Infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was identified in South Korea on January 20, 2020 (1). By April 21, 2020, a total of 10,683 cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in South Korea had been confirmed and 237 persons had died (2) (Figure 1, panel A). A large number of COVID-19 cases and deaths resulted from superspreading events in the Daegu-Gyeongsangbuk provincial region of South Korea (Figure 1, panel B). On February 23, 2020, during the early phase of the outbreak as the number of COVID-19 cases increased, public health authorities in South Korea raised the infectious disease alert to its highest level (3). Subsequently, enhanced screening and testing in the community (operation of drive-through screening centers and designation of private hospitals where COVID-19 screening testing was available) were implemented (4,5).

On April 19, 2020, public health authorities in South Korea started to relax social distancing measures, which had been implemented on March 21, 2020; as of April 21, 2020, the COVID-19 epidemic in South Korea had been contained. Recent studies have examined how public health interventions can contain COVID-19 outbreaks (6,7). However, in the absence of information on public health measures against transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in South Korea, we estimated the transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 and evaluated the effects of the public health measures implemented outside the Daegu-Gyeongsangbuk provincial region in South Korea.

The Study
We collected data published by local public health authorities in South Korea, including the city or provincial departments of public health. The data comprised date of exposure; date of illness onset; and the source of infection, including contact history and demographic characteristics (e.g., patient birth year and sex). We extracted these line list data of cases by using an electronic data-extraction form. We divided the study into 2 periods, before and after the declaration of highest public alert: period 1 (January 20–February 23, 2020) and period 2 (February 24–April 21, 2020). We restricted our analysis to all other regions in South Korea that excluded Daegu-Gyeongsangbuk provincial region, where there were superspreading events and the data have not been made publicly available (8). Over the entire 3-month study period (January 20–April 21, 2020), data were collected for 2,023 cases, which accounted for 98% of the 2,066 reported cases from the South Korea Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The median case-patient age was 42 (range 1–102) years, and 820 (41%) case-patients were male (Table). We analyzed the statistical differences in patient age and sex between periods 1 and 2 by using the $\chi^2$ test but did not identify any significant differences. The proportion of cases imported from Daegu-Gyeongsangbuk provincial regions was 31% in period 1 and
Figure 1. Timeline (A) and geographic distribution (B) of laboratory-confirmed cases of coronavirus disease in South Korea as of April 21, 2020.
Table. Demographic characteristics of 2,023 persons with confirmed cases of coronavirus disease, from publicly available data on April 21, 2020, South Korea, outside of Daegu-Gyeongsangbuk provincial region*

| Characteristic                      | All, no. (%) | Period 1, no. (%)† | Period 2, no. (%)‡ |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| **Age group, y**                   |              |                    |                    |
| 0–19                               | 123 (6)      | 11 (5)             | 112 (6)            |
| 20–39                              | 715 (35)     | 104 (50)           | 611 (34)           |
| 40–59                              | 619 (31)     | 50 (24)            | 569 (31)           |
| 60–79                              | 295 (15)     | 37 (18)            | 258 (14)           |
| ≥80y                               | 50 (3)       | 6 (3)              | 44 (2)             |
| Unknown                            | 221 (11)     | 0                  | 221(12)            |
| **Sex**                            |              |                    |                    |
| M                                  | 820 (41)     | 107 (56)           | 713 (39)           |
| F                                  | 953 (47)     | 100 (43)           | 853 (47)           |
| Unknown                            | 250 (12)     | 1 (1)              | 249 (14)           |
| **Type of transmission§**          |              |                    |                    |
| Local                              | 892 (44)     | 116 (55)           | 776 (43)           |
| Imported from Daegu-Gyeongsangbuk  | 155 (8)      | 65 (31)            | 90 (5)             |
| Imported from abroad               | 552 (27)     | 16 (8)             | 536 (30)           |
| Cases occurring in large clusters  | 424 (21)     | 11 (5)             | 413 (23)           |

*Assignment to period was based on date of symptom onset. If cases were asymptomatic or date of symptom onset date was not reported, we used the date of case confirmation.
†Jan 20–Feb 23, 2020; n = 208.
‡Feb 24–Apr 21, 2020; n = 1,815.
§Source of infection is provided for all cases; if not identified, we considered the case to have occurred by local transmission.

decreased to 5% in period 2. However, during the same periods, the proportion of cases imported from abroad and cases occurring in large clusters increased from 8% to 30% and from 5% to 23%.

