

Bus stop newest front in South Korea's coronavirus battle

August 12 2020



The glass-walled booths cost about 100 million won (\$84,000) each

South Korea has opened a high-tech new front in the battle against coronavirus, fortifying bus shelters with temperature-checking doors and ultraviolet disinfection lamps.

Ten advanced facilities have been installed in a northeastern district of Seoul, offering protection from [monsoon rains](#), [summer heat](#), and the novel coronavirus.

To enter, passengers must stand in front of an automated thermal-imaging camera, and the door will only slide open if their temperature is below 37.5 degrees Celsius (99.5 Fahrenheit).

A separate camera is installed lower down to test children.

Inside the glass-walled booths—which cost about 100 million won (\$84,000) each—the air-conditioning systems have ultraviolet lamps installed to kill viruses at the same time as cooling the air.

A dispenser provides hand sanitiser, and users are advised to wear [face masks](#) at all times, while keeping at least one metre apart from others.

"We have installed all the available anti-coronavirus measures we can think of into this booth," Kim Hwang-yun, a district official in charge of the Smart Shelter project, told AFP.

Free Wi-Fi is also included.

Since they were installed last week each booth has been used by about 300 to 400 people a day, Kim said.



A man checks his temperature before entering the bus shelter



Inside the shelters, a panel displays estimated arrival times while a screen live-streams the traffic outside

To ensure passengers do not miss their bus, a panel displays estimated arrival times while a screen live-streams the traffic outside.

South Korea endured one of the worst early [coronavirus](#) outbreaks outside China but brought it broadly under control with an extensive "trace, test and treat" programme while never imposing a compulsory lockdown.

Kim Ju-li, a 49-year-old housewife using the new bus stop for the first time, told AFP: "I feel really safe in here because I know others around

me had their temperatures checked as well as me."

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Citation: Bus stop newest front in South Korea's coronavirus battle (2020, August 12) retrieved 1 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-08-bus-front-south-korea-coronavirus.html>

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