



United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific

Covid-19:

What Local Government Need to Know: Case Study from Goyang City South Korea

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Brilliant Administration Leadership in Disaster situation, **Mayor of Goyang city Lee Jae-joon**

COVID19 is obviously one of the biggest disaster the world's facing now, which we could overcome with the community spirit along with administration policy and citizen's participation.

For targeting and achieving the citizen's happiness and sustainable goals, we are seeking the Local government's role and Leadership pivotal. At this moment, we have one person who stands out. He is the Mayor of Goyang, Lee Jae Joon. He is getting a lot of title started with 'the first'. This is from many efforts for responding COVID19 threat and booming up local economy. Following's the cases Goyang implemented

1. Disaster Prevention Center and Drive-thru testing station

He established the first Disaster Prevention Center in Nation and has been discussing and implementing ideas. The best trial is the 'Goyang Safe Car Test Center'. Since Goyang city opened the first 'COVID19 drive-thru testing station in Goyang, Korea, many foreign media, following CNN, introduced the station to nations around the world including Germany, U.S., and UK, gaining heated attention and positive response.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/03/02/asia/coronavirus-drive-through-south-korea-hnk-intl/index.html>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/south-korea-launches-drive-thru-coronavirus-testing-facilities-as-demand-soars-2020-2>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/south-korea-proves-pandemic-response-requires-more-than-money>

2. Video Conference coronaviruses test

Goyang City also took the lead to be the first in the nation in adopting many other ideas, including video conference coronaviruses test(long – distance), operation of 5 ambulances, exclusively for COVID19.

3. Hand sanitizer stands

Goyang installed the ‘temporary hand sanitizer stands’ in 16 locations in total around major subway stations and plazas, the first case in the nation, to help citizens sanitize their hands, even on the streets or on the move. Mayor Lee Jae-joon said, “We can’t build complete preventative network, just with public efforts. Participation from the citizens is also important for preventative measures.”

4. Job creation

In addition, Goyang city had diverted the fund allocated to job creation to organize an emergency task force to prevent COVID19 spread. Originally, the city raised KRW 10 billion fund to address the economic issue and promote employment of the economically vulnerable class. The task force team was created as part of the public work program, as stimulus measures to respond to COVID19 crisis. The team consists of about 200 people, in the unit of fever check team to check the body temperature and the disease prevention unit to conduct epidemic prevention activities in the socially vulnerable neighborhood. Especially, the fever check unit consists of professionals with experiences as nurse’s aides.

5. Temporarily Use of Disposable Goods

Goyang city would temporarily lift the ban on the use of disposable goods until the Virus Spread is over and contained. The temporary lift of ban on the use of disposable goods is a measure to combat the spread of the virus and citizen’s concern but it is still recommended to use reusable goods(tumblers, personal containers) for sustainable resources circulation.

6. Offer 50% cut

Goyang city became the first municipality in the nation to offer 50% cut in water and sewage utility bill for small business owners and farmers for 3 months. This is an effort to relieve the burden of small business owners and farmers, hit hard by COVID19 outbreak.

7. A list of Shincheonji Members, set for Full-range investigation

Goyang city dispatched 100 phones and public workers in a gym at Goyang city hall to make a phone call 1~2 times a day from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day to all 3,600 Shincheonji members and trainees to check symptoms of viruses infection and recommend immediate self-quarantine for those showing the symptoms. When the monitoring workers detect patients with symptoms, firstly, the Epidemics Management Team recommends them to visit the target medical institutions and secondly, they will get treatment and test with sample swap at the target medical institutions.

8. Set to combat COVID19 and Boost Regional Economy

First of all, it established an emergency disease prevention unit with 2000 members from the public work program to hire experienced nurse's aides for body temperature check and the unemployed to conduct disease prevention activities to boost the economy by addressing the issues of combat against the virus spread and job creation at the same time.

Also for the small business owners, suffering from declining revenue, the city government offers ▲ water & swage bill cut for the first time in the nation ▲ expands special guarantee (KRW 50 million) and lower interest rate ▲ expansion of Goyang Pay event for 10% additional accumulation (until March end).

To join the efforts to fight against the difficulties in the region, it ▲ closes in-house cafeteria at public buildings to divert consumers to stores in the regions and ▲ runs flower market at Goyang City Hall and 3 county buildings.

9. Safe Book Rental Service

Libraries in Goyang city are frequently visited by many users, with 15,759 visitors every day and they check body temperature of the visitors and sanitize all the books in the collection with book sanitizers to protect health of the public. Hygiene of the facilities is also thoroughly managed, with internal sanitization of all facilities and supplies at the libraries.

Meanwhile, the center is gaining attention with the safe book rental service for the citizens who hesitate to visit the libraries due to concerns over Coronaviruses.

10. Distributing relief Goods to those in Self-quarantine

Anyone who contacted the patients with coronaviruses infection has to stay in self-quarantine for 14 days, regardless of casual or close contact.

The city government immediately executed the reserve fund to provide relief goods (rice, bottled water, side dishes, ramen, etc.) to those in self-quarantine with KRW 15 million budgets.

