

Management of the 21st General Election during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Korea

1 Voting Process

□ Early Voting

- Voters not able to vote on Election Day (April 15, 2020, 6:00 am - 6:00 pm) could vote at the nearest early polling stations without reporting, from two to five days prior to Election Day (April 10-11, 2020, 6:00 am - 6:00 pm)
 - ✓ Voters could vote at any of the early polling stations, which had been installed in every district across the nation, regardless of their address
- A total of 3,508 early polling stations were installed and operated across the nation (3,484 stations at the district level and an additional 24 stations [16 stations in areas where military bases are concentrated and 8 stations at residential treatment facilities])

□ Regular Voting

- Voters could vote at the designated polling station within their area of resident registration, installed in every voting district, on Election Day
- A total of 14,330 polling stations were installed and operated across the nation

☐ Voting Procedure

- ① Voters wore a mask to the polling station
- ② Voters kept at least 1 meter distance from others in the vicinity of the polling station
- ③ The polling station staff checked all voters for fever at the entrance of the polling station
- ④ Asymptomatic voters utilized hand sanitizer and wore vinyl gloves prior to entering the polling station
- ⑤ For identification purposes, polling station staff instructed voters to lower their masks briefly
 - ✓ Voters refusing to follow instructions were not allowed to vote, except for those identifiable even with their masks on
- ⑥ While wearing the gloves, voters signed the identification form, received the ballot paper, marked the ballot paper, and placed it inside the ballot box
- ⑦ Voters placed their gloves into the provided bin prior to leaving the polling station



2 Preventive Measures Within the Polling Stations

□ Keeping Distance

- Signs and equipment for keeping at least 1 meter distance between voters



□ Epidemic Control Measures

A. Principles

- Disinfection to be scheduled before and after voting, and after the first

day of early voting

- Disinfection immediately after the installation of the polling station, and to be finished six hours prior to the operation of the facility on Election Day
- Disinfection immediately after voting
 - Prioritized disinfection for facilities in operation the next day (e.g. community centers, schools, etc.)
- Nighttime disinfection to shorten the disinfection period

B. Disinfection Methods

- Disinfection to be carried out in the vicinity of the polling station, hallways, and public spaces like restrooms and elevators
- Disinfecting bioaerosols in the vicinity of the polling stations using ultra-low volume sprayers, and disinfecting surface-dwelling viruses in entrances and elevators using electro-compressor sprayers
- Using disinfectants approved by the Ministry of Environment which allow safe operation of facilities within six hours of disinfection
- No admittance to the polling station subsequent to disinfection until voting begins
- Utilization of the polling station allowed after sufficient ventilation

☐ Temperature Check

- Polling station staff checked all voters for fever at the entrance of the

polling station

- Voters with a temperature below 37.5 degrees Celsius and no respiratory symptoms were ushered to the polling stations
- Voters with a temperature above 37.5 degrees Celsius or respiratory symptoms were ushered to temporary polling booths

3 Voting Process for Infected People

□ Home Voting

- Home voting is a system that allowed voters who were unable to move freely due to a serious physical disability or who had been admitted to a hospital, sanatorium, or detention center, to vote from their place of residence. After registering for home voting (registration period: March 24-28, 2020), voters received ballot papers from the local Election Commission.
- Procedure: Instructions for home voting by National Election Commission [NEC] and local government) → Voter registration → Eligibility check → Ballot paper delivery → Home voting → Returning the voting ballot by mail → Vote counting

□ Voting at Special Early Polling Stations

A. Operating period and eligible voters

- Operating period: one-day operation during early voting period (April 10-11) for each residential treatment facility, and for 4-8 hours according to the number of voters
- Eligible voters: patients confirmed with COVID-19 in residential treatment facilities and the facilities' medical and supporting staff.

