



# PRESS RELEASE



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## PLAN ANNOUNCED TO PROTECT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND CURB COMMUNITY SPREAD OF COVID-19

- The Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Yoo Eunhae) announced its plan to protect and manage international students in 2022 in the face of a surge in the Omicron variant.
- In response to the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, all international students arriving in Korea are subject to the Special Entry Procedure at the airport. This year again, the health of international students will be protected safely through strict foreign traveller entry management system, and academic courses will be operated in a stable manner to prevent community spread of infection.
- Quarantine and disease prevention procedures (e.g. from arrival to transportation to quarantine) will be thoroughly explained beforehand to international students, especially as the management of overseas entrants has become stricter with the COVID-19 pandemic, and after they arrive, they will be guided one-on-one to assist their safe arrival to Korea.
- Universities and colleges should ensure that they protect their students' safety by fully informing them of the procedures required for COVID-19 prevention, including taking a PCR test before departing their country and 10-days of self-quarantine upon arrival, downloading a mobile app

for self-quarantine monitoring, using the so-called quarantine transportation system, and get vaccination.

※ Stronger COVID-19 Prevention Measures: Stricter COVID-19 negative certificate requirement is imposed (previously 72 hours before departure day but now shortened to 48 hours); all overseas travellers are mandated to self-quarantine for 10 days and use the quarantine transportation system, etc.

### <COVID-19 Prevention Measures in Different Stages>

Before Arrival	At Arrival	After Arrival
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ PCR test is administered</li> <li>■ Information on quarantine measures is instructed</li> <li>■ Vaccination is advised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Negative PCR test result is submitted</li> <li>■ Health condition is monitored(temperature, etc.)</li> <li>■ Self-quarantine app is downloaded</li> <li>■ Contact number and address in Korea is confirmed</li> <li>■ Quarantine Transportation system or one's own car is used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Self-quarantine for 10 days</li> <li>■ Negative PCR test result is submitted (right before the self-quarantine ends)</li> </ul>

○ At the Incheon International Airport, information booths\* are set up to accommodate international students arriving in Korea to inform them COVID-19 prevention measures and transportation in multiple languages to expedite their arrival process.

\* Period: February-September 2022; at Terminal I and II run by the National Institute of International Education.

○ The Ministry of Education will be updated by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior and Safety on the information of arriving international students, and convey the information to universities, colleges and provincial governments to support the management of the international students around the country.

○ Universities and colleges will create a liaison system before international students arrive in Korea by keeping records of their contact number and address to ensure that their health conditions will be reported daily once they arrive to protect and manage international affairs effectively.

- International students are strongly advised to complete their vaccination before entering the country in a bid to protect the health of their own as well as to prevent infection during the process of arrival as a means of responding to the spread of the Omicron variant.
  - In case an unvaccinated international student arrives, their school and the provincial government will assist their immediate vaccination as soon as the self-quarantine comes to an end.
  - Those who have been vaccinated outside Korea will be allowed to register themselves at public medical clinics in Korea with their vaccination certificate issued abroad, so that they can pursue normal daily lives without having to face any limitations.
- In order to support stable educational activities of international students, an organic cooperation among the government, colleges and provincial governments should be facilitated.
  - Universities and colleges have set up a plan to ensure that international students can stagger their arrival schedules to disperse crowd, and to share it with provincial governments so that they can stock up on PPE and prepare required personnel as well as self-quarantine facilities.
  - In order to ensure that the international students can lead an independent life even during their self-quarantine after arrival, they will be instructed thoroughly and self-quarantine facilities will be secured before their arrival, and colleges will be encouraged to use their idle on-campus facilities first and then look for outside facilities to accommodate demand for self-quarantine.
  - Through a close cooperation between colleges and provincial governments in advance, transportation between the airport and quarantine facility will be arranged such as the use of quarantine transportation, and when they arrive at the airport, colleges themselves

should prepare vehicle to transport their own students.

- Colleges will advise their international students to enter the country after the academic schedules are confirmed, including the schedule for in-person lectures, and by using colleges' own budget set aside for university innovation and work-based scholarship, they will conduct COVID-19 prevention activities such as stocking up on PPE, providing preventative education and transportation, as well as bearing the labor cost of personnel conducting monitoring on student health.
- Vice Minister Jung Jongchul said, "As the infection rate is rising with the spread of the Omicron variant, it's critical to protect the health of international students entering Korea and to systematically help them focus on their studies in terms of not only for themselves but also for their colleges and communities around them."
- He added, "We'll ensure that relevant ministries, colleges and provincial governments work closely so that the joint response system involving the central government, colleges and provincial governments can curb the infection from spreading and protect the safety of international students."