



PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY (BMHP5013_LON)
ASSIGNMENT 2

AMINA ABDALLAH NASSOR 1917570



MAY 10, 2021
UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID
Barbara Chinyani

Content Table

1. Introduction	2
2. Strategies used to measure, monitor, and control the incidence of coronavirus.....	2
2.1 Face covering.....	3
2.2 Testing	3
2.3 Tracking and tracing	3
2.4 Quarantine and Isolation	4
2.5 Lockdown	4
2.6 Vaccine	5
3. Current public health policy approaches to reduce or control incidence.....	5
3.1 Outpatient guidance.....	5
3.2 Furlough scheme	6
3.3 Home care restriction guidance	6
4. The Health Belief Model	6
5. Impact of legislation and policies on the health and wellbeing of individuals in health or social care settings.....	7
6. Ethical considerations.....	7
7. Recommendation.....	8
8. Conclusion	8
9. References	9

1. Background of coronavirus and more specifically Covid-19.

This is comparative reports which evaluate the different approaches and strategies used to measure, monitor, and control the incidence of Covid-19 in the UK and South Korea. This report is going to focus on Background of coronavirus and more specifically Covid-19, Strategies used to measure, monitor, and control the incidence of coronavirus, current public health policy approaches to reduce incidence, models and theories of health behaviour change, impact of legislation and policies on the health and wellbeing of individuals in health or social care settings, ethical consideration, and recommendation and conclusion.

Coronaviruses are a form of infection illness. There are several distinct infectious virus, whereby some of them can cause disease. A recently discovered coronavirus, called SARS-CoV-2, has affected a worldwide infection of respiratory illness, known as COVID-19 (Johns Hopkins Medicine, 2021).

The first occurrence of COVID-19 was in in late December 2019 at Wuhan city, China. (W-j et al, 2020). Early of 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed COVID-19 a as global pandemic. According worldometer update on 10th of May, in UK, there are 4,434,860 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 127,605 deaths and 4,248,211 recovered (Worldometer, 2021). While according to epimedic-stats 10th May updates, in South Korea, there are 127,772 confirmed cases of Covid-19, including 1,875 deaths, and 1,17844 recovered (epidemic-stats.com, 2021).

However, pandemics is not new in the world, before covid-19 there were several pandemics occurred globally, including Cholera in 1817 started on India continent and spread across the world which still exist. Also, Spanish flu of 1918-1920 which affected 500 million people worldwide. Moreover, Black Plague in 1331-1353 which killed 75 million people (Nelson, 2020).

2. Strategies used to measure, monitor, and control the incidence of coronavirus.

Each country has different measure to reduce and control the virus that depend on health care systems, capacities, socioeconomic and political disputes. The following are the strategies that UK and South used to measure, monitor, and control the incidence.

2.1 Face covering

Face covering is one of the proposals that both countries have recommended to reduce spreading of the virus which go together with total time washing hands. As the World Health Organization confirmed the nose and mouth as the sources of virus transmission face coverings can protect others from the spread of infection (BBC, 2020a). At the beginning of the pandemic South Korea obliging the people to wear masks in both indoor and outdoor public places even if they are not sick, thus if member of the public violates policy can be fined of 100,000 won (Griffiths, 2020). However, in UK wearing a face covering depend on a person's age, (England and Wales under 11, Northern Ireland under 13, and Scotland under 5), Place (England and Scotland worn in indoor areas such as banks, places of worship, and libraries, Wales worn customers and staff in all indoor public places, an Northern Ireland worn to buy or rent in indoor places), or people with health reasons such as rely on lip reading, mental and physical impairment. Hence, fail to comply with this people may be deny access to their public transport fines of £200 up to a maximum value of £6,400 (BBC, 2020).

