

The Experience of Korea in Tackling COVID-19 : Implications for Latin America

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How Does South Korea Fight against COVID-19? : Implications for Partner Countries

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South Korea's experience in tackling COVID-19 is writing a prologue chapter of 21st century *New Normal*, an entirely new world of paradigm shift opening a new horizon of socio-economic restructuring. In February 2020, South Korea held the distinction of recording the most noteworthy number of Covid-19 cases second to China. Together with Italy and Iran, it was one of the primary modern hot spot nations. But within a month the government has shown a remarkable ability to flatten the coronavirus curve based on government leadership, state-of-arts technology, and democratic order. The strategies of the Korean government have been positively evaluated by the international community as a model response to the threat of COVID-19. But still the question remains, what are the lessons for countries with less economic and technical resources? The purpose of this brief is to draw implications for partner countries from Korea's experience in tackling COVID-19, from the three steps of testing, tracing, and treating.

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I

Actions behind 3 steps of K-quarantine

1. Testing
2. Tracing
3. Treating

1. Testing

Efficient mass testing considering accessibility

- ✓ Fast approval and rapid deployment of testing system in local health center
- ✓ Drive-through test employed in the urban circle.
- ✓ Walk-through test centers also established



TESTING

- ✓ Community level testing with small scale tester kits
- ✓ Efficient testing considering accessibility
- ✓ Micro network and Local solution

Community level testing with Small scale tester kits

- ✓ Developing countries are suffering from COVID-19 test kit shortages.
 - Rapid, small-scale, and low-cost testing tools are important.
 - Pooled PCR tests for COVID-19 can be considered

Central and local government coordination

- ✓ The central should establish strategies for decentralized testing system
- ✓ The disease control center hotline ☎ 1339 – local health center testing

I

3 STEPS

KODAC
Insights


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2. Tracing

Well-organized contact tracing and alarming

- ✓ Vigorous epidemiological investigations on credit and/or debit card transactions, CCTV recordings, and mobile phone location
- ✓ Local patient alarming system thru mobile phone
- ✓ Smartphone tracing apps installed from the airport

Neither smartphone nor Internet connection?

- ✓ Contact tracing working via basic features such as SMS messaging or simple offline application
- ✓ LACs'  ice mobile usability like



Privacy protection issue

- ✓ Newly updated guidelines for public disclosure of infected patients' confidential data
- Setting new standards for public disclosure of the patients' logs
- Considering the patient's symptoms, exposure conditions, and timing when tracing the range of contacts
- Excluding "personally identifiable information" such as work and home addresses
- ✓ On-going discussion over the use of QR code entrance system (such as clubs and hospitals) under auto-delete sunset principle.

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3 STEPS

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3. Treating

Diagnosis & severity classification and Round-the-clock treatment

- ✓ Treating process varies based upon the severity of the patients, which is classified by the patient management teams at province-level.
- ✓ Patients with mild symptoms are discharged from the hospital and shifted to "Community Treatment Center, CTC" converted from non-medical public facilities (training centers) to solve the hospital-bed shortage.
- ✓ Many hospitals are still able to serve for the ordinary patients

Government's subsidy program

- ✓ All costs related to testing, quarantine, and treatment for COVID-19 are covered by the Korean government under the Infectious Disease Prevention Act.

Medical volunteering

- ✓ South Korea could overcome the shortage of medical staff in Daegu with the help of more than 1,000 medical volunteers.



SoftNet KNU 강원대학교병원 생활치료센터 환자순응도 88.0% 이전 퇴소자 정보 조회 17:57:04 로그인

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II

Beyond COVID-19, Implications for LAC

1. Public investment for ICT
2. Restructuring Public Health System
3. Thriving Grassroots Democracy
4. Reforming the Economy

0. Overall implications

Public
investment for
ICT

Restructuring
Public Health
System

Grassroots
Democracy
and Agile
Response

Reforming
The Economy

II

4 IMPLICATIONS

1. Public Investment for ICT

Public investment should be made to the way prioritizing **higher ICT penetration** from **broadband infrastructure** to **mobile use**.

