

Abstract

Russia's COVID-19 Crisis and Response: Assessment and Implications

Seho Jang

(Institute for National Security Strategy)

Russia is a country that has suffered a serious crisis in the global proliferation of COVID-19. Russia once ranked second in the world with a cumulative number of confirmed cases after the U.S. Russia's COVID-19 crisis is characterized by a full-scale spread after a certain period of time after the initial confirmation, a low fatality rate and a high asymptomatic rate, a deepening crisis in Moscow, and a steady increase in the number of confirmed cases after entering the plateau. In particular, it is analyzed that the influx of virus from European countries and the failure to raise the awareness of threats among the people are key reasons for the deepening crisis. It is also noteworthy that various questions about Putin's leadership were raised in the process of responding to the COVID-19 crisis. The current situation of the COVID-19 crisis in Russia has eased somewhat, but it is difficult to rule out the possibility of secondary spread. It is too early to discuss the possibility of a regime crisis in the short term, but it is necessary to pay attention to the rise of various instability factors in the mid to long term. Therefore, the Korean government needs to pay attention to the influx of viruses from Russia through sea and air routes. In health cooperation with Russia, the emphasis on Korea's prevention of epidemics performance such as voluntary and active hygiene and protection of residents and

strict adherence to the government's guidelines will be effective. In addition, while watching the development of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics in Russia, it is necessary to enhance cooperation in the sector and seek ways to make international contributions.

Keywords: COVID-19, Infectious Disease, Russia, Putin, Leadership