2.2 Testing

Both counties, testing has been the heart of the response to cope with COVID-19. However, UK, the government testing capacity is still limited because not all hospitals have fully functioning lab and several laboratories have been centralised. Therefore, UK employing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) that the government use to verify result or test kit that used by the people within days at home detecting antibodies in the blood, however test kit is less accurate than PCR tests (BMJ, 2020). While South Korea designated Public Relief Hospital System which can handle everything from treatment to testing, and people do not even need to go into the building, they tested literally at arm's length in special fully sealed booth. The machine is fully automatic, it cleans itself, and the hospital processes all its own tests on site. There is a wide network of these laboratories which make the turnover time to be very short, four to four and half hours, to get the result. Therefore, the sooner they know it is the more likely they can prevent an infected person from passing it on to other (Fisher, 2020).

2.3 Tracking and tracing

In South Korea, from January 2020, all arrival people must download an app which track their movement; throughout of the quarantine, and every suspect case and everyone they have been in contact with are followed up by the track and trace team, and the aim is to isolate them all. The team are forensic, and they have got the access to CCTV, credit card and mobile phone data. Therefore, they can use credit card statement, if there is not one, they can use GPs data to find out where people have been. Also, if they see something on CCTV they do not like, then they can go out and investigate. Therefore, for those who are asked for self-

isolated, twice a day the local health worker have been calling them to verify if they have any symptoms. Moreover, if a person with virus has gone to a church, gym, or bar, the authority is close that location and disinfected. However, South Korea has been criticised by human right activists because this rule it sounds like controlling the peoples' freedom. (Cheshire, 2020). However, it took another four months before the UK government's big initiative of NHS test and trace service was formally launched in England which support to recognise, contain, and control coronavirus for reducing the various being spread and save the lives by tracing as well as sharing data about people interactions. However, this system is not as compulsory (it is voluntary) as South Korean system (GOV.UK, 2020).

2.4 Quarantine and isolation

The quarantine and self-isolation strategy for sick persona are the same in both countries. Whereby, people with corona virus symptoms, or contacted with people with corona virus, or after positive test, must have quarantine or self-isolated for 14 days. However, these countries have different approach on the travellers. Currently, In UK's quarantine based on traffic light approach, it depends on where people have been in the 10 days before they arrive. If they have been in a country on the green or amber list, so they must quarantine for 10 days in place they are staying and take 2 COVID-19 tests. However, if they have been in countries on red list, they must quarantine in a hotel that will be charged £1,750 and take 2 COVID-19 tests. Therefore, the government will use the details that travellers provided in their passenger locator form to check if they are really quarantining, and if people failed to compile with policy, they may be fined up to £10,000 (GOV, 2021).

At Seoul's international airport, thousands of people still arrived every day. South Korea has kept their borders open, as the WHO advised. But there were strictly controls and huge operation to monitor all arrivals. Covid tests and temperature checks are compulsory so as personal tracking. People who arrived from outside South Korea must quarantine for 14 days. For those who foreign nationals' who have not a confirmed address in Korea must quarantine at designated facilities and will charge KRW 1,400,000. Failure to comply with the rules may considered a violation of the Quarantine Act and they will request to departure from Korea (Rolling Korea, 2020).

2.5 Lockdown

the UK did not lockdown until there we already more than 12,000 reported cases. The government introduced lockdown on the 23 March 2020, thus the people have been restricted to staying at home and not leave unless for health and social care workers, transport, education, or to buying necessary items such as food or to do exercise (Dunn et all, 2020). However, there are different lockdown rules among the UK countries, whereby Wales and

Scotland they have been doing things slightly different in terms of their timelines. From a regional perspective in England was completely based on Tiers 1-4 and the region to enter into another tier are based on the percentage of test positive cases noticed, hence the government lockdown the Tier 4 region, and many of these regions are in North West England (Bloom and Buchan, 2020). However, in South Korea because they fear for their economy to suffer, they are doing everything, and their regions are free from stringent lockdown. Instead, the government appealed for voluntary isolation and social distancing, which followed by the public. (Sly, 2020).

