

From: Chen, Ping (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Thu, 30 Jan 2020 15:10:32 +0000
To: Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Bernabe, Gayle (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Dominique, Joyelle (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Rosa, William (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Lu, Tami (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Marston, Hilary (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Subject: FW: China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares for Authorized Departure, Holds Town Hall

FYI

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Chen, Ping (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Mason Drew (b) (6)
Subject: Fw: China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares for Authorized Departure, Holds Town Hall

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