Starting from February 5, 50 public workers of the city have been delivering the relief goods box to those in self-quarantine at home.

Articles including more information are enclosed. Please refer.

11. National ID-based Mask Distribution system, Proposed by Mayor Lee Jae-Joon

Cause of Covid19, Mask Distribution was terrible. Customers couldn't buy any mask even after they've waited for hours in line in front of pharmacy.

At the press conference March 2, at Goyang city office, Mayor Lee said, " We need to do something to end the situation where citizens waited in line for hours to get a couple of masks to prevent COVID19 transmission), or even sometimes returned with no mask at all." And Mayor also called for "adoption of 'national ID-based mask distribution system' and 'limited distribution' to reduce the time for citizens to wait in line and to prevent citizens going back with no avail."

Finally, March 5 the government announced it would adopt 5-day rotation mask distribution system to allow purchase of 2 pieces of mask per week, based on the last number of the year of birth, starting from March 6.

These are some of policies done by Goyang City for responding COVID19. Now Mayor Lee still keep going forward for preventing citizen and combating COVID19, and also boosting local economy.

For any inquiries, and full version of information,

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[GOYANG SERIES 2] COVID-19 POLICY THAT CITIZENS CAN EASILY PRACTICE IN DAILY LIFE: *ALWAYS OUT THERE FOR THE CITIZENS...*

Goyang's Strategic Direction

There are two key parts to prevent the coronavirus: to learn what to do and practice what we learn.

Goyang city put its focus on implementing practical policies to make it easier for citizens to act on.



- The secret of Goyang City's successful fight against the coronavirus lies in its efforts to see things in the citizens' perspective and take various measures to help them practice easily.
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- If citizens want to wash hands on the move, they might find it inconvenient as they have to get to a public restroom or have concerns as they only have wet wipes. Goyang City placed hand-washing stands connected to water supply in 16 spots on the street at major subway stations and parks to help citizens passing by can wash their hands anytime. This is a practical measure the city office has taken to help the citizens practice what they learned. This is another measure that the city adopted for the first time in the nation.
- The city office distributed masks and sanitizers to pregnant women and the underprivileged class and to prevent mass infection of the underprivileged, a full-scale test was conducted to those newly admitted to the elderly care hospitals and care centers February 20 and all of them tested negative.
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- That's good for them to just put on the masks and to be for their safe.
- The Disaster Prevention and Control Meeting, starting right after the outbreak of the coronavirus, the administrative leadership of the mayor and other officers, the administrative execution system and hard work and dedication of public workers, all of them were impressive. This was possible as they helped citizens' participation and go together with them and citizens also actively participated in self-quarantine and test.
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- To help those in self-quarantine, two temporary self-quarantine facilities were installed at the camp site of Korea Scout Association and camping site of KINTEX(exhibition center), and started 'Book Rental Service' for those in quarantine for an extended period. These are the parts of the efforts of the city office to implement various measures, one step ahead of other municipal offices.
- These are **the key elements of Localizing SDGs efforts** widely discussed across the globe. We are planning to extend 'sharing knowledge and cooperation' with international organizations and cities overseas.

Story1. Goyang City Coming up with Creative and Differentiated Measures of its Own to Combat COVID 19

There is something different with Goyang City.

Other than 'Goyang Safe-Car Test Station(type of Drive Thru), getting heated attention from all across the world', the city has adopted diverse creative measures to combat COVID19. It reduced infection risk and contributed to facilitating treatment procedures by reducing time for protective equipment change with video-assisted treatment and test.

The city office placed hand sanitizers in many spots along the streets on the poles, and installed handwashing stands connected to water supply facilities at 16 spots across the city on the streets to help citizens practice frequent hand washing in daily life.

In a full scale testing for new entrants of the elderly care hospitals, centers and mental hospitals in the community, all of them tested negative. This was aimed to ensure effective prevention of group infection among the most people most vulnerable to the disease.

For all the buildings of the cityhall, the county offices, and operation sites, they keep a single entrance gate open and put thermal imaging cameras to check body temperature of visitors. At all the main gate way to the region, including bus terminals and Bullet train Station, body temperature equipment has been installed to prevent and control community infection.

Policies to boost the sluggish local economy are also being implemented. The city announced a 50% cut in water supply bill for more than 60,000 businesses and companies in Goyang city and reduced loan interest rate by 50% for about KRW 20 billion worth of loans.

During one month from Valentine's Day February 14 to the White Day March 14, the city ran a campaign to promote flower gift, instead of chocolate and can dies in an effort to help the flower farmers, suffering from the corona virus outbreak and developed and ran 'Agricultural Produce Drive Through Store' to sell fresh and good quality local agricultural produce to citizens while minimizing the risk of infection and helping the farmers experiencing difficulties in selling their products.

They sold types of set products with 5 and 7 items respectively, at a lower price than market price and it gained huge popularity among the citizens, as the 7-item set was all sold out in just 1 hour on the first day.