We analyzed the time interval between illness onset and laboratory confirmation for 818 symptomatic case-patients. We estimated the mean time interval from symptom onset to confirmation of COVID-19 during periods 1 and 2 by fitting 3 parametric distributions (Weibull, gamma, and log-normal) and based our selection of best fit on the Akaike information criterion (9). We found the log-normal distribution to be the best fit for this time interval, with a mean of 4.6 (95% CI 0.0–12.4) for period 1 and a substantial reduction to 3.4 (0.0–9.0) for period 2 (Appendix, https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/article/26/10/20-1886-App1.pdf).

To estimate the incubation period, we analyzed data from 181 case-patients for whom precise contact history with other confirmed case-patients was known. The incubation period was estimated by fitting 3 parametric distributions and best fitted by the log-normal distribution; the overall estimated median incubation period was 4.7 (95% CI 0.1–15.6) days (Appendix). We identified 44 clusters of infection and 79 case-patients who had had clear exposure to only 1 index case-patient among these clusters (Appendix). Overall, serial intervals were negative for 8 of the 79 transmission pairs. We estimated the serial interval distribution by fitting a normal distribution to all 79 observations (10). We estimated a mean (± SD) serial interval to be 3.9 (± 4.2) days (Appendix).

In mid-February 2020, the number of cases rapidly increased; the largest proportion of cases was among persons who had been infected in Daegu-Gyeongsangbuk provincial region and traveled to other regions of South Korea (Figure 2, panel A). To investigate the effectiveness of nonpharmaceutical interventions implemented in South Korea (Appendix), we estimated the instantaneous effective reproduction number (Rt), a real-time measure of transmission intensity, from daily onset of cases and our estimated serial interval distribution by using the EpiEstim package in R (11,12). Rt is defined as the mean number of secondary infections per primary case with illness onset at time t; Rt<1 indicates that the epidemic is under control.

We present the daily estimates of Rt from February 16, 2020, because the stable estimate of Rt was not available due to the low number of confirmed cases (Figure 2, panel B). At the end of period 1, on February 21, mean Rt peaked at 2.53 (95% credible interval [CrI] 1.90–3.25) and then started to decline faster to <1 by February 29. Rt further declined and remained at <1 during the rest of period 2, indicating the potential effect of nonpharmaceutical interventions implemented over time (Figure 2, panel B). Specifically, mean Rt was 2.03 (CrI 1.89–2.17) before the 1-week period when the declared public alert was at the highest level and reduced to 1.37 (CrI 1.27–1.47) in the following 1-week period, corresponding to a 32.59% (95% CI 23.78%–41.41%) reduction in transmissibility. Similarly, along with the high public alert, the implementation of strict social distancing measures on March 12, 2020, was
associated with an $R_t$ reduction of an additional 9.75% (95% CI 7.23%–12.29%).

Conclusions

Combined nonpharmaceutical interventions, including enhanced screening and quarantining of persons with suspected and confirmed cases and social distancing measures, were implemented over time. Our results suggest that those interventions, without a lockdown, reduced the transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 in regions outside of the Daegu-Gyeongsangbuk provincial region, in South Korea.

Our study has some limitations. First, in our analysis of the changes of transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2, we did not include the large clustered cases reported as superspreading events because in these large clusters, the reporting date may not be a good proxy for the date of infection and would overestimate $R_t$ (13). Second, it is uncertain how many cases were still undetected. This proportion may potentially mislead the actual time trends of number of infections in the population. Third, we based our estimation of time delay on self-reported data, which are not free from reporting (recall) bias. Fourth, government-generated data, including dates of symptom onset, were not available; therefore, we retrieved online case reports, which could have resulted in some inaccuracies in the information used in our analyses. However, the daily numbers of confirmed cases from the collected line list we used was similar to the numbers in the official daily reports (Appendix).

