

Foreigners disobeying health authority orders to face visa revocation, deportation and other strict consequences

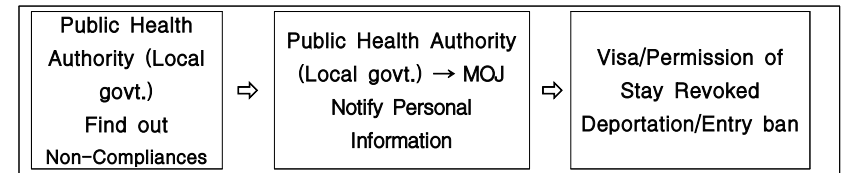
- An increasing number of foreigners who show suspicious symptoms or tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) have recently been caught breaking a self-quarantine order issued by the public health authorities, in violation of laws and regulations of the Republic of Korea including the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act. And this has naturally aggravated the public's concern over the spread of the infectious virus coming from outside the communities.

※ Cases have been reported of COVID-19 confirmed foreigners or those with symptoms of infection visiting shops and restaurants instead of getting home directly to obey self-quarantine rules. (Multiple media reports, Mar. 8)

- The Ministry of Justice (MOJ), after consulting with public health authorities, has imposed a series of strict measures against foreigners who fail to comply with health authority's orders such as quarantine, testing, treatment with regard to the COVID-19 outbreak. The measures, effective immediately, aim to alleviate the general public's concern about the community spread of the virus as well as to make foreigners in the nation willing to meet their obligations.

- To be specific, foreigners who refuse to obey health authority's (local government) orders, which involve self-quarantine, testing and treatment for the novel coronavirus, will face revocation of visa and permission of stay regardless of criminal punishment. In addition to that, the relevant foreigners will be subject to deportation and an entry ban depending on the severity of the violations.

< Administrative disposition procedures against non-compliances >



- Furthermore, the MOJ is in consultation with relevant ministries and departments to hold those foreigners, who violate self-quarantine rules, liable for the damage incurred to the country including additional quarantines and any further spread of the virus, if such non-compliances are found to constitute an illegality.
- The MOJ expects that these new measures will not only lead more foreigners to fulfill their duties to follow the laws and regulations, but also will enhance the effectiveness of the Special Entry Procedures put in place by the public health authorities for all travellers entering the Republic of Korea from overseas.
- The Ministry of Justice will make continuous efforts to help contain any further spread of the coronavirus disease 2019, thereby protecting the health and wellbeing of the public by urging foreigners staying in the nation to comply with their obligations under relevant laws and regulations of the Republic of Korea, including the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act.