

Taipei City Government

- **City Profile**

Taipei City occupies an area of 271.8km², and is home to a population of 2.7 million. In Taipei, the major source of economy is from the services industry.

- **Background of COVID-19 transmission (first case, number of updated case, fatality, recovered patient)**

After the outbreak of COVID-19 in January 2020, the number of confirmed patients worldwide soared to 6,300,389 (as of June 2nd, 2020). On January 21, 2020, the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) announced the first confirmed imported case. Taipei's rapid and rigorous response has allowed the city to stay open without any strict lockdown measures. Instead, the government and people have implemented and followed rigorous hygiene and social distancing measures. In addition, the airport authority has been rigorously screening all arrivals from impacted areas since December 31st, 2019. Currently all arrivals must undergo strict 14-day quarantine.

As a result of these measures, only 443 COVID-19 cases as of June 1st have been confirmed so far. Of 443 cases, only 7 people death and 427 people have been recovered.

- **General information on the local regulation that related with government strategies on the COVID-19 outbreak (mayor decree, statement, and relevant decision)**

1. January 21 - The Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) announced the first confirmed imported case.
2. January 22 – Taipei City's epidemic outbreak response command system was elevated to whole-of-all-city level and the first meeting of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak response team was convened.
3. January 24 - Taipei MRT strengthened epidemic prevention measures and demanded its frontline employees to wear masks when they are on duty.
4. January 27 - Mayor Ko convened the meeting of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak response team and demanded all frontline employees to wear masks and wash hands frequently.

5. February 4 - The Police Department cooperated with the Department of Health and the Department of Civil Affairs to establish the management mechanism for home quarantine and home isolation.
6. February 5 - The Department of Education announced the first School Epidemic Prevention Measures.
7. February 6 – The CECC announced the mask ration policy that required citizens to use real names to purchase certain amount of masks. A total of 689 NHI-contracted pharmacies in Taipei City joined to assist in selling masks. Citizens could personally purchase masks by presenting their ID Card and National Health Insurance (NHI) card.
8. February 10 - Deputy Mayor Huang Shan-Shan convened the 6th meeting of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak response team and explained the simplification of the penal process for citizens leaving their homes while under home isolation or house quarantine.
9. February 17 - Taipei City announced its relief loans to help businesses resolve urgent capital problems.
10. February 21 - Taipei City announced that face mask purchase was also available across the twelve city districts' Health Center.

To follow up with the border control measures of central government, Taipei City launched Quarantine Hotels. They are for citizens who are required for quarantine but do not have a suitable place under quarantine. The designated hotels are provided with epidemic prevention guidelines and their staffers with sufficient training. Taipei City Government has currently located two dozens of hotels suitable for quarantine.

11. February 26 - To comply with the pandemic prevention guidelines proposed by the central government, Deputy Mayor Huang advised local communities and institutions should avoid to host large scale activities.
12. February 27- The Emergency Operations Center of Taipei City was raised to level 1 and Mayor Ko immediately convened a response team meeting to provide future response guidelines by following and refining the original advance deployment program.
13. March 24 - The Department of Social Welfare has conducted an evaluation and decided that the risk of infection among senior citizens is high, hence visitations to elderly residential care centres will be temporarily suspended starting from March 24, while day-care and homecare services to senior citizens living with family members who are under home isolation or quarantine will also be suspended.

14. March 29 - Taipei City Government launched epidemic prevention taxis program.
15. April 4 - Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation announced a mandatory facemask policy for all MRT riders effective April 4. The company will refuse service to those passengers who do not wear facemask. Passengers entering MRT stations without a facemask will receive a verbal warning from the authority, followed by a fine between NT\$3,000 and NT\$15,000 if he or she refuses to comply after receiving the warning.
16. April 11 - Taipei City Government launched the Face Mask Vending Machine.
17. April 30 - Mayor Ko kicked-off an epidemic outbreak management drill at the City's Emergency Operation Center.
18. May 25 - Deputy Mayor Huang announced the guidelines on third wave of easing pandemic restriction measures. The three conditions of the guidelines include maintaining social distancing, real name registration for indoor activities and venues, and no group dining.
19. May 30 - Mayor Ko announced Taipei City's plan for unblocking. Apart from the central government's regulations on public transportation, hospitals and public markets, the other regulations will in principle be unblocked. The principle of unblocking is if you can maintain social distancing, you don't need to wear a mask. There will be no restrictions on the number of activities, and it will be fully unblocked effective on June 7.

Challenges

- Border control

As of June 3, 2020, Government cleared 51 days without any local infections, which is attributed to tight border control. Starting from March 19, 2020, government has been barring all foreign nationals from entering it. However, it has received its residents coming back from the rest of world where the pandemic is still spreading. Out of the current 443 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 352 cases are imported infections.