Our findings suggest that the nonpharmaceutical interventions implemented in South Korea during the COVID-19 outbreak effectively reduced virus transmissibility and suppressed local spread. However, the population of South Korea is still susceptible to further outbreaks or epidemic waves. Because social distancing measures will be relaxed while opportunities for importation of infections from abroad continue, ongoing monitoring of the effective reproductive number can provide relevant information to help policymakers control a potential second wave of COVID-19.
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Appendix

Appendix Figure 1. Estimates of epidemiological distributions, COVID-19, South Korea. A) Distribution of incubation period among 181 laboratory-confirmed cases. The line is best fitted by a gamma distribution.
B) Distribution of serial interval among 79 cases in 44 clusters. The line indicates a fitted normal distribution. C) Distribution of symptom onset to laboratory-confirmation divided by two periods of the epidemic in South Korea. The black line is the estimate during period-1 (before February 23, 2020), and the blue line is the estimate during period-2 (on or after February 24, 2020). Both lines indicate a fitted log-normal distribution.

Appendix Figure 2. Daily number of laboratory-confirmed cases from the collected data and reported data by the Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare outside of Daegu-Gyeongsangbuk provincial region in South Korea. The black line indicates the collected data used in this study, and the gray line indicates the daily number of confirmed cases reported from the central government in South Korea.
### Appendix Table 1

The dates of symptom onset among 79 cases in 44 clusters of infection. We retrieved the line-list data of the cases by using electronic data-extraction form (MS excel software). The column of this excel spread sheet presents the variables, including the date of exposure, date of illness onset, source of infection, demographic characteristics including birth year and gender of the cases.