2.6 Vaccine

the UK is the first western country approving vaccine in December 2020 which first administers to care residents such as older adults and their carers (Kenealy, 2021). According to the ITV News on 8th of May update the government administer 169,027 first dose and 438,837 second dose to the UK adult. These statistics include vaccinations, such as Pfizer/BioNTech, Oxford/AstraZeneca, and Moderna, have been administering across all locations in UK Hospital Hubs and Local Vaccination Service sites such as General Practitioner practices and Vaccination Centres. (ITV News, 2021). On early of 2021 South Korea has administered the first corona vaccine to people at long-term care services. The rollout comes with controversy over the decision of the government's delaying the approval of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines to people older than 65 due to the lack of its laboratory data efficacy in older adults (Tong-Hyung, 2021). However, according to 3rd May of the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency update, almost 3.4 million of the population had received their first dose, and they expected by Mid-May to receive 7 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine (cna, 2021).

3. Current public health policy approaches to reduce or control incidence.

Because of the covid-19 outbreaks, both the UK and South Korea introduced several public health policies to reduce and control the incidence. To mention some of these policies guidance:

3.1 Outpatient guidance

In South Korea, outpatients who need medical attention due to cancer, hypertension, or HIV/AIDS were directed to the designated Hospital to see the doctor or for follow-up. Therefore, they are strictly separated from patients with any respiratory symptoms. While in UK, the health professionals avoid curing patients in their health accommodations and continued appointments via phone or video clinics. However, in both countries have allowed one visitor per ward for patients with serious illness such as patients getting end-of-life care (Yoo, 2020).

3.2 Furlough scheme

UK Government announces employee “furlough” scheme. On 20 March, the Government establish measures to assist businesses and employees through Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Whereby employers will be able to get a grant to cover 80% of the wages which is up to a total of £2,500 per month (Bruce and Fisher, 2020). However, there is no furlough scheme in South Korea because they are free from lockdown.

3.3 Home care restriction guidance

In England due to covid-19, many residences care affected by lockdown for 28 days every time when the workers or residents tested positive which is double the normal quarantine. So, care homes have not allowed visitors or relatives for months except for end-of-life care (Beckford and Hayward, 2020). According to Seoul Metropolitan Government, the authority restricted visitors' entrance to nursing homes because they want to protect the vulnerable older people to catch virus (Sly, 2020).

Stopping spread of virus between and in care homes, the government prohibited care homes to employ staff who work in multiple locations because the outbreak of April 2020 influenced by the workers who work on multiple care residents (Parsle, 2020).

4. The Health Belief Model

This one of the eldest models which discuss the health behaviour change. This model focuses the willingness of the individual to act upon a health behaviour which based on several individual beliefs including **Perceived susceptibility** which relating to probability of experience to a disease. **Perceived severity** which regarding the potential seriousness of a disease. **Perceived benefit** which understood the benefit of the changes of behaviour in decreasing the risk of a disease. **Perceived barriers** which consider decreased risk to any hurdles to the behaviour changes (Simpson, 2015)

For instance, consider the covid-19, for the people who do not believe on covid exist and think it all a conspiracy and not real. So, they do not acceptable to anything happening to them and think they do not catch anything, the people like that are more at risk because it not possible to change their behaviour (Venema and Pfattheicher, 2021). For people who believe they could be at risk they might change their health behaviour. So, they behave a lot differently and this will push them to action because they realize they are highly acceptable to catch it because they are using public transport and mingling with other people so there is high likelihood that they might catch something, and if they do catch it there is a high severity for them. There are some people want to follow the law, want to do what they think is right for

them and that keep them safe, unfortunately because of the barrier, such as income or the nature of their job, they cannot afford to follow the rule (Wong et al, 2021).

5. Impact of legislation and policies on the health and wellbeing of individuals in health or social care settings.

The restriction in care homes affecting residents and their relatives, the relative and other visitors are not allowed to enter homes, so the residents feel lonely because they are not able to see their loved one (Beckford and Hayward, 2020). Also, the self-isolation policy and the restriction to not employ the worker who works on multiple residents may cause the shortage of care worker which cause be harder for the remaining care to cope with care user (Parsle, 2020). As Daegu Medical Centre at South Korea, ask for doctor and nurse assistances due to the shortage of staff at the facility, lucky 250 physicians responded from different area of the country (Yonhap, 2020).

in both two countries there is a reduction of resources for non-coronavirus patients, whereby several hospital beds have been freed, fallen attendances at accident and emergency department, and the hospital postponed almost half of the all-non-urgent elective operations due to the outbreak. This can affect other health condition because all governments put all their focus on covid which can cause patients will postpone or decide to avoid visiting a hospital and potentially storing up their health problems for the futured (Propper et al, 2020).

