

# **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

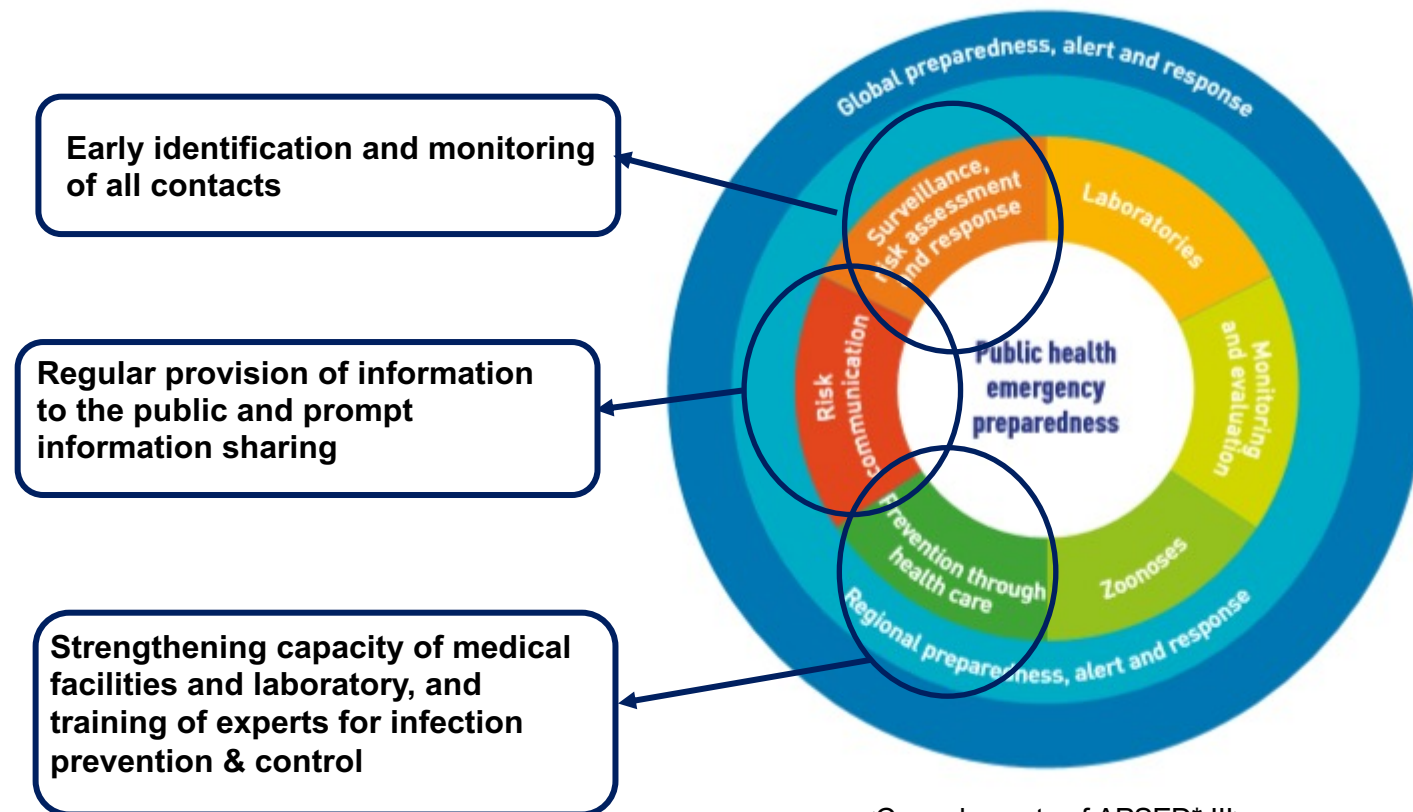
## **Republic of Korea**



**Korea Disease Control and  
Prevention Agency**

# Lessons Learned during MERS Outbreak in 2015

## Recommendations from WHO-ROK Joint Mission on MERS outbreak in 2015

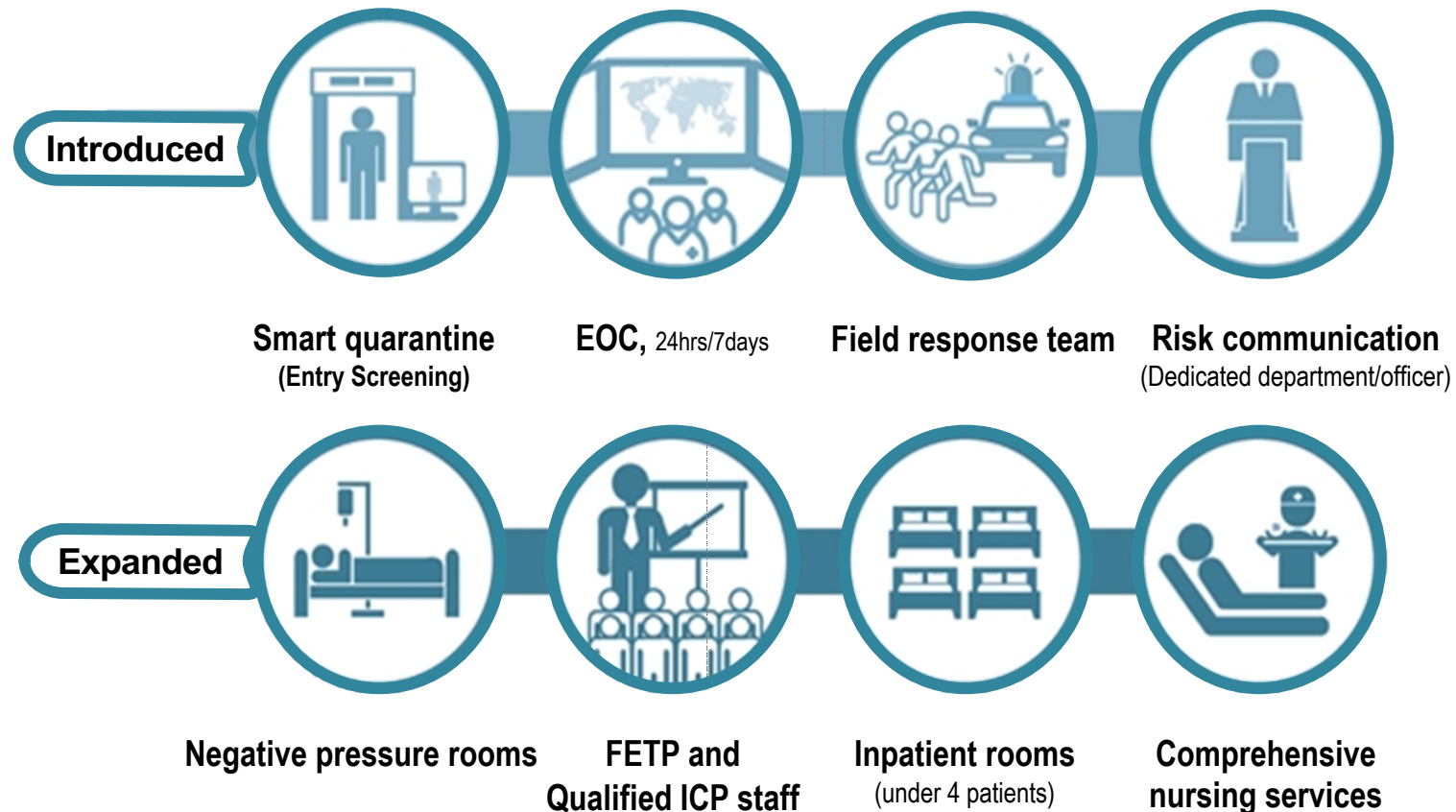


<Core elements of APSED\* III>

\* Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies

# Lessons Learned during MERS Outbreak in 2015

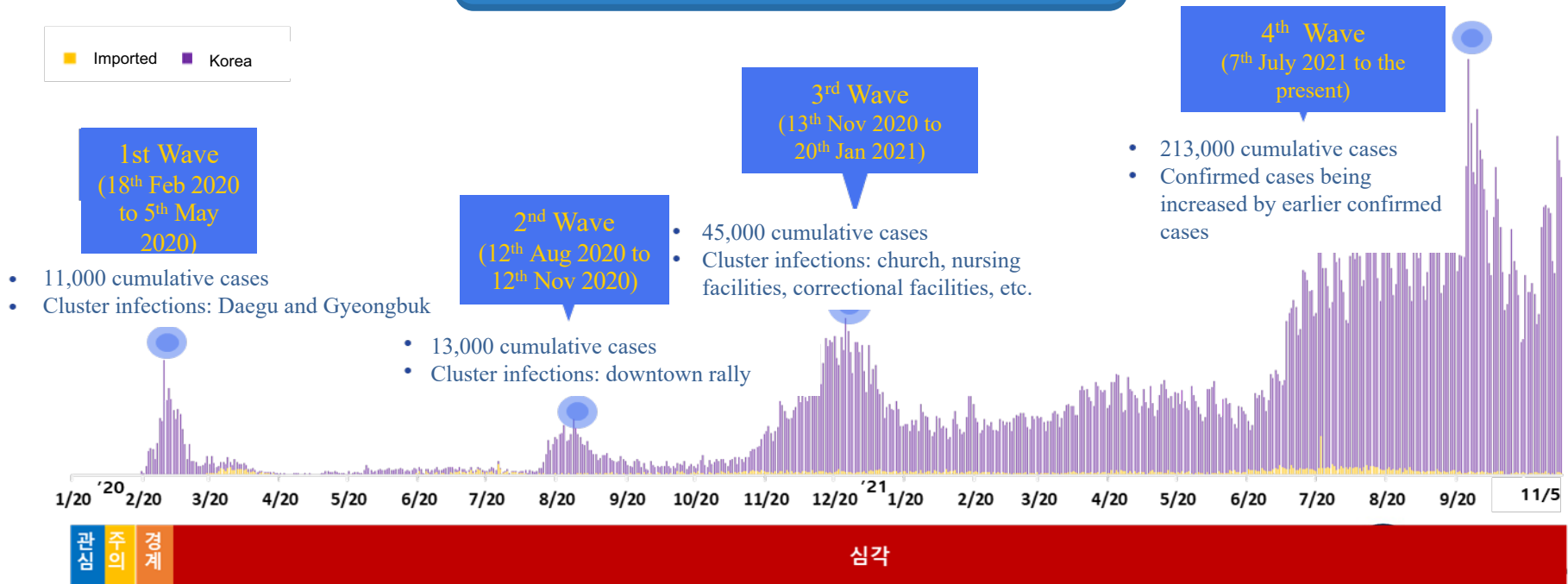
## Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response



# Overview of COVID-19 in South Korea

- ✓ Since the first COVID-19 case in Korea (1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2020), **375,464 cases in total confirmed** (5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021)
  - ⇒ 360,270 cases locally transmitted (96.0%); and 15,194 cases imported (4.0%)
- ✓ Death cases in total (cumulative): **2,936**; and **fatality rate: 0.78%**
- ✓ \*Locally transmitted cases: Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July 2021, more than 1,000 daily confirmed cases are being reported
  - ⇒ The recent average of daily confirmed cases at the 2000 mark (30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021 to 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021)
- \*Imported cases: Through management of foreign arrivals by risk of each country, daily imported cases are being controlled at the average 20 mark or under

## COVID-19 Curve in Korea (As of 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021.)



# Covid-19 Responses : Testing

- Around 630 Covid-19 screening clinics/testing centers are available nationwide to collect samples for Covid-19 PCR tests.
- For early detection of asymptomatic infections, around 200 interim Covid-19 test stations are available in easily accessible locations such as city squares, subway stations, parks, etc. (143 stations in the Seoul Metropolitan Area, 57 stations in other areas)
- Drive-through and walk-through testing facilities are available