| Number of cluster | Index case | Symptom onset | Sex   | Age | Source ID from local public health |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1                 | 1          | February 18, 2020 | Female | 26  | Busan #11                          |
| 1                 | 0          | February 19, 2020 | Male  | 29  | Busan #39                          |
| 1                 | 0          | February 23, 2020 | Female | 32  | Busan #56                          |
| 2                 | 1          | February 21, 2020 | Female | 57  | Busan #2                           |
| 2                 | 0          | February 20, 2020 | Female | 25  | Busan #5                           |
| 2                 | 0          | February 21, 2020 | Female | 82  | Busan #6                           |
| 2                 | 0          | February 22, 2020 | Female | 44  | Busan #25                          |
| 2                 | 0          | February 29, 2020 | Female | 83  | Busan #87                          |
| 3                 | 1          | February 21, 2020 | Male  | 19  | Busan #15                          |
| 3                 | 0          | February 26, 2020 | Male  | 16  | Busan #62                          |
| 3                 | 0          | February 28, 2020 | Male  | 19  | Busan #82                          |
| 4                 | 1          | February 21, 2020 | Female | 25  | Busan #59                          |
| 4                 | 0          | February 26, 2020 | Male  | 25  | Busan #65                          |
| 4                 | 0          | February 24, 2020 | Female | 51  | Busan #58                          |
| 5                 | 1          | February 17, 2020 | Male  | 25  | Busan #13                          |
| 5                 | 0          | February 20, 2020 | Female | 56  | Busan #20                          |
| 6                 | 1          | February 22, 2020 | Female | 62  | Busan #78                          |
| 6                 | 0          | March 1, 2020    | Female | 36  | Busan #81                          |
| 7                 | 1          | February 17, 2020 | Female | 28  | Busan #36                          |
| 7                 | 0          | February 23, 2020 | Male  | 27  | Busan #54                          |
| 7                 | 0          | February 26, 2020 | Female | 18  | Busan #70                          |
| 7                 | 0          | March 2, 2020    | Female | 40  | Busan #85                          |
| 8                 | 1          | February 28, 2020 | Male  | 79  | Busan #71                          |
| 8                 | 0          | March 9, 2020    | Male  | 50  | Busan #92                          |
| 8                 | 0          | March 12, 2020   | Male  | 50  | Busan #98                          |
| 9                 | 1          | March 6, 2020    | Female | 68  | Busan #100                         |
| Number of cluster | Index case | Symptom onset  | Sex   | Age | Source ID from local public health authorities |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|-------|-----|------------------------------------------------|
| 9                 | 0          | March 9, 2020  | Male  | 73  | Busan #97                                      |
| 10                | 1          | February 19, 2020 | Male  | 25  | Busan #57                                      |
| 10                | 0          | February 23, 2020 | Female | 65  | Busan #60                                      |
| 11                | 1          | February 6, 2020 | Female | 82  | Seoul #14                                      |
| 11                | 0          | February 15, 2020 | Male  | 82  | Seoul #13                                      |
| 12                | 1          | February 27, 2020 | Female | 42  | Seoul #140                                     |
| 12                | 0          | February 29, 2020 | Female | 61  | Seoul #164                                     |
| 13                | 1          | February 24, 2020 | Female | 60  | Seoul #38                                      |
| 13                | 0          | March 6, 2020    | Male  | 65  | Seoul #117                                     |
| 14                | 1          | March 12, 2020   | Male  | 26  | Seoul #266                                     |
| 14                | 0          | March 19, 2020   | Female | 29  | Seoul #297                                     |
| 14                | 0          | March 18, 2020   | Female | 55  | Seoul #298                                     |
| 15                | 1          | March 11, 2020   | Female | 30  | Ulsan #29                                      |
| 15                | 0          | March 12, 2020   | Male  | 30  | Ulsan #30                                      |
| 16                | 1          | March 16, 2020   | Female | 30  | Ulsan #31                                      |
| 16                | 0          | March 16, 2020   | Male  | 30  | Ulsan #36                                      |
| 17                | 1          | March 17, 2020   | Female | 26  | Seoul #304                                     |
| 17                | 0          | March 20, 2020   | Male  | 61  | Seoul #320                                     |
| 18                | 1          | March 19, 2020   | Female | 4   | Seoul #311                                     |
| 18                | 0          | March 22, 2020   | Female | 38  | Seoul #314                                     |
| 19                | 1          | February 27, 2020| Female | 55  | Suwon #13                                      |
| 19                | 0          | February 29, 2020| Male  | 42  | Suwon #16                                      |
| 20                | 1          | March 7, 2020    | Male  | 24  | Suwon #17                                      |
| 20                | 0          | March 9, 2020    | Male  | 10  | Suwon #18                                      |
| 21                | 1          | March 20, 2020   | Male  | 20s | Suwon #23                                      |
| 21                | 0          | March 22, 2020   | Male  | 50s | Suwon #24                                      |
| 21                | 0          | March 22, 2020   | Female | 20s | Suwon #26                                      |
| 22                | 1          | March 27, 2020   | Female | 55  | Suwon #44                                      |
| 22                | 0          | March 31, 2020   | Male  | 42  | Suwon #45                                      |
| 23                | 1          | March 21, 2020   | Female | 30  | Yongin #41                                     |
| 23                | 0          | March 22, 2020   | Male  | 57  | Yongin #43                                     |
| 24                | 1          | March 14, 2020   | Male  | 49  | Yongin #29                                     |
| 24                | 0          | March 19, 2020   | Female | 49  | Yongin #27                                     |
| Number of cluster | Index case | Symptom onset       | Sex    | Age | Source ID from local public health |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|--------|-----|----------------------------------|
| 24               | 0          | March 27, 2020      | Female | 77  | Yongin #47                       |
