보건복지부	보 도 참 고 자 료			
배 포 일	2020. 3. 30. / (총 9매)			
중앙사고수습본부 전략기획팀	팀 장 담 당 자	이 선 영 조 영 대	전 화	044-202-3575 044-202-3576
중대본 총리실 상황실 기획총괄팀	과 장 담 당 자	노 혜 원 이 승 훈	전 화	044-200-2293 044-200-2295
중소벤처기업부 기업금융과	과 장 사 무 관	황 영 호 김 성 일	전 화	042-481-4545 042-481-4385

Regular Briefing of Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters on COVID-19

- ▲Measures to enhance infection prevention and control of entrants from abroad and its current status, and ▲current status regarding supply and demand of masks, and etc. -

☐ **The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters** held a meeting today **presided over by Head Chung Sekyun** (Prime Minister) along with the central government and 17 cities and provinces to discuss **▲measures to enhance infection prevention and control of entrants from abroad and its current status, and ▲current status regarding supply and demand of masks,** and etc. at the **Central Disaster and Safety Management Center in Government Complex Seoul**.

☐ **Head Chung** emphasized, at the meeting, that as we are approaching the second week of **the enhanced social distancing**, **the central and local governments** should **work together** to achieve meaningful outcomes.

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○ At a time when cases are increasingly imported from other countries, he urged **the relevant ministries** to **put more efforts** to make sure **the self-quarantine protection app functions well**.

○ Pointing out some are **faced with the lack of thermometers**, he called for **resolving inconveniences of the public** by **better managing** stocks and **providing them first to** those **who essentially need them**.

○ The Prime Minister also directed the relevant ministries including the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety to **review supply and demand of antiseptic ethanol** and **develop countermeasures**.

1	**Measures to enhance infection prevention and control of entrants from abroad and its current status**

□ The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters starts to **apply the enhanced infection prevention and control measures to entrants arriving from abroad** from **00:00, April 1**.

○ Currently, only arrivals from Europe and the United States are self-isolated, but **going forward, all Koreans and foreign nationals** arriving from **all parts of the world** will **go into self-quarantine**, in principle, **for 14 days upon entry**. This measure came **to prevent infection factors from being imported from other countries** amid COVID-19 spreading globally at a rapid pace.

○ Also, **those entering the nation for short-term stay** who used to be under active surveillance without any isolation should **go into self-quarantine in principle**, **except for some exceptional cases**.

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○ In particular, given that short-term visitors do not have a fixed residence suitable for self-isolation, they are allowed **to use isolation facilities** prepared by the government so that every quarantine subject can go into self-quarantine. In that case, **expenses incurred from using such facilities will be collected** from users.

○ The government **supports the expenses of diagnostic tests and treatment for overseas entrants**. Such support is **for public interest to block the spread of infection**, not a benefit. However, **living support expenses are not provided** considering that **the entry to Korea is a personal choice** and concerned voices were raised that providing living expenses might induce more overseas entrants.

○ If people coming from abroad **do not comply with quarantine rules**, they can **be punished by imprisonment for no more than 1 year** or **by a fine not exceeding KRW 10 million** (to be effective from Apr. 5) on the ground of violating the quarantine act, and the infectious disease control and prevention act*. Foreign violators can be subject to **deportation, prohibition of entry**, and others in accordance with the immigration act**. So all entrants should **thoroughly abide by the rules**.

* Article 17 and 39 of the quarantine act, article 49.1 and 79.3 of the infectious disease control and prevention act

** Article 11 and 46 of the immigration act

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<Quarantine Flowchart on Overseas Arrivals (from 00:00, Apr. 1)>

Symptom	Diagnostic tests for all Koreans and foreigners at airport	►	Positive: Transferred to hospitals or community treatment centers
		►	Negative: Self-quarantine for 14 days (short-term visitors to be isolated in facilities)
No-symptom	Koreans	►	Europe: Self-quarantine for 14 days, diagnostic test within 3 days
		►	Others: Self-quarantine for 14 days, diagnostic test when symptom appears
	Foreign nationals	► Long-term stay ►	Europe: Diagnostic tests at airport, self-quarantine for 14 days
		►	Others: Self-quarantine for 14 days, diagnostic test when symptom appears
		► Short-term stay ►	Europe: Diagnostic tests at airport, facility isolation for 14 days
		►	Others: Facility isolation for 14 days, diagnostic test when symptom appears
		►	Excepted from isolation: Diagnostic tests at airport, active surveillance

□ Plus, the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters was reported and **reviewed the current status of managing overseas entrants** by **Incheon Metropolitan City**.

○ In consideration of proximity and geographical location of Incheon Airport, the city **is expanding the diagnostic tests for COVID-19** on more overseas arrivals through separate guides, and has **them undergo the tests at screening clinics** in the process of being **transported to homes** for self-quarantine.

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2 Progress of financial support for small businesses

☐ The government **announced the current status of guarantees supported to small businesses** affected by COVID-19 backed by **16 Regional Credit Guarantee Foundations** across the nation.

○ **The financial assistance for small business owners** is provided **mostly in connection with guarantees of the Regional Credit Guarantee Foundations**. As a recent **surge in the demand produced bottlenecks** in some foundations, it was decided to **review guarantees executed by each regional foundation** through a **Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters meeting on a weekly basis**.

☐ As of 00:00, March 27, the number of **consultations conducted and applications submitted to seek guarantees** stood at **a total of 298,042** in all regional guarantee foundations.

○ Among them, **the letters of credit guarantee were issued** to **134,401 applications (45.1%)**, and **96,928 cases** saw their **loans executed** (Annex 1).

☐ The government also developed the **"fast scheme on financial support execution for small businesses"** on March 27 with contents of **diversifying channels to meet small businesses' demand for the funding assistance** which was mainly centered on regional foundations so that **it can also be covered by commercial banks and the Industrial Bank of Korea depending on their credit ratings**.

○ If this measure is well applied in the field, **the Regional Credit**

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Guarantee Foundations are expected to execute the funds even faster.

○ The authorities said they **plan to review the guarantees provided** for small businesses **on a regular basis** for a while **through the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters meetings**.

3	**Current status regarding supply and demand of masks**

※ A separate briefing is planned for this information. In case of any query, contact to the following information:

Affiliation	Division	Contact Information
Ministry of Economy and Finance	Economic Policy Division	044-215-2710, 2712
	Price Policy Division	044-215-2770, 2771
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy	Bio-Convergence Industry Division	044-203-4390, 4391
Public Procurement Service	Procurement Planning Division	042-724-7210, 7265
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety	Customer Risk Prevention Policy Division	043-719-1711, 1722

※ All Koreans **faced with issues** regarding exorbitant prices of or hoarding masks and hand sanitizers **are strongly advised** to actively **report** to the authorities through the **reporting center** (02-2640-5057/5080/5087), **customer call center** (1372), and **MFDS website** (www.mfds.go.kr).

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