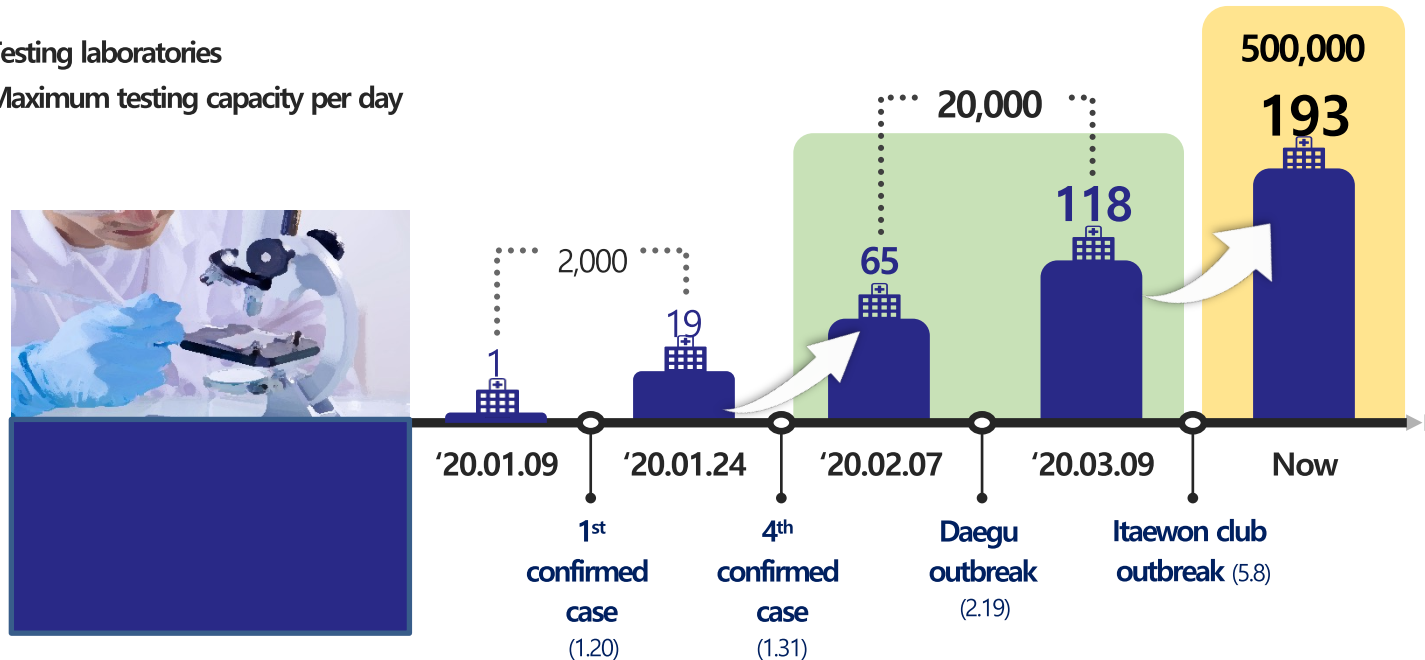
# Covid-19 Responses : Testing

## Daily Tests & Confirmed Cases

(as of 30 Oct. 2021)

	11.23.	11.24.	11.25.	11.26.	11.27.	11.28.	11.29.	Weekly total	Cumulative total
Number of tests	486,913	522,282	450,494	389,599	509,897	294,276	-	2,653,461	92,386,499
Number of confirmed cases	2,698	4,115	3,938	3,899	4,067	3,925	3,309	25,951	444,200

- Testing laboratories
- ▣ Maximum testing capacity per day



# Covid-19 Responses : Tracing

## Rapid Response Team (RRT)



- **RRT dispatched to the ground and contain the area**
- Joint response of epidemiological officers from KDCA and local authorities
- **Quick analysis of source of infection and close contacts**  
⇒ **Preventing chain of transmission to bigger cluster**