| 25               | 1          | March 20, 2020      | Female | 68  | Yongin #34                       |
| 25               | 0          | March 21, 2020      | Male   | 44  | Yongin #35                       |
| 25               | 0          | March 26, 2020      | Female | 44  | Yongin #44                       |
| 26               | 1          | March 25, 2020      | Not available | 20s | Uijeongbu #18                   |
| 26               | 0          | March 30, 2020      | Not available | 20s | Uijeongbu #19                   |
| 26               | 0          | April 1, 2020       | Not available | 50s | Uijeongbu #22                   |
| 27               | 1          | February 20, 2020   | Female | 40s | Sejong #2                        |
| 27               | 0          | February 22, 2020   | Female | 40s | Sejong #6                        |
| 27               | 0          | February 27, 2020   | Female | 20s | Sejong #3                        |
| 27               | 0          | February 22, 2020   | Female | 50s | Sejong #4                        |
| 27               | 0          | March 1, 2020       | Female | 40s | Sejong #5                        |
| 28               | 1          | February 21, 2020   | Female | 47  | Gyeongnam #5                     |
| 28               | 0          | February 18, 2020   | Male   | 21  | Gyeongnam #7                     |
| 28               | 0          | February 24, 2020   | Male   | 16  | Gyeongnam #29                    |
| 28               | 0          | February 25, 2020   | Male   | 41  | Gyeongnam #42                    |
| 29               | 1          | April 2, 2020       | Female | 39  | Gyeongnam #109                   |
| 29               | 0          | April 4, 2020       | Male   | 9   | Gyeongnam #110                   |
| 30               | 1          | February 23, 2020   | Female | 72  | Namyangju #2                     |
| 30               | 0          | February 23, 2020   | Male   | 77  | Namyangju #3                     |
| 31               | 1          | March 28, 2020      | Female | 20s | Jeju #9                          |
| 31               | 0          | April 1, 2020       | Male   | 30s | Jeju #11                         |
| 32               | 1          | April 9, 2020       | Male   | 60s | Guri #5                          |
| 32               | 0          | April 6, 2020       | Female | 61  | Pocheon #12                      |
| 32               | 0          | April 12, 2020      | Female | 60s | Pocheon #14                      |
| 33               | 1          | March 23, 2020      | Female | 46  | Pyeongtaek #19                   |
| 33               | 0          | March 22, 2020      | Female | 78  | Pyeongtaek #26                   |
| 33               | 0          | March 25, 2020      | Male   | 79  | Pyeongtaek #27                   |
| 33               | 0          | March 23, 2020      | Female | 34  | Pyeongtaek #28                   |
| 33               | 0          | March 26, 2020      | Female | 32  | Pyeongtaek #29                   |
| 33               | 0          | April 3, 2020       | Male   | 47  | Pyeongtaek #35                   |
| 33               | 0          | April 6, 2020       | Male   | 54  | Pyeongtaek #38                   |
| 34               | 1          | March 25, 2020      | Male   | 9   | Pyeongtaek #36                   |
| Number of cluster | Index case | Symptom onset   | Sex    | Age | Source ID from local public health authorities |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|--------|-----|-----------------------------------------------|
| 34                | 0          | March 19, 2020 | Female | 49  | Pyeongtaek #39                               |
| 35                | 1          | February 24, 2020 | Female | 40s | Gwangmyeong #2                               |
| 35                | 0          | February 28, 2020 | Male   | 49  | Gwangmyeong #3                               |
| 35                | 0          | March 2, 2020   | Male   | 11  | Gwangmyeong #4                               |
| 36                | 1          | April 6, 2020   | Not available | 60s | Uijeongbu #28                               |
| 36                | 0          | April 6, 2020   | Not available | 60s | Uijeongbu #29                               |
| 36                | 0          | April 9, 2020   | Male   | 60  | Gwangju #15                                 |
| 36                | 0          | April 9, 2020   | Female | 56  | Gwangju #16                                 |
| 37                | 1          | February 25, 2020 | Female | 49  | Gunpo #2                                    |
| 37                | 0          | March 3, 2020   | Male   | 78  | Ansan #1                                    |
| 37                | 0          | March 3, 2020   | Female | 73  | Ansan #3                                    |
| 38                | 1          | March 3, 2020   | Female | 48  | Gwangmyeong #2                               |
| 38                | 0          | February 28, 2020 | Male | 49s | Gwangmyeong #3                               |
| 38                | 0          | March 2, 2020   | Male   | 11  | Gwangmyeong #4                               |
| 39                | 1          | February 18, 2020 | Male | 36  | Chungbuk #2                                 |
| 39                | 0          | February 18, 2020 | Female | 35  | Chungbuk #3                                 |
| 39                | 0          | March 4, 2020   | Female | 57  | Chungbuk #14                                |
| 40                | 1          | March 8, 2020   | Female | 42  | Chungnam #107                               |
| 40                | 0          | March 6, 2020   | Male   | 1   | Chungnam #108                                |
| 41                | 1          | March 6, 2020   | Male   | 38  | Chungnam #94                                |
| 41                | 0          | March 6, 2020   | Female | 32  | Chungnam #95                                |
| 41                | 0          | March 6, 2020   | Female | 3   | Chungnam #96                                |
| 42                | 1          | April 7, 2020   | Female | 42  | Seongnam #120                               |
| 42                | 0          | April 10, 2020  | Male   | 1   | Seongnam #122                               |
| 43                | 1          | February 21, 2020 | Male | 21  | Busan #29                                  |
| 43                | 0          | February 24, 2020 | Male | 19  | Busan #42                                  |
| 43                | 0          | February 21, 2020 | Female | 51  | Busan #43                                  |
| 44                | 1          | February 21, 2020 | Female | 25  | Busan #59                                  |
| 44                | 0          | February 24, 2020 | Female | 51  | Busan #58                                  |
| 44                | 0          | February 21, 2020 | Female | 44  | Busan #61                                  |
| 44                | 0          | February 28, 2020 | Female | 31  | Busan #63                                  |
## Appendix Table 2. Key non-pharmaceutical interventions in South Korea (most of the interventions)

