed.</b> * Maintain essential services, such as emergency childcare services.
<b>School</b>		* If cluster infection continues, the <i>Si/gun/gu</i> in concern should switch to distance learning.  ○ If not, the population density should be lowered to the one-third of students.  * For high schools, it is the two-thirds of students.
<b>Institution/Business</b>	<b>Public</b>	○ <b>Limit the number of employees at the workplace by adopting flexible work schedules and working from home.</b> (Example: Keep the Two-thirds of the total number of employees at the workplace at the same time.)
	<b>Private</b>	○ Recommendation is to limit the number of employees at the workplace to the same level as public institutions.

**Note 2**

**Code of Conduct for the Public**

- Do not go out, go to work, or go to school if you are unwell with fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, sore throat, muscle pain).  
\*If a fever of 38 degrees Celsius or higher continues, or the symptoms deteriorates, contact the KCDC call center at 1339/area code+120 or a local public health center.
- Postpone or cancel nonessential errands, gatherings, dining-outs, events, trips, etc.  
-(Meal) Choose takeout/delivery rather than eating at a restaurant/cafe.  
\*In particular, postpone or cancel events or gatherings if they provide meals as many of recently reported cases were turned out to get infected by eating together.  
(Exercise) Avoid gyms and exercise at home.  
(Social Gatherings) Hold virtual gatherings instead of in-person events.

(Utmost Use of PCs/Smartphones)

3. When going out in public, adhere to infection prevention and control measures including wearing a mask and stay away from enclosed, crowded spaces with poor ventilation.

Remember to avoid three Cs: Crowded places, close-contact settings, and confined and enclosed spaces.

-(Mask Wearing) Make sure to wear a mask indoors and keep it on outdoors if unable to keep a two-meter distance.

\*Avoid activities that cannot be done with a mask on, such as eating, singing, and cheering out loud.

-(Distancing) Keep a distance of two meters (at least one meter) from others.

-Make sure not to engage in activities that release respiratory droplets in the air, such as shouting, chanting, and cheering out loud. Also, shun physical contact, such as handshakes and hugs.