- The Economic impact

COVID-19 is the serious threat not only to human lives, but also to our economy. In Taipei, hotels, restaurants, department stores and large events encountered the most negative impact from the virus. For example, the occupancy rate of luxurious hotels dropped by 90% and most of the large cultural, sports and other recreational activities and exhibitions were either postponed or cancelled in March of this year. Taipei alone is the home to 1,486

	<p>four companies, which is roughly one-third of the total. Seeing the detrimental impact on economy by the pandemic, it is essential for the city government to take actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The global collaboration <p>Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Government has been devoted to the research and development of rapid testing, medicine and vaccine against the COVID-19. Government is also engaging in cooperative exchanges of epidemic prevention materials with other countries as well as providing medical supplies to the severely hit areas around the globe. While Government is willing to share its medical expertise and related R&D results with the rest of the world, it also needs assistance from the global health network.</p>
Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share Best Practices <p>Cities and countries around the world will eventually need to re-open safely. Taipei City Government believes that successful epidemic prevention relies on global collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deploy Medical Staff Strategically <p>Reduce the burden on medical professionals by using general government staff for administrative tasks that doesn't require having a medical background.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement Economic Measures <p>Provide economic relief measures and strict health management measures to keep private enterprises from closing down.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deploy a Second Line of Defense <p>Install isolation facilities to accommodate the increasing number of people requiring isolation.</p>
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Experience Handling SARS <p>The 2003 SARS epidemic hit Taipei particularly hard, so the government implemented many policies and structures to prevent future epidemics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Cooperation with Wearing Surgical Masks <p>The public wears mask in crowded spaces such as public transportation and department stores. Masks are readily available online, at pharmacies, and vending machines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Excellent Comprehensive Health Insurance System

Short waiting time, low costs (US \$5 per visit), and a 90% satisfaction rate for outpatient services.

- **More than 20,000 Hospitals and Clinics**

An extensive network of health care facilities has allowed Taipei in particular to provide quick and timely care to patients even during increased use of facilities.

Lesson

Guidance and Health Advice for Schools and Educational Institutions in Taipei City for the Prevention of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



I. Preventive Measures

- **Before school starts**

1) For parents, please look after your child's health: if your child has a fever, you should inform the homeroom teacher/advisor so the school can assess health conditions of all students in the same class. The sick child should stay home and avoid going out.

2) For schools, please broadcast COVID-19 prevention messages with news tickers, websites, multimedia bulletin boards, emails and social media.

3) Identify travel or contact history of students, faculty and staff (including contingent workers and adjunct lecturers) on campus.

4) Assess critical gaps in resources and get prepared. Maintain reasonable stocks of face masks, forehead/ear thermometers, alcohol, hand soaps and other cleaning products should they be needed.

- **During school time**

- 1) Set checkpoints for body temperature measurement at entrances and exits of campus, and monitor body temperature of all faculty, staff and students on campus.
- 2) Wash hands regularly and use respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette.
- 3) Homeroom teachers or lecturers should pay attention to health conditions of students.
- 4) Clean and disinfect schools. School staff should disinfect regularly touched surfaces with diluted bleach solution on a daily basis (after school or before the first class the next day).
- 5) Maintain good ventilation in classrooms.
- 6) If any of your faculty, staff and students have signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, call the Dept. of Health, Taipei City Government epidemic prevention line (+886-2-2375-3782) or the Government CDC toll-free hotline 1922 for medical assistance. If there is an infection cluster, your school should report information to the Campus Security Report Center (CSRC) and the Taipei City School-based communicable disease reporting system.



(Posters made by Taipei Municipal XiSong Senior High school)

II. Standards for Implementing School Closure

- According to the Standards for the Suspension of Classes related to COVID-19 issued by the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC), a suspension will be applied in the following situations:
 - 1) If there is one faculty member or student confirmed with

	<p>COVID-19 in one class, the class will be suspended for 14 days.</p> <p>2) If there are two or more confirmed cases in one school, the school will be suspended for 14 days.</p> <p>3) If one-third of schools in one district are dismissed, all schools in the district will be suspended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When a confirmed person with COVID-19 has been on campus<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Take attendance accurately: for better contact tracing, schools should monitor and track student absence from classes (including elective courses, club activities etc.).2) Suspend all large group gatherings such as student activities, sports days etc., and avoid mixing between classes and grades.3) Create instructions for suspending/resuming classes and scheduling make-up classes: please refer to the standard operating procedure for schools to suspend/resume classes related to COVID-19.
Website Information	https://english.gov.taipei/covid19/