Also, Mental and emotional distress significantly increased in the UK as well as South Korea following the COVID-19 pandemic mostly women and younger people due to lockdown, quarantine, and self-isolation that caused by absence of the enjoyment of normal activities, felling unhappy, as well as increased difficulties in sleeping and concentration which increase the cigarettes smoking and excessive alcohol consumption (Gunnell et al, 2020)

6. Ethical considerations

Regarding Covid19, the Korean government was proactive, they put a lot of effort into earning people trust and confidence, so that people can trust the government and then they will fully in these measures because in these confusing and frightening times, nations have looked to their leader for guidance. However, in the early days the UK Prime Minister tried reassured the public about the control of virus but with the virus quickly spreading the message change quickly too and sometimes the message become confusing. For instance, the message “stay home” changed to the “stay alert.” So, inconsistent messages and lack of clear guidance have caused confusion about the new rules mean (Flockhart).

Also, The UK government's spent billions on a furlough scheme by helping pay wages and topping up Universal Credit payments but not providing enough support for those self-isolating in poorer communities such as Stockton. So, people did not want to get tested for fear of a positive result which need them to stay at home with the financial impact. It was not until September that a £500 support payment was offered to people self-isolating to encourage them to stay at home (Bruce and Fisher, 2020).

Despite of the effort that both governments have been employed to control the spread of the virus such as vaccine, there are some people do not believe on vaccine and they are a bit blasé about corona virus and used social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and You tube to promote a series of demonstration, such as videos and massages. These videos claimed there is no medical emergency, it is fake pandemic, this vaccine could change people genetic blueprint, genetic culture, DNA forever, and they can sterilise men, women and even their unborn children. This disinformation produced to prey on fears but have no scientific basis. The real danger is to the people perhaps who in fact, have got the most to lose by not having this vaccine and face the sever threats from death and long-term illness. Also, there is claim that vaccine contain meat products cause panic within some religious group. They claim that it contains pork product or foetal cell. People become so scared, and nobody could tell them the vaccine have not such products and no effects on it. Therefore, both two government almost fighting with two pandemic that are viral and misinformation pandemic (Flockhart, 2021).

7. Recommendation

Therefore, both governments should actively identify and encourage individuals to receive the vaccine and any other relevant vaccination and reduce the health disparity in their health system which can give the opportunity for the other illness to get treated Also, should create public health campaign to integrate the recommendations into individuals' workplace.

8. Conclusion

Regarding covid-19 Britain still has struggle to cope with the situation because early on, they underestimated the virus, unlike the South Korean government at the beginning they put a lot of their effort in to earning people trust and confidence so that people can trust the government and now they are fully participating in all measure that the government has been imposed.

References

BBC News. (2020a). Face masks: Rules on wearing face coverings in the UK.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/53322822> (Accessed on 25/04/2021 at 07:46 pm).

BBC News(a). (2021a). Covid-19: Travellers face £1,750 cost for England quarantine hotels.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55995645> (Accessed 07/04/2021 at 11:51 am).

Bloom. D., and Buchan. L. (2020). Lockdown tiers confirmed in every area of England as 55million banned from gatherings. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/breaking-lockdown-tiers-unveiled-key-23071795>

(Accessed 30/04/2021 at 02:05 pm).

BMJ. (2020). Covid-19: What is the UK's testing strategy?

<https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1222> (Accessed on 10/04/2021 at 8:05 am).

Beckford. M., and Hayward. E. (2020). Heartbreak for relatives as care homes hit by coronavirus outbreaks are being locked down for months at a time. The Daily Mail

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9020269/Care-homes-hit-coronavirus-outbreaks-locked-MONTHS-time.html> (Accessed on 29/04/2021 at 08:36pm).

Bruce. M., and Fisher. C. (2020). UK Government announces employee "furlough" scheme.

<https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/perspectives-events/blogs/2020/03/uk-government-announces-employee-furlough-scheme> (Accessed on 27/04/2021 at 10:12 pm).