| Starting date   | Interventions                                                                 | Source                                                                 |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Travel-related measures** |                                                                               |                                                                        |
| February 3, 2020 | Barred of entry of foreign travelers from Hubei province, China              | http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/ru-ko/brd/m_7329/view.do?seq=1345588&srchFr=&amp;srchTo=&amp;srchWord=&amp;srchTp=&amp;multi_itm_seq=0&amp;itm_seq_1=0&amp;itm_seq_2=0 |
| February 23, 2020| Recommended travel restriction in Daegu City                                 | http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/tcmBoardView.do?contSeq=353064                 |
| March 9, 2020   | Barred of entry of foreign travelers from Japan                              | http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/jp-ko/brd/m_1083/view.do?seq=1343492         |
| April 1, 2020   | Implemented 14-day mandatory quarantine to all travellers entering Korea from abroad | http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/nl-en/brd/m_6971/view.do?seq=761545           |
| **Case-based measures** |                                                                               |                                                                        |
| February 17, 2020| Implemented screening test for COVID-19 for the health care workers at all nursing home | https://www.cdc.go.kr/board/board.es?mid=a3040200000&bid=00030&act=view&list_no=366586&tag=&nPageno=1 |
| February 23, 2020| Launched nationwide drive-through screening centers                         | https://jkms.org/DOIx.php?id=10.3346/jkms.2020.35.e123                  |
|                 | - Operated 58 roadside screening sites to timely identify the infected cases in the community as of May 11, 2020 | https://www.mohw.go.kr/react/popup_200128_4.html                      |
| February 25, 2020| Initiated screening all Sincheonji religious group members                  | http://www.korea.kr/news/pressReleaseView.do?newsId=156377318           |
|                 | - As the Sincheonji religious group occupied a large portion of COVID-19 cases in Korea, Korean public health authorities initiated the screening program for this group members (ca. 0.2 million) |                                                           |
| Starting date | Interventions                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Source                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 27, 2020 | Designated private hospitals as public relief hospital in nationwide  
- Operated 339 public relief hospitals where COVID-19 screening test is available as of May 11, 2020 | http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/tcmBoardView.do?brdId=&brdGubun=&ncvContSeq=353184&contSeq=353184&board_id=140&gubun=BDJ  
https://www.mohw.go.kr/reactpopup_200128_4.html |
| March 9, 2020  | Implemented nationwide screening the elderly at nursing home                                                                                                                                             | https://www.gov.kr/portal/tnadmNews/2120440                                                                                           |
| Community measures |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                         |
| February 23, 2020 | Raised the infectious disease alert to the highest level                                                                                                                                                    | https://www.cdc.go.kr/board/board.es?mid=a2050100000&bid=0015&act=view&list_no=366324&tag=&nPageno=1 |
| February 23, 2020 | Postponed school opening for new semester  
- School breaks were extended nationwide until the notification by Korean Ministry of Education | https://www.moe.go.kr/boardCnts/view.do?boardID=294&boardSeq=79829&lev=0&searchType=S&statusYN=W&page=1&s=moe&m=020402&opType=N |
| March 9, 2020  | Distributed public face masks  
- Evenly provided the face masks to the public through the public channels to prevent stockpiling | https://www.mfds.go.kr/brd/m_99/view.do?seq=44020&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&multi_itm_seq=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1 |
| March 22, 2020 | Implemented social distancing measures  
- Recommended canceling any social event, avoiding social gathering and refraining from going out in nationwide | http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/shBoardView.do?brdId=2&brdGubun=27&ncvContSeq=1385#                                                               |
| April 20, 2020 | Softened social distancing measures  
- Relaxed the measures for religious gathering, playing sports, etc.                                                                                   | http://www.mohw.go.kr/reactal/sal0301vw.jsp?PAR_MNU_ID=04&MENU_ID=0403&page=1&CONT_SEQ=354112 |