Community Quarantine Classifications: A Comparison on Select Southeast Asian Countries

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Safety Measures during Covid-19 Outbreak

March of 2019 when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Covid-19 as pandemic because the number of infected keeps on growing and multiplying not just in one Country but all around the World. In addition, this disease has no cure or vaccine yet that is why the World Health Organization (WHO) advised Safety Protocols to minimize the spread of the virus. Quarantine is one of the safety measures to avoid corona virus transmission. It is a strict isolation imposed to prevent the spread of disease. Countries all over the world implemented their version of quarantine. In these paper, the researchers aim to discuss the different classifications/versions of quarantine implemented in four (4) selected Southeast Asian Countries.

The following are the (4) selected Southeast Asian Countries affected by the virus and who happened to implement their unique quarantine protocols.

Singapore

 After Singapore diagnosed its first case of Covid-19 last January 23, 2020, the Singaporean Ministry of Health decided to activate the National Centre for Infectious Diseases Screening Centre on January 28, 2020. For the travelers, they are required to undergo to a home/hotel/facility quarantine. Home quarantine for 7 days is the type of quarantine that they implemented. These kind of quarantine is for those who wanted to travel inside and outside Singapore and both for the foreigners and residence of Singapore. In this 7 days home quarantine the one who was being isolated is not allowed to go out in his house or in the hotel that he/she’s staying not even buying foods to eat (2019 Government of Singapore November, 2020). A five (5) days home quarantine to the person who has a close contact with Covid-19 patients (Kenneth Rapoza March, 2020).The country also build the Government Quarantine Facilities to cater those patient who was infected by the virus.

*Students undergo temperature checks at the gate before entering school on March 24, 2020 in Singapore. The Ministry of Health has reported 54 new COVID-19 cases due to travelers primarily. (Photo by Suhaimi Abdullah/Getty Images)*

Thailand

 The first case of Covid-19 in Thailand was reported on January 12, 2020. He is a Chinese tourist and the first Thai transmission was on January 30, 2020. Thai speculated that if they don’t do interventions the cases of covid-19 in Thailand will rise up 100,000 by April (Kumthorn Malathum, Porntip Malathum August 2020). To avoid worse scenario in the Country, the Thai government implemented a fourteen (14) days hotel quarantine to the travelers from places that has a large number of Covid-19 cases such as China, Macao, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, and South Korea. During these quarantine the person that is being isolated will undergo into 3 test. The Thai who returned to Thailand was under state quarantine after arriving to Thailand. The Country also implemented General Community Quarantine wherein the residence was advised to stay at home and avoid travelling to provinces. To those residence who have a closed contact to the infected patient of covid-19 is mandated to do Self quarantine.

*Foreign visitors in Thailand would be subject to a two-week quarantine period after arriving and are required to undergo three COVID-19 tests [Mladen Antonov/AFP]*

Vietnam

 The first case of Covid-19 in Vietnam was on January 17, 2020. A 25 woman Vietnamese who stayed in Wuhan China for two months business trip. The virus later then spread to the Country and call the attention of the Country’s Government to make some strategies to stop the continuous spread of the virus and save their residence and as well as save their economy (José-Manuel Ramos et al., April 2020). One of the intervention that of the Country is to implement Quarantine. As of December 1, 2020 Vietnam suspended all inbound commercial flights for travelers except for those flights that carry’s Vietnamese who wanted to go back to their Country. The passengers of the special flight will be under fourteen (14) days of quarantine and must submit health documents. The Country has four (4) levels of quarantine they implemented inside their boarder to avoid the spread of local transmission. The first level is the home/hotel quarantine. The person under this level will be regularly check by the country’s local health authorities. The second level is the quarantine in health establishments. These level is for those residence who’s showing symptoms of the virus, as well as those who have tested positive in Covid-19 and those who have close contact to the infected. The third level is the Quarantine in non-medical establishment for those returning in high risks areas. The level for is the Close-off communities area with high number of confirm covid-19 infections/cases.

*Empty streets during lockdown in Nha Trang, Vietnam (Photo: Quoc Huy Duong / PIxabay)*

Indonesia

 As of December 20, 2020 the Country has over 665 hundred thousand of covid-19 cases (KRITHIKA VARAGUR May 2020). The Government of the country implemented safety measures to slow the progress of the infection. One of the safety measures that the Country implemented was the Quarantine. Ten (10) days before the country’s Government declared state of emergency many of the residence practice the neighborhood-level quarantine. This kind of quarantine is just the same as self-quarantine in Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The community- driven quarantine in Indonesia which is equivalent to Modified Enhance Community Quarantine on the Philippines is already implemented to their big Cities and small towns. The people who come in and out to Indonesia must follow their heath protocol guidelines which is to undergo in seven (7) days quarantine plus test but if the traveler do not want to undergo test, then the traveler will be quarantine good for ten (10) days before and after they arrive to the country(Dipo Aldila et al, Septermber 2020).

*JAKARTA (AFP) Fed up with people breaking virus quarantine rules, one Indonesian politician has decided to scare rulebreakers straight by locking them in a “haunted house.”*

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