Investment for ICT is the basis for pandemic response and beyond: untact education, healthcare, and economic activities.
Higher penetration and smarter use of the ICT needed



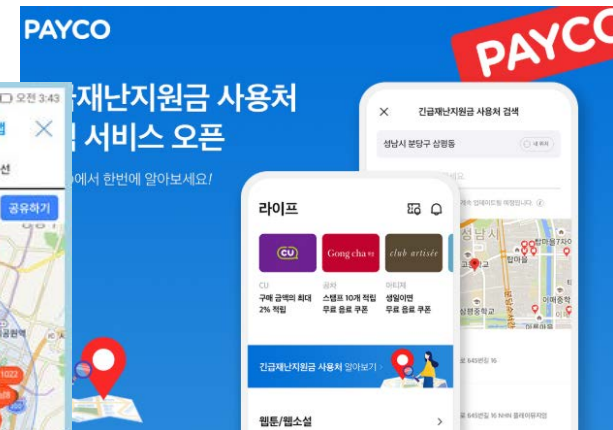
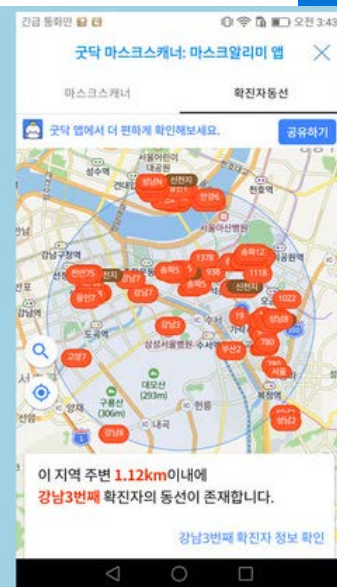
E-learning



U-health



E-commerce



2. Restructuring Public Health System

It is necessary to find the more cost-effective way in restructuring public health system towards equitable and non-fragmented manner.

Community-based approach to primary health care under strong governance

- Investment in primary care is needed for the purpose of effective management of the pandemic.
 - **K-model (Deployment of low-cost small-scale test kits and walk-in testing centers) can only be considered under the established community care system.**
- Find the role of the “Public” in health care
 - Invest in the training of medical professionals and emphasize the social responsibility
- Provision of essential healthcare and water, sanitation and hygiene services will mitigate the risks of the spread of highly communicable diseases

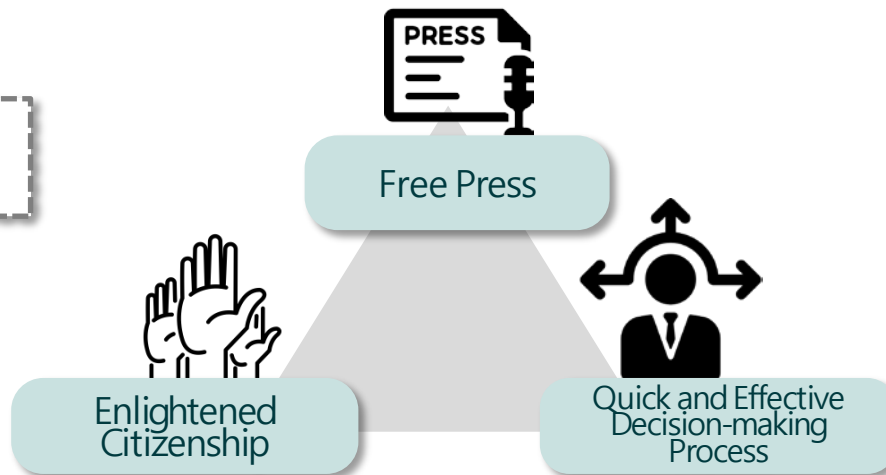
3. Grassroots Democracy and Agile Response of the Gov



Korea's participatory democracy and strong government agility to adapt quickly, run efficiently and deliver better service

Creating a culture of thriving grassroots democracy

✓ More enlightened, better prepared



Crisis Alert Level

Response System

Level IV (highest level)



Quick and Efficient government response system

4. Reforming the Economy



De-globalization accelerated. Poverty will increase in all countries - remittance flows will slump by around 20 percent (WB), tourism revenue decline, (informal) unemployment increase.



