Notice on COVID-19 in South Korea
Starting from the city of Wuhan, an acute respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has appeared in China since December 2019. Since January 2020, the disease has also spread to other countries.

The WHO declared a health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) on 30 January 2020.

The German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) warns against travel to the province of Hubei in China. Non-essential travel to the rest of the territory of the People's Republic of China, with the exception of Hong Kong and Macao special administrative zones, is discouraged until further notice. When staying in China, temporary or early departure should be considered in view of the increasing restrictions.

Information for business travelers and foreigners in Korea

As a result of efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, increased entry controls can be expected in Korea as well. These serve to identify sick travelers, especially from China. Foreign travelers who have stayed in Hubei Province in China since January 21, 2020 will be refused entry into South Korea from February 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please also note the information in the nCoV leaflet, available at the travel and security information of the German Foreign Office, as well as on the websites of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Robert Koch Institute (RKI).

The number of COVID-19 cases has increased in recent days in South Korea. The German Federal Foreign Office recommends postponing non-essential travel to the particularly affected Korean regions of Daegu and Cheongdo and following the instructions of the local authorities. There may be travel restrictions, school closures, or the prohibition of bigger public gatherings. Please check the website of the German Federal Foreign Office regularly for changes in situation.

In Korea, please follow the instructions of the Korean authorities. If you have any questions or suspect that you are ill, you can contact the Korean Center for Disease Control and Prevention at 1339. For information in other languages, including German, you can contact the Immigration Office hotline at 1345.

The Korea Tourism Organization (KTO), in cooperation with the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC), is providing a translation service for foreign citizens and travelers to better manage the spread of the new coronavirus. Foreigners in Korea can contact KCDC’s 1339 hotline, which is linked to KTO’s 1330 hotline. The "EmergencyReadyApp" provided by the Korean Ministry of Public Security is also helpful. It is available in English for iOS (Apple) and Android.

Current figures of infected persons in Korea are published on the KCDC website. In addition, there are continuously updated figures for Korea and all other countries in the overview on the private website https://wuhanvirus.kr. Both sources are in Korean language.

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