

## Abstract

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### Health Security for Infectious Diseases Response: Focus on Concept Formation

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The free movement of goods and services and the world tour would cause spreading the epidemic of new infectious diseases or a resurgence of existing infectious diseases. South Korea, United States, Japan and China basically deal with infectious diseases at the level of disaster and safety management. When a new infectious disease spreaded out of the national control and increased political and social instability and economic crisis, it is difficult for the government authorities in charge of disaster and security to response these catastrophic events. For this reason, the concept of health security, which should be regarded as one parts of the national security, is emerged. Health security is a one of the critical national activities to maintain core national functions and ensure the safety of the citizens

against uncontrollable infectious diseases or impending threats. When a new uncontrollable infectious disease originates and flows in from abroad, and the disease threats seriously to political and social stability or to domestic and international economies, or weaken seriously military power, or outbreaks a border conflict, or seriously weaken national control, etc., it should be recognized as a health security issue.

The concept of health security would enable the exercise of constitutional emergency powers for national security and overcome the limitations of disaster and security management. Following the concept of health security, national security authorities could take practical and active measures such as collecting information on infectious diseases and understanding foreign trends, transferring Koreans there, and operating and training military units.

In order to strengthen health and security, a ‘Chief Secretary for Emerging Security’ shall be established in the Office of National Security to cover emerging security threats. To respond uncontrollable infectious disease such as COVID-19, a ‘Health Security Advisor’ shall be

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appointed under the direction of the ‘Chief Secretary for Emerging Security’. It is necessary for the Advisor shall be charged to publish a National Health Security Strategy and to make the Actual Health Security Situation Report. In addition, To develop, produce and distribute COVID-19 vaccine ‘COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy’ shall be also established. Furthermore, Korean government should enhance international cooperations and cooperation between the two Koreas in dealing with infectious diseases. Korean government should also establish or amend necessary legislations.

<b>Keywords</b>
COVID-19, infectious diseases, health security, National Health Security Strategy, Actual Health Security Situation Report