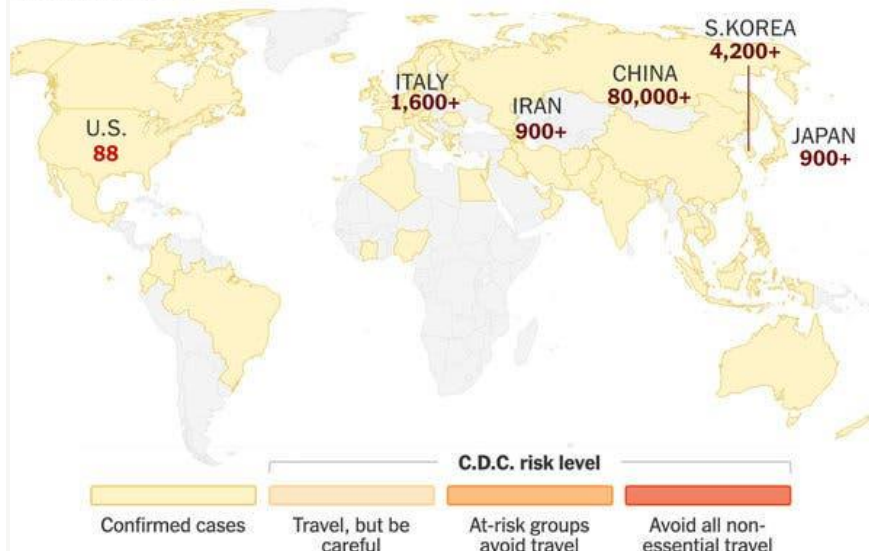


Responding to Coronavirus, in the U.S. and Asia

Feb. 28, 2020

Coronavirus cases



To the Editor:

Re [“City in South Korea Tries Openness, With Word of Caution About Crisis”](#) (news article, Feb. 26):

I live in Daegu, Samsung’s birthplace and the epicenter of Covid-19 in South Korea. Yes, the situation is grave; the number of cases here has topped 1,000. Since the unexpected outbreak in January, we have taken decisive pre-emptive measures while doctors and nurses do their job. We avoid one another. A controversy on whether to ban travelers from China aside, the government has responded rather systematically and decisively.

I have faith in the public sector and the medical system. The massive outbreak will hopefully reach an inflection point in a few weeks. We prevailed over SARS and MERS. Thanks to universal health care, it’s cheap to test all residents with symptoms, another reason for so many infections having been identified.

A number of medical professionals — 500 doctors in three days — voluntarily stepped up to serve the isolated city. Some landlords have cut rent in half, or even exempted tenants, for those hit hard. This invisible enemy shall be overcome.

Shi-Chul Lee

Daegu, South Korea

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