



United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific

COVID-19

What Local Governments Need to Know: Case Study from Daejeon City South Korea

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Daejeon City, South Korea

Located in the central region of South Korea, Daejeon serves as a hub of transportation and is at the crossroads of major transport routes. Daejeon had a population of over 1.5 million people and a center of transportation in South Korea. Furthermore, known as the Silicon Valley of Korea, Daejeon is the home of private and public research institutes, centers and science parks.

Since January 20 2020, when the Korea's first confirmed case of new coronavirus infection (COVID-19). Daejeon was first announced a month later on February 21, 2020. About a month has passed since then. The COVID-19 crisis is still "On progressing." The COVID-19, which originated in Wuhan, China, changed the daily lives of the people two months after its landing in Korea. School has not started yet, and workplaces, including the company, have been crumpled up. Large discount stores and department stores have become noticeably quiet. The economy is plummeting and the war against COVID-19 is not over yet. A month after the outbreak of the COVID-19 in Daejeon, they have reviewed the current response.

On March 22, the number of confirmed COVID-19 patients totalled 222, including 24 in Daejeon, 120 in South Chungcheong Province, 36 in North Chungcheong Province, and 42 in Sejong. In South Chungcheong Province, more than 100 patients were found in the center of sports facilities such as "Zumba Dance," while in Sejong, there were about 30 confirmed cases involving the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. Fortunately, there were no cases of mass infection in Daejeon. The first confirmed case came on February 21. A woman in her 20s, who is staying in Jayang-dong, Dong-gu, was previously confirmed to be COVID-19 after visiting the city of Daegu.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In the early month of outbreak, citizen was curious about the virus spread and having difficulty to find a mask. It was lack of supply caused a shortage of demand.▪ The government only encouraged confusion by people to use the KF-94 mask, saying, "You can use the cotton mask".▪ The economy is plummeting and stores and department stores have become noticeably quiet.▪ Self-isolation has not been adequately managed or identified as the source of infection.
Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Banning the export of facemasks overseas and procuring 80 percent of its production as a public sales outlet.▪ With the situation getting severe, the government has upgraded its infectious disease crisis alert level to a "serious" level since April 23, 2020.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There has also been a "drive-through" that allows people to get inspected without getting off the car. ▪ Schools are not opened yet since the opening of schools nationwide postponed at the end of February. ▪ Quarantine and economic revitalization measures are applied such as strengthening social distancing.
Lesson	<p>The Corona-19 response from the Daejeon city government is relatively successful. The disclosure of information on the occurrence of confirmed cases and their movements was made transparent. There have been several trials and errors over the scope and timing of the route's disclosure, but citizens' anxiety over the Corona-19 confused. It was also quick to inform the current situation through regular briefings and spread the situation through disaster text messages. It was also time to support vulnerable people's masks caused by the mask purchasing chaos. The investigation into the Sincheonji church area and quarantine of collective facilities such as churches and call centers also carried out continuously. As the number of confirmed cases did not increase rapidly like Daegu and North Gyeongsang Province, a relatively self-isolation response was possible. However, the authority to communicate with local governments and agencies and respond to infectious diseases remains to desire.</p> <p>Due to the lack of information sharing with other local governments, it has been belatedly disclosed or not recognized related facts. In some cases, self-isolation has not been adequately managed or identified as the source of infection. In particular, it was an opportunity to feel the need for Daejeon Medical Center once again. However, Daejeon should take the lead in overcoming quarantine and economic revitalization measures such as strengthening social distance.</p>
Website Information	https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/