Korea with a very diversified industrial portfolio

Recent Import substitution trend after dispute with Japan “Economic Resilience”

**Consolidate
Universal Social
Protection**

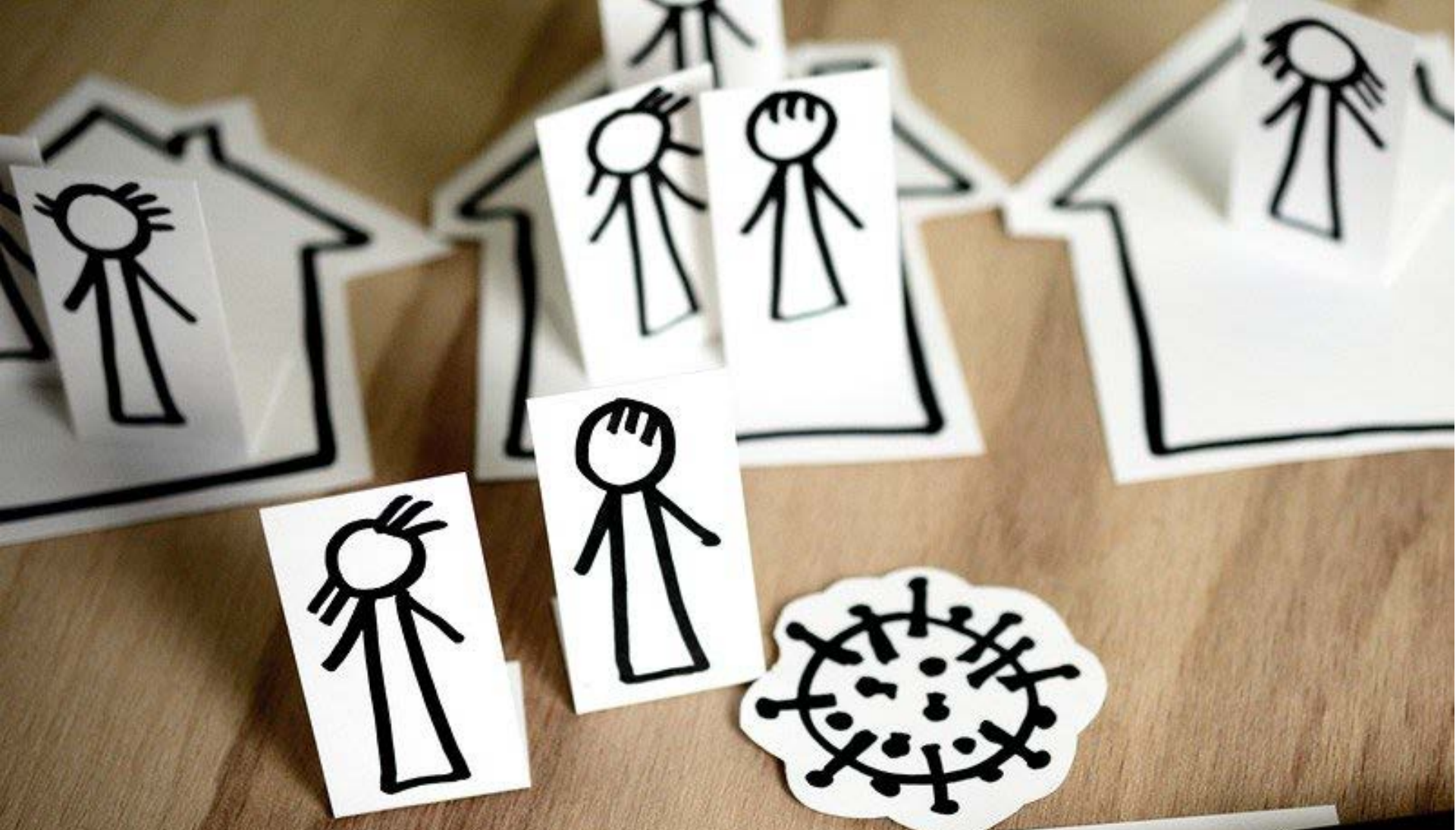
[Short term] Emergency cash grant, Basic services and housing
[Long term] Reducing inequalities, Labor inclusion

**Inclusive Green
New Deal**

Public/regional financing (perpetual bond); Public goods to citizens; ‘Paying for things’ culture

**Neo-Industrial
Policy**

Prepared for neo-protectionism in trade; Re-shoring investments; “From mask to toilet papers” import substitution; Accelerated innovation on untact industry 4.0



Thank you! kwakjaesung@gmail.com