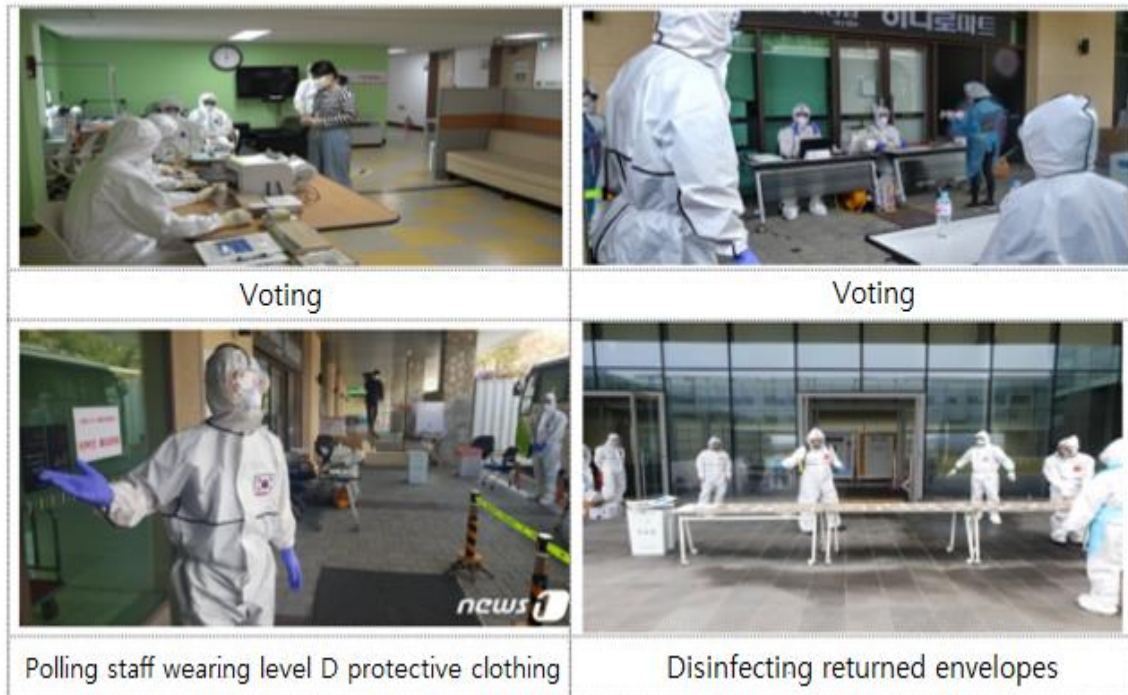
B. Voting procedure

- ① Voters went to early polling stations individually, following broadcasted instructions or polling station staff, to prevent patients confirmed with COVID-19 from overlapping
- ② Patients confirmed with COVID-19 wore masks before entering the polling station, use hand sanitizer, and wear vinyl gloves
- ③ Voters presented identification, signed an identification form, received a ballot paper, and marked the ballot paper at the polling booth
 - ✓ For identification purposes, voters used the provided pen with gloves on. Voters were prohibited from using the automatic finger printer scanner.
- ④ Voters placed the ballot paper inside the voting envelope, sealed the envelope, inserted the envelope into the ballot box, placed the gloves into the provided bin, and returned to their rooms

- ⑤ The polling staff was responsible for making sure the patients confirmed with COVID-19 did not overlap while voting and instructing each voter to wait while the previous voter was voting
- ⑥ Early voting ballot boxes were handed over to the post office after counting the number of returned envelopes under the presence of an election observer

C. Installation and management personnel

- Discussion with facilities personnel to have voters not overlap and have the facility installed where there was sufficient ventilation (outdoors, mostly)
- For each of the early polling stations, one early voting supervisor (from the NEC), four polling station staff (two from the NEC and two from each of the facilities), and more than two observers were dispatched



4 Voting System for People in Self-quarantine

□ Eligibility

- People in close contact with patients confirmed with COVID-19 and people who had returned from being abroad and were restricted to move until Election Day (April 15), and voters who had been notified of self-quarantine (for 14 days) from the local government (health center) during the period of April 1 until 6:00 pm of April 14
- Asymptomatic people who were quarantined in an area less than 30 minutes away from the polling station, had the right to vote, and intended to vote on Election Day
- ✓ Voting was allowed only if the travel time from the quarantined location to the polling station was less than 30 minutes by car (without other passengers) or on foot

(without using public transportation)

❑ **Advance Preparation**

- The local government official in charge of self-quarantining informed the applicant via text messages of the time allowed for temporary outings (April 15, 5:20-7:00 pm), arrival time at polling stations, and waiting areas
- Upon arrival at the polling station before 6:00 pm on Election Day, the voter in self-quarantine received a numbered ticket from the staff and waited to be summoned
- After the closing of the polls, the temporary polling booth was installed in a well-ventilated place or outdoors, while polling station staff at the booth wore personal protective gear 10 minutes prior to the closing of the poll
 - ✓ Personal protective equipment: Type 4 protective clothing, face shields, masks, surgical gloves, and shoe covers

❑ **Voting Procedure**

- ① After the regular voters finished voting and had left the premises, the self-quarantined voters with their electoral register, ballot paper, and temporary ballot envelope was accompanied by the designated observer to the temporary polling booth
- ② The polling station staff, with the assistance of the support staff,

ushered the self-quarantined voters to the temporary polling booth, individually, according to the number on their tickets

- ③ The self-quarantined voter used hand sanitizer and wore vinyl gloves prior to entering the temporary polling booth (no fever check)
- ④ The polling station staff at the temporary polling booth checked for identification and instructed the voter to sign and seal the electoral register
- ⑤ The polling station staff provided a ballot paper and temporary polling booth envelope to the self-quarantined voter, and instructed the voter to go to the temporary polling booth
 - At the temporary polling booth, the staff sanitized items which were in contact with the self-quarantined voter, such as pens, with sanitizing tissue
- ⑥ After voting, the self-quarantined voter put the ballot paper inside the envelope and gave it to the temporary polling booth staff. Then, the voter placed the gloves inside the provided bin and departed after using the hand sanitizer
 - The staff at the temporary polling station sanitized the polling booth and the polling instruments with sanitizing tissue, every time a voter finishes voting