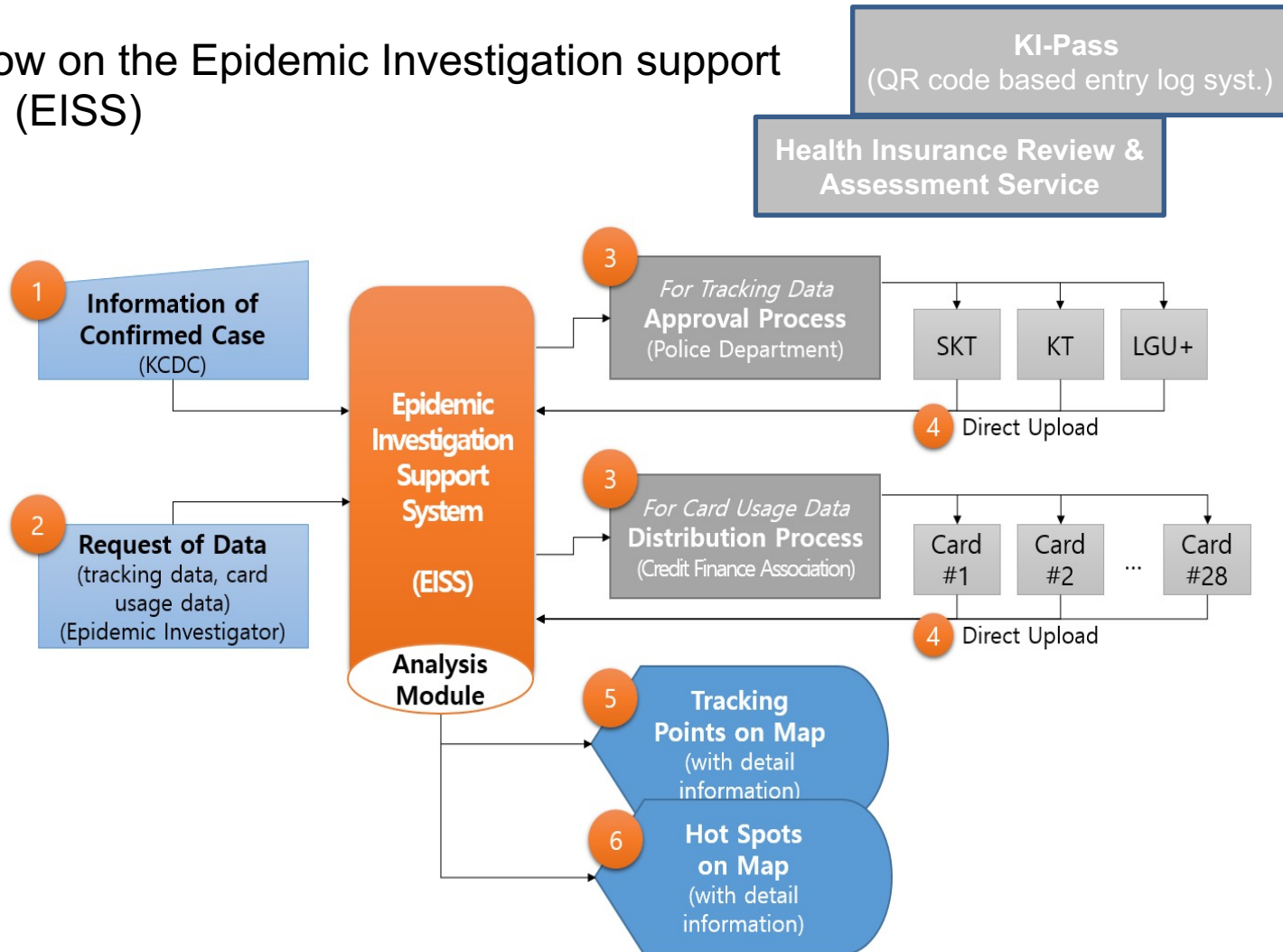
## Using Epidemiological Investigation Support System(EISS)



- Establishing '**COVID-19 EISS**'  
⇒ **A source of contact tracing based on big data**

# Covid-19 Responses : Tracing

Data flow on the Epidemic Investigation support system (EISS)





