

February 26, 2020

The Republic of Korea would like to advise you of the recent developments that Korea raised its infectious disease alert to its highest level in a bid to cope with the acceleration of the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) transmission. Accordingly, since January 30, 2020, the Ministry of Environment has posed its restrictions on Chinese exports of wild animals that are proposed as possible intermediate hosts for the virus transmission into Korea, and since February 21, 2020, the scope of the restrictions on the export countries has been expanded from only China to the world.

The restrictions on exports into Korea are as follows:

1. Wild animals considered possible intermediate hosts for COVID-19 transmission, including Snakes (suborder Serpentes), Bats (order Chiroptera), Raccoons, Badgers, Civet cats (family Viverridae), Pangolins (family Manidae).
2. The Republic of Korea will prohibit the imports of possible intermediate hosts for the virus transmission into Korea; however, regarding CITES-listed species, in situations where the exporter provides a sanitary certificate (a veterinary export certificate) which will prove the animal does not carry the virus, through more thorough inspections, the import permit into Korea may be issued by the Ministry of Environment.

Korea deeply appreciates your kind attention on this matter.

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