

Supplementary material 2. Non-pharmacological interventions in the Korean military

During the study period from September 2021 to February 2022, military personnel were required to wear masks within the military unit. Soldiers lived in barracks, but officers commuted from home to work. Periodic PCR screening tests were not performed among asymptomatic personnel, except among non-vaccinated personnel who were required to undergo weekly PCR tests. After each leave period, all personnel had to undergo a 2 SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests: 1 before returning from leave and 1 on the third to fifth day after their return. Personnel who were not fully vaccinated were isolated until they received 2 consecutive negative PCR test results. Trainees were routinely tested twice using PCR tests: on the day of joining the training camp and on the 8th day.

Military personnel with confirmed mild to moderate COVID-19 were isolated for 14 days, and contact tracing was conducted for every confirmed case. Military personnel who had close contacts with someone with COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to symptom onset were tested for COVID-19 using PCR, and were isolated for specified periods: for 14 days until November 4, 2021, for 10 days between November 4, 2021 and January 25, 2022, and for 7 days after January 25, 2022. A set of 2 PCR tests was also performed on personnel working in the same space or sharing the area of activity, even if they did not have close contact, defined as talking to someone with confirmed COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes without wearing a mask, having physical contact, or living with a family member with confirmed COVID-19. Because of these extensive screening guidelines in military, if 1 individual was confirmed to have COVID-19, more than 1 battalion was often tested. Fully vaccinated military personnel who were not in close contact with a confirmed case, were not isolated if the first PCR test was negative, but military personnel who were not fully vaccinated were isolated until after receiving 2 consecutive negative test results.