# Covid-19 Responses : Treatment

## Treatment and Patient Care

### Classification

**Critical**

**Severe**

**Moderate**

**Mild/Asymptomatic**

### Treatment and Care

**Nationally designated isolation units**

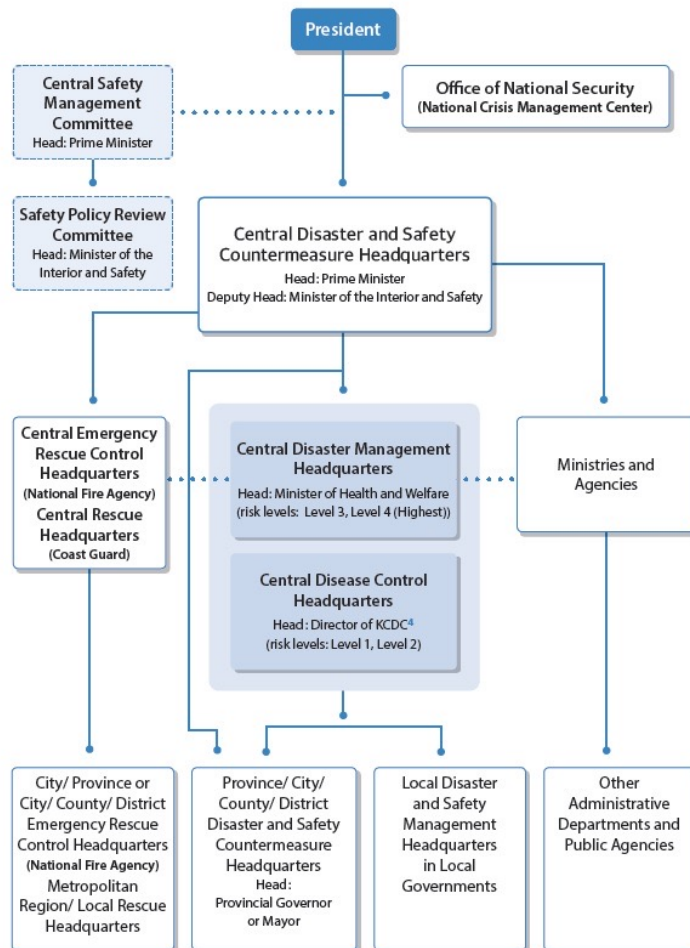
**Infectious disease specialized hospitals**

**General hospitals**

**Home isolation /  
Residential treatment centers**

# Covid-19 Responses : Governance & Communication

## Governance : Interministerial/ Central-regional governments



## Risk Communication : Daily briefing



# Vaccination : Analysis of Effectiveness in ROK

## Severe case proportion and protective effect by age group (cumulative as of 13th Nov 2021)

	Unvaccinated confirmed group			Fully vaccinated confirmed group			Protective effect
	Confirmed cases	Severe Cases*	Severe case proportion	Confirmed cases	Severe Cases	Severe case proportion	
Total (19 or above)	207,155	6,814**	3.28%	44,289	279	0.63%	80.8%
60-74	13,423	1,196	8.91%	16,031	305	1.90%	78.7%
75 or above	3,716	958	25.78%	6,994	480	6.86%	73.4%

\* Cases of severe/critical or death within 28 days after confirmation

\*\* In order to correct the difference in age distribution between the unvaccinated group and the fully vaccinated group, the expected number of severe cases is calculated based on the age composition ratio of all confirmed patients

# The Way Forward

## Vaccinate more people as possible

- Vaccination for minors (ages 12 to 17) and pregnant women
- Booster shots for population at high risk, including the immunocompromised, patients having low immunity such as elderlies, acute leukemia patients, workers at healthcare facilities, and J&J vaccinated individuals

## Step-by-step recovery plan(11.1~)

- Gradual easing of social distancing restrictions for fully vaccinated individuals
- Epidemiological investigation and quarantine policies by risk groups (based on vaccination, etc.) to improve efficiency
- Focus on treating severely ill patients and gradually expand at-home-care for mild Covid-19 patients
- Introduction of “Covid19 Pass” used for facilities at high risk such as entertainment facilities and spas, in order to support going back to normal preventing infection of unvaccinated

# The Way Forward : Response to Inequality (1)

## COVID 19 in vulnerable groups

- Covid19 clusters in convalescent hospitals, care facilities, psychiatric hospitals, foreign workers dormitories, etc.
- Socio-economic and socio-cultural impacts are concentrated in disadvantaged groups, including temporary employees, small business owners, low-income families

## Response to Inequality

- Encourage Covid19 test and vaccination of the groups (periodic testing for facilities, vaccination by priority, anonymous and visiting testing/ vaccination)
- Strengthen social welfare policies including stimulus check, emergency fund for stable employment, etc.

# The Way Forward : Response to Inequality (2)

## Inequality between countries to response COVID 19

- Limited access to vaccines and therapeutics of low and middle income countries
- Lack of experiences for Covid19 responses

## Response to Inequality

- Support Covax by commitment of 200 million dollars , vaccine donation for neighboring countries
- Sharing Covid19 response experiences with other countries and organizations
- Investment in capacity building of countries with vulnerable healthcare systems, including GHSA commitment of 100 million dollars, technical assistance with counterpart institutes

**Thank you!**