Story2. Goyang Delivered Hand Sanitizers, Sanitizing Wipes and the Coronavirus Disease Prevention Leaflets to the Underprivileged Class and Those in Welfare Blind Spot in 3H Project to Prevent COVID 19

The Community Social Welfare Council, Goyang City started '3H Project' March 27 to prevent spread of the coronavirus diseases in the community.

*3H in '3H Project' means 'Happy Healthy Habit' and the project is to **manufacture 10 items including hand sanitizers, sanitizing wipes and first aid kits and deliver together** with the coronavirus disease prevention leaflets to each households of the under privileged and those in social welfare blind spot.*

The council is also making diverse efforts, in cooperation with volunteer service group to prevent spread of COVID19, sanitizing main bus stops and multi-user facilities in the region.

Story3. Goyang City Provides Hand Sanitizers to Small Stores and Restaurants in the Community

*Goyang City announced it had **distributed hand cleaning agents and sanitizers to small stores and restaurants** in the community, as parts of its efforts for the coronavirus disease prevention.*

They purchased 380 hand cleaning agents and sanitizers and distributed them to small restaurants and hospitality stores in the local community, starting from March 27 and the hand cleaning agents are for convenient hand sanitizing or keeping the equipment clean, frequently used and touched by those visiting the stores.

It was distributed to help the small store owners with financial difficulties in economic slowdown amid growing concerns of the citizens worldwide spread coronavirus disease across the nation.

A source of the county office asked for "active support to abide by personal hygiene guideline including frequent hand-washing and sanitization more than once everyday to prevent spread of COVID19 and make sure citizens can use the facilities without worries" and added "The county will save no efforts to prevent spread of the disease in the community with continued hygiene control and support."

Story4. Goyang Adopts Temporary Extension of Parking Time in Areas near Traditional Market

Goyang City announced, starting from April 6 the parking time would be temporarily extended from 10 to 30 minutes for the 500m areas along Goyang Boulevard, in an effort to boost the local commercial district, hit hard by COVID19.

Extension of parking time is expected to increase convenience for visitors to the market in the area, be of great help for small stores and small business owners going through turbulent time and contribute to boosting local economy.

The county head officer said "It was heartbreaking to see so many small business owners barely getting by every day in the wake of the coronavirus disease."

Meanwhile the head of Market Vendors Association said, "This is extremely hard time and many vendors even consider closing down their business." He added with a big smile. "Many visitors to the market finish shopping fast but even for them, 10 minutes seemed a bit to short, so we requested parking time extension and it is so thankful that our suggestion has been accepted so fast."

Story5. Goyang City Put COVID19 Clean Sticker to Inform Sanitization Completion

Goyang is distributing 'COVID19 Clean' stickers for stores completing sanitization to ease the citizens' concern and reduce burden of vendors in an effort to boost the revenue of the stores in the community, hit hard by COVID19 outbreak.

Goyang City gave an instruction for self-sanitization for food & beverage and hospitality stores February 27 and following the instruction, the relevant stores in the community sanitized the places, borrowing sanitization equipment from Administration & Welfare Center or conducted group sanitization through the vendors association.

Individuals or institutions including private tutoring institutions, churches and vendors' association in the community can borrow 11 sanitization equipment by the hour and the government workers and the public job program workers visited the most vulnerable spots to do sanitization everyday.

Story6. A Series of Touching Stories of the Citizens, as All 1.07 Million Goyang Citizens Actively Joined the Fight Against COVID 19

In Goyang City, efforts to combat COVID19 is not limited to public workers or medical staff. All 1.07million citizens are fiercely fighting against the disease in their own way.

A girl visited the administration and welfare center in the community with her grandmother, handing out a pouch full of two 50,000-won bills, five 10,000-won bills, six 1,000-won bills and coins with a shy smile and saying that they brought up the money she collected in a coin box for years to spend it for good cause.

When the staff at the center asked personal information, the grand mother shook her head and said repeatedly "Please use it to help those having hard time due to COVID19."

A senior citizen in his 80's visited a drugstore and handed over 24 pieces of KF94 masks to the pharmacist feeling exhausted, selling public masks and said he brought up the masks from home to share it with those who could not purchase masks.

The pharmacist said it was very touching that the senior citizen, a recipient of the public livelihood support himself, donated the masks when the people were all waiting in long que and even having conflicts at the drug store to get even one more mask.

Other senior citizen in the late 70's visited the citizens center to donate money, expressing his wish to help the low income class and the small business owners experiencing financial or mental difficulty amid the coronavirus disease outbreak and another citizen delivered a hand written letter in anonymity through a yogurt delivering lady to cheer up those working at a hospital.

Many people anonymously delivered bottled water and canned coffee to the cityhall or county offices for the public workers fighting against the disease and civil organizations also made donation in diverse ways from volunteer work to donation of disease prevention goods, Kimchi or rice to join hands to combat COVID19.

Even in the tough situation, the touching stories of the citizens are of great help for the medical staff and public workers, working at the frontline.

If you have any inquiries, please contact me, MJ, mj.highest@gmail.com