

A Proposal regarding COVID-19 Infection from Kango Mirai-juku

Kango Mirai-juku is a group of nursing professionals who voice and work actively in order to protect the safety of lives and living of people in every country and region in the world, and seek for construction of fulfilling and peaceful society in which each individual can implement freedom and potential under any circumstances.

COVID-19 infection spreading in a global scale unquestionably appears to be disastrous and is now a situation that threatens lives and livelihood of people as well as the future. In Japan, also, the national and autonomous governments, professional organizations, educational community, economic community, and above all, the each individual citizen are doing what they can to prevent the spread of infection, in their respective positions.

Kango Mirai-juku would like to send our sincere sympathies to those who are infected or have symptoms, and wish their full recovery one day sooner. And we would like to send our deepest condolences to those who regretfully passed away due to this infection.

We would also like to express our gratitude to people involved in all the businesses supporting people's fundamental living to make 80% reduction of human interactions possible, and send our heartfelt gratitude and support to all the people who are working around the clock to prevent the collapse of medical system.

However, the infection has been spreading day by day beyond the self-restraint and efforts of people, and the government declared the nationwide state of emergency mid-April. The number of infected is increasing centered in large cities and the incidents of intracity infection of unknown infection paths are also increasing. Our urgent task is to prevent the risk of explosive infection.

Presently, the greatest concern is that the medical system is about to collapse. Especially, mass infections in the medical institutions are not stopping. Infection of medical workers leads to the collapse of medical system. There have already been medical and therapeutic cares for not only COVID-19 infected but also patients with general diseases are restricted. At this moment, the situations that medical personnel providing therapies and cares in the medical settings are facing is quite serious, threatening their lives and livelihood. Especially, nurses provide cares being close to and by directly touching patients. It is scary and impossible to provide care without protective gowns and masks. The present chaos in the medical settings is resulted from the inadequate implementation of policies to develop medical care provision system for infection control.

Besides, due to the declaration of state of emergency, all kinds of people from children to the elderly are forced inconvenient and stressful lives as they are voluntarily restrained from moving or contacting others. There are many people who suffer from insecurities of life such as layoffs, unemployment, or reduced incomes. Avoiding three elements (3Cs) consisting of closed areas, crowding and close contacts is quite important behaviors to prevent infections, however, there should be a limit of endurance without knowing when it will come to an end in a long run, and there will be more people who deteriorate their health conditions under the stress. It may result in more people who need are not only in hospitals but also everywhere in regions.

Under such recognition of the issue, we, at Kango Mirai-juku, possess a great sense of crisis that unless the collapse of medical system is prevented in any event no matter how, especially, solving the issues that nurses who directly provide care face, we are not able to protect people's lives and safe livelihood.

“Nursing is to confront infections fearlessly, provided sufficiently defended” said Florence Nightingale who admittedly founded infection nursing an inferior place where injured soldiers were admitted to in the Crimean War. Today, we are deeply concerned with the safety and well-being of nursing professionals including nurses and public health nurses, who are providing care for the COVID-19 infected at this moment, and we pledge, in the rear, extend our support and aid to them.

Given the risk of collapse of medical system is closing in, Kango Mirai-juku is deeply concerned with the following and making proposals to various communities, while communicating with Juku members, and nursing professionals and experts who are giving cares in the medical settings:

Proposals to prevent collapse of medical system

1. Give PCR tests to the entire medical personnel including physicians and nurses in the medical settings.
2. Give PCR tests to patients in the wards not dedicated to COVID-19 infected as priority, while the number of the PCR-positive with unknown infection paths is increasing.
3. Provide all the protective equipment necessary to protect the safety of medical personnel who are giving medical and nursing care to seriously and moderately ill hospitalized patients.
4. Improve the security and environment of private lives of the medical personnel who are providing care on the scene to avoid 3Cs. Such improvements shall include shower facility, lockers and rest areas they can use after the work. Especially, pregnant nurses, nursing personnel who have elderly or infant family members, or nursing personnel fatigue from work of long hours should be provided an environment such as temporarily resting or staying at hotels with all the amenities or like.
5. Establish a system for care provided at hotels or other accommodation facilities for asymptomatic or slightly ill persons, that nursing team that has expertise composed of infection control nurses, public hygiene nurses or nursing managers can lead, with physicians.
6. Provide all the medical personnel who are asked to stand by at home since their test results were positive or they had close contacts with the infected, with appropriate compensation and care.
7. Conduct public awareness campaign in order that any biased or discriminatory voices against medical personnel engaged in the COVID-19 infected should not arise.
8. To avoid collapse of medical system, all the organizations and individuals should be conscious that lives of people in the society shall be strictly restrained for a certain period of time and bear with them.
9. Currently, nursing education is in a situation where nursing practice at medical institutions is not possible, it will result in critical impact on production of newly recruited nurses in April, next year. Credits given by programs of educational institutions as substitute for clinical nursing practice shall be nationally certified as eligibility requirement for national examination.
10. There are some medical institutions that ordered newly recruited nurses to stand by at home due to inability to provide on-the-job-training, at this COVID-19 infection. Teachers associated with nursing education, on this occasion, should examine how the education shall be in order for even newly recruited nurses can acquire and graduate with skills as much as possible, necessary to practice care in their own position.