- ⑦ When all self-quarantined voters finished voting, the staff at the temporary polling booth transported the temporary polling booth envelopes, ballot papers, and the electoral register to the polling station with the election observers
- ⑧ The staff at the temporary polling booth took out the ballot papers from the envelopes and placed them inside the ballot box under the presence of the election supervisor and election observer, while paying special attention not to disclose the ballot papers
- ⑨ The staff at the temporary polling booth took off their personal protective equipment and discarded them into a disposal box



5 Disinfecting Supplies

□ Disinfecting Supplies

- Masks (general/medical use), hand sanitizers, contactless thermometers, sanitizing tissues, medical gloves, vinyl gloves, face shields, Type 4 protective clothing, and temporary polling station envelopes

□ Distribution Guidelines for Disinfecting Supplies

○ Masks (3,000,000 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City/province: 800 each • District("Gu/Si/Gun"): For the day before election day (varied proportionately to the number of voters) • Smaller District("Eup/Myeon/Dong"): For distributing campaign materials - according to the number of households less than 2,500: 10 / less than 5,000: 15 less than 7,500: 25 / less than 10,000: 30 less than 12,500: 35 / 12,500 or over: 40 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For operation room for counting station • For people who participated in sending home voting ballot papers, voting management training, and simulation tests for ballot distributors • For actual workers including administrators, clerks, and day laborers
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two each per polling station staff, 1.5 each per observer • Temporary polling booth*: Number of early voters in the 7th local election × 5% (approx.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reserved amount for temporary polling booth: Only provided to symptomatic voters or, in rare cases, voters concerned with the spread of COVID-19
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the number of voters less than 100,000: 450 / less than 200,000: 700 less than 300,000: 1,000 / less than 400,000: 1,200 400,000 or over: 1,600 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For NEC members and staff, counting staff, counting observers, etc.

○ Hand sanitizer (286,725 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirty each per city/province and district("Gu/Si/Gun") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For training, public service etc.
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty eight each per early polling station - For voters: 12 x two days (Assumed early voter turnout of 23%, assumed amount of use: 4ml per voter) - For early polling clerks: two x two days (Assumed amount of use: 50ml per early polling staff or observer) • Twelve per polling station - For voters: 10 (Assumed voter turnout of 37%, assumed amount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For voting management

	<p>of use: 4ml per voter)</p> <p>- For polling clerks: two (Assumed amount of use: 50ml per counting staff or observer)</p>	
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 35 in average : Varied proportionately to the number of counting staff (Assumed amount of use: 50ml per counting staff or observer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For counting management

○ Thermometers (20,730 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four each per city/province and district("Gu/Si/Gun") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For training, public service etc.
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-two each - Reusing the ones used at the early polling station for the polling station on the election day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For voting management
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reusing the ones distributed to the district("Gu/Si/Gun") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For counting management

○ Sanitizing tissues (315,381 packs in total / 75 sheets per pack)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible adjustment within the total amount of distribution according to city/province 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For sanitizing election supplies and equipment
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty four packs each per early polling station (Assumed early voter turnout of 23%, one per voter x 0.8 x two days) • Ten packs each per polling station (Assumed voter turnout of 37%, one per voter x 0.8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For sanitizing polling station supplies and temporary polling booth
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately eight packs in average : Varied proportionately to the number of counting staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For sanitizing counting station supplies and equipment

○ Medical gloves (26,350 packs in total / 100 sheets per pack / Sizes S, M, L)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible adjustment within the total amount of distribution according to city/province 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For public service staff

Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hundred each per early polling station [Two per one set for early voting supervisor and staff x two times + reserved amount] • Fifty each per polling station [Two per one set for voting supervisor and staff x two times + reserved amount] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For voting supervisors and staff
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 1,000 in average: Varied proportionate to the number of counting staffs (One set per counting staff x two times + reserved amount) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For counting staff

○ Single-use vinyl gloves (1,256,300 packs in total / 50 sheets per pack)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early polling station: Number of early voters in the 7th local election x two x 1.2 • Polling station: Number of voters for each polling stations in the 7th local election x 40% x two x 1.2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided to the voters

○ Face shields (182,840 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty each per city/province and district (“Gu/Si/Gun”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For operation room for counting stations, staff responsible for fever checks, and public service
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of early polling station staff x two days x 0.3 x 1.1 • Number of polling station staff x 0.4 x 1.1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For polling station staff responsible for fever checks and temporary polling booths (around 3)
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of counting station staff x 1.1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all the counting staff

○ Type 4 protective clothing (14,330 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One per polling station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For temporary polling station staff for self-quarantined voters

6 Voters Education

❑ Announcement and promotion of the “Nationwide Guidelines on Voting”

- Announcement of the “Nationwide Guidelines on Voting” and enclosing it when distributing the voting guidelines to households and campaign materials to military and police
- Posting the “Nationwide Guidelines on Voting” on multiple platforms such as the “ETV” (Korea Electoral Broadcasting System), NEC homepage, social media, and broadcasting and newspaper companies

❑ Creating a promotional video for safe polling stations well-prepared for COVID-19 and using it for public relations

- Utilizing the video on Youtube channels to train polling clerks
- Showcasing the disinfection process in the vicinities of the polling stations and voting procedures
- Presenting temporary polling booth voting procedures for symptomatic voters

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