Cheshire. T. (2020). Coronavirus: How South Korea's track and trace system has kept death count below 500. <https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-how-south-koreas-track-and-trace-system-has-kept-death-count-below-500-12103124>

(Accessed on 12/04/2021 at 5:57 am).

cna. (2021). South Korea eyes mid-May arrival of COVID-19 vaccines as stocks run down.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/covid-19-south-korea-mid-may-arrival-vaccines-astrazeneca-supply-14736640> (Accessed on 28/04/2021 at 06:59 pm).

Epidemic-stats.com. (2021). Coronavirus Statistics.

<https://epidemic-stats.com/coronavirus/south-korea> (Accessed on 10/05/2021 at 12:20pm).

GOV.UK. (2020). Press release: Government launches NHS Test and Trace service.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-nhs-test-and-trace-service> (Accessed on 9/04/2021 at 12:26 pm).

GOV.UK. (2021). Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support. <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control> (Accessed on 25/04/2021 at 01:35 pm).

Griffiths. J. (2020). South Korea mandates mask-wearing to fight Covid-19 as face coverings remain controversial in the US. <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/10/13/asia/south-korea-masks-coronavirus-intl-hnk/index.html> (Accessed on 28/04/2021 at 03:09 pm).

Gunnell. D., Appleby. L., and Arensman. E. (2020). Suicide risk and prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Lancet Psychiatry*.

ITV News. (2021). Covid vaccine tracker: How many people have been vaccinated in the UK? <https://www.itv.com/news/2021-01-06/latest-vaccine-news-follow-the-uk-rollout-of-the-coronavirus-jab-with-our-daily-tracker> (Accessed on 10/05/2021 at 02:38 pm).

Johns Hopkins Medicine. (2021). What Is Coronavirus? <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus> (accessed on 02/04/2021 at 11:59 am).

Kenealy. B. (2021). Scots care home residents test positive for Covid-19 days after receiving vaccine <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/care-home-residents-test-positive-23269764> (Accessed on 22/04/2021 at 07:02 am).

Nelson. A. (2020). When was the last pandemic? From swine flu to Spanish flu, what happened in previous global pandemics. <https://inews.co.uk/news/health/pandemic-when-last-swine-flu-spanish-uk-global-pandemics-what-happened-coronavirus-407802> (Accessed on 22/04/2021 at 02:25 pm).

Parsle. D. (2020). UK faces critical skills shortage as care homes leader equates immigration policy to 'human rights abuse' <https://inews.co.uk/news/brexit/uk-faces-critical-skills-shortage-care-homes-immigration-brexit-734888> (assessed 22/04/2021 10:00 pm).

Propper. C., Stoye. G., and Zaranko. B. (2020). The wider impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the NHS. <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/14798> (Accessed on 27/04/2021 at 10:51pm).

Rolling Korea. (2020). 14 days quarantine procedures for travellers <https://www.rollingkorea.com/en/two-week-quarantine-procedures/> (Accessed on 27/03/2021 at 1:25 pm).

Sly. E. (2020). Lockdown-free South Korea battling sudden surge in virus. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/south-korea-lockdown-covid-surge-b1778278.html> (Accessed on 27/04/2021 at 02:19 pm).

Tong-Hyung. K. (2021). South Korea starts vaccinating, but people over 65 must wait. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/korea-injects-shots-public-vaccination-campaign-76123204> (Accessed on 23/04/2021 at 06:52 pm).

W-j. G., Z-y. N., Hu. Y., and Liang W. (2020). Clinical characteristics of coronavirus disease 2019 in China. N Engl J Med.

Worldometer. (2021). Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> (Accessed on 10/05/2021 at 12:11 pm).

Yonhap. (2020). Medical staff under pressure amid spiking virus cases in S. Korea <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN2020030200255132> (Accessed on 01/04/2021 at 09:35 pm).

Yoo. J., Dutra. S., and Fanfan. D. (2020). Comparative analysis of COVID-19 guidelines from six countries: a qualitative study on the US, China, South Korea, the UK, Brazil, and Haiti. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12889-020-09924-7> (Accessed on 25/04/2021 at 12:53 pm).