South Korea Burning Cash

Business Insider Intelligence

South Korea is quarantining and burning cash to prevent spreading the coronavirus.

The Bank of Korea (BOK), South Korea's central bank, is tightening its processes for incinerating bank notes that might be infected or otherwise dirty as the coronavirus outbreak spreads.

These efforts reflect growing concerns about cash's ability to spread the coronavirus – cash can carry hundreds of species of microorganisms, so some entities are trying to limit its use to combat the outbreak.

And the quarantining and incineration of cash, combined with recommendations to not use cash, could convince consumers to adopt digital payment methods.