

Clean Zones and Walk-through Screening Centers at Jeju International Airport



As the coronavirus is sweeping the nation, people are getting increasingly nervous. While it is important to prevent the spread of the virus, it is as important for the government to soothe people's nerves. Seoul and Busan Metropolitan Cities are already operating Clean Zones that citizens can visit safely, and the Clean Zones concept is spreading nationwide. In addition, Jeju International Airport has introduced walk-through COVID-19 screening centers for the prompt collection of samples and to halt transmission of the epidemic within the province.

01 Clean Zones for Peace of Mind

Due to the requirement for social distancing amid COVID-19, people are staying at home and restraining from going out. We are not visiting crowded places and are extremely careful not to be present in places that had ever been visited by someone confirmed to have had COVID-19.

It is natural to refrain from going out until the coronavirus has completely disappeared, but it is not possible to keep on living without going out at all. To soothe people and help them lead as normal daily life as possible, we need certain systems to give citizens peace of mind. One of them is "Clean Zones."

Clean Zones can be divided into two types. The first one places that were visited by those with confirmed cases of the virus and were disinfected to remove the risk of infection. The second one is safe public use facilities that are voluntarily disinfected regularly.

As for the first type of Clean Zone (facilities visited by confirmed patients), the paths of movement by confirmed patients are identified and spaces exposed are cleaned and sterilized according to the guidelines for the preventive measure against epidemics. Later epidemiologic inspectors check the status of cleaning and disinfection of spaces exposed to carriers by referring to CCTV footage. For 24 hours, the spaces are ventilated and samples are collected and the status of the virus is examined scientifically. The results of sample testing are released by the Research Institute of Public Health and Environment. Upon the completion of disinfection, Clean Zone stickers are issued and an announcement is posted on these facilities. A list of Clean Zones (disinfected facilities) is posted online.

As for public use facilities, facilities eligible for Clean Zone certification include multi-use public faculties frequently visited by citizens, public use facilities whose use has fallen due to concerns over an infection, and places that are disinfected regularly (welfare centers for people with disabilities, daycare centers, etc.). Cleaning and disinfection for these places are conducted according to the guidelines of disinfection for infection prevention. After the cleaning and disinfection, the status is checked and Clean Zone stickers (displaying the safe disinfected facilities) are issued. Like the first-type Clean Zones, an announcement is posted on the public use facilities, and the list of Clean Zones is posted online so that citizens can readily identify Clean Zone public-use facilities.

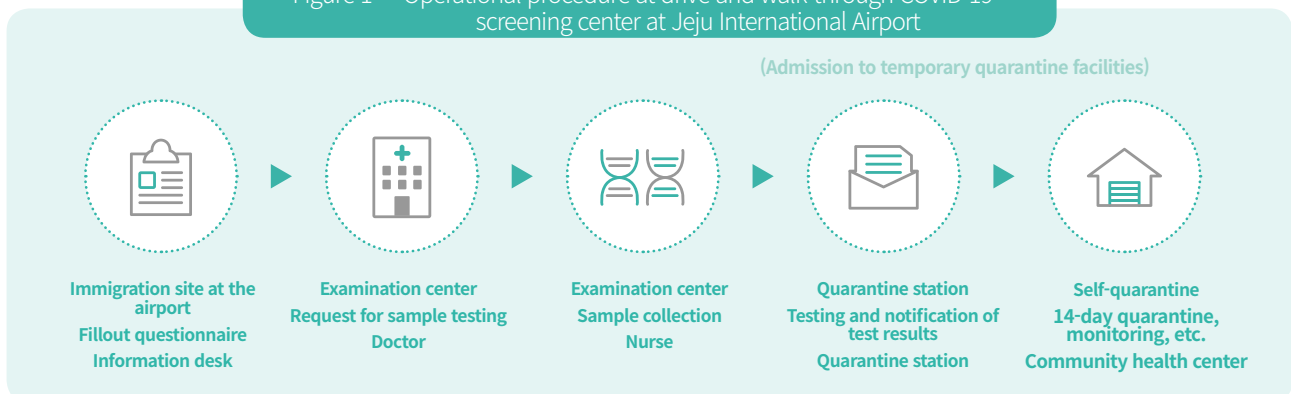
02 Fast and Safe Walk-through COVID-19 Screening Center at Jeju International Airport

