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

- ▲Current status of group infection in Gyeonggi-do and follow-up measures, and
▲major countries' responses against COVID-19, 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 the ▲current status of group infection in Gyeonggi-do and follow-up measures, and ▲major countries' responses against COVID-19, etc. at a video conference room in Government Complex Seoul.
- Head Chung requested, at the meeting, each ministry and the local governments to work closely together, in union, to overcome this challenge in spite of many difficulties amid an increase in the confirmed cases due to imported cases.

- Adding that there might be some setbacks in its initial stage as **school opening with online classes** is unprecedented before, he strongly called for **more interest and cooperation** from **city and provincial offices of education and the local governments** for the seamless school opening.

1

Current status of group infection and follow-up measures (Gyeonggi-do)

- The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters was reported and reviewed **the current status of group infection in Gyeonggi-do (province) and follow-up measures.**
- **Approximately 50%** of the total cases confirmed in **the province** are **group transmission cases** having occurred in churches, call centers, hospitals, and etc. The province mainly reported its current status, such as the recent group infection **cases in Uijeongbu St. Mary's Hospital, the progress of epidemiological investigation** conducted by the dispatched central and Gyeonggi-do rapid response team, and **the progress of diagnostic tests for all inpatients and staff members.**
- Gyeonggi-do also briefed on the follow-up measures. To be specific, it was reported that the province plans **to increase fever-checking** in residential facilities for the vulnerable, such as elderly care facilities, **from twice to three times a day, strengthen daily status check by designating facility managers, and secure beds to treat patients in serious conditions.**

- Saying that **preventing group infection is more important than anything else** to overcome COVID-19, the **Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to each local government and citizens** to put greater effort. He also emphasized to **work a little more** to move towards the stable conditions.

2

Status of quarantine and medical support for overseas Koreans in Italy returning to home country

- **309** Koreans and their lineal family members who boarded a Korean-chartered temporary flight arrived at **Incheon International Airport** from Milan, **Italy** yesterday (April 1) at **14:30**.
- **Before boarding**, they had their fever checked and a Korean quarantine officer **checked the Health Questionnaire to classify symptomatic cases and designate separate seats for them**. They also went through **entry quarantine** at a different gate in the Airport after **entering Korea**.
 - * Those with fever (37.5°C or higher) were not allowed to be on board
- During the entry quarantine, **11 arrivals** were classified to have symptoms, who then took **the diagnostic tests** for COVID-19 at an open screening clinic in the Airport. According to the test results, **one tested positive** and, accordingly, was **transferred to a medical institution** while the remaining **10** who tested negative **are transported to a temporary living facility**.

- Other **298 entrants** went to a **temporary living facility for overseas Koreans** (Pyeongchang The White Hotel) and have undergone the **diagnostic test** from this morning.

- **Persons confirmed to be positive**, based on the test results, will be **transferred to medical institutions or community treatments centers** depending on their severity, and the others will **go into quarantine in a temporary living facility for 14 days**.

- For **safety of overseas Koreans** coming from Italy and **preventing community spread**, the **Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters** is **operating the government joint support team** consisting of 8 ministries to transport overseas Koreans, operate temporary living facilities, and provide medical support, to name a few.
 - * Medical practitioners consisting of doctors and nurses reside in facilities to **actively monitor** the health status and **COVID-19 symptoms** of the quarantine subjects during their stay, and conduct diagnostic tests before they are released.

- **A second government-chartered temporary flight** departing from Italy early this morning **plans to land at Incheon International Airport at 16:25 today**, bringing a **total 205** overseas Koreans and their families in Rome and Milan, Italy.

- The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters is going to quarantine, and provide transport and medical support for the overseas Koreans arriving today in the same ways applied to the passengers on the first chartered flight.

- In the meantime, **79 overseas Koreans from Iran** who returned to Korea on March 19 and are under facility-based quarantine will **be released from the temporary living facility** (KOICA Training Center in Seongnam city) **tomorrow morning** as **all of them were confirmed to be negative** according to the second diagnostic test results conducted yesterday.

- The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters requested to **comply with the “reporting guideline on COVID-19”** to make sure **human rights and privacy** of such Koreans and their family members **are not violated** while they are safely transported and quarantined.

- Meanwhile, **Son Yongrae, head of the public relations team for the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters**, pointed out "there have been some cases recently the media **reports without checking accurate facts**", stressing that "**the most important weapon against COVID-19**, in terms of national infection prevention and management, is not a high technology or supplies but the **trust between the public-medical staff-the government**, as reiterated several times." He also requested to "keep this in mind and **deliver more accurate reports**".