With the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, confirmed cases who had a history of travel overseas were found in Jeju Province. As the number of requests for specimen testing spikes, exceeding the capacity of testing institutions, the issues of overload and low efficiency have emerged. Hence, Jeju International Airport decided to operate a walk-through COVID-19 screening center within the airport for prompt sample collection and control of the contagion within the province. A collaborative system for swift testing was established to send collected samples to Jeju National Quarantine Station of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The walk-through COVID-19 screening center at Jeju International Airport is operated as follows. Operation hours began on March 30, 2020, and will continue until the coronavirus contingency plans end. The walk-through center was installed in the parking lot of the airport. The staff is comprised of 18 persons (two doctors, 8 nurses (medical laboratory scientists) who work a double shift daily. Collected specimens are analyzed by the Jeju National Quarantine Station.

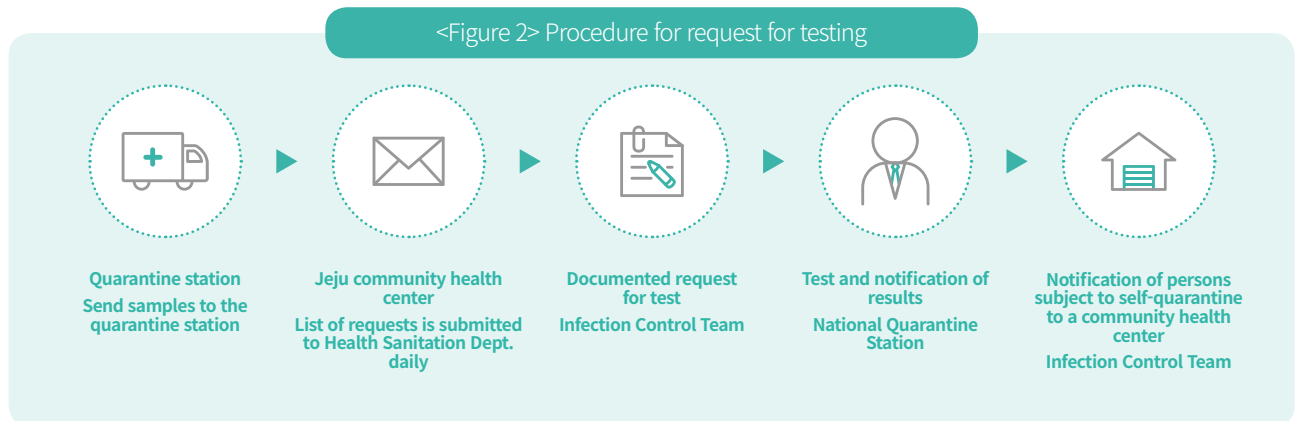
Persons that require testing include individuals who report a history of overseas travel in Europe and the United States, etc. Later on, those who entered the province with fever (37.5°C) and who may need to be carried to quarantine facilities were required to undergo testing. After the collection of samples at the walk-through screening center of the airport, tested people are quarantined in a temporary facility to wait for results of the test.

<Figure 1> Operational procedure at drive and walk-through COVID-19 screening center at Jeju International Airport



With regard to the request for testing and results, a request for testing is made by writing the sample number and records of testing on the test register. After sending the samples, the list is sent to the Infection Management Team immediately. Test requests can be sent three times a day – at 11:00, 17:00, and final flight operation hour. The administrative staff of Jeju Community Health Center sent all results. The third samples are stored at the COVID-19 screening center of Jeju community health centers and sent the following day along with the first sample of the next day.

The Jeju National Quarantine Station examines the list of requests (test register), labels of samples, and request the tests, conducts the tests, and notifies those of testing results. The procedure for sending a request for the test is in <Figure 2> below.



For real-time management of the list for the request for testing, the test registry is sent to the Infection Control Team and test requests are prepared. The test results received are sent to the community health center and tested persons leave temporary quarantine facilities and return home (if the test result is positive, they will be carried immediately to an appropriate facility). Relevant community health centers are notified and those tested are registered on a system for the control of patients.

After testing, quarantine is implemented. Those who can go home by own cars for self-quarantine go home after health instruction. Those who do not have own cars must enter temporary quarantine facilities to wait for test results. To move to the quarantine facilities, they ride on a 25-person bus where patients sit 2 meters apart or each person can ride on a passenger car. If the test result is negative, they can leave temporary quarantine facilities and can go home in a private vehicle. If the results are positive, they are carried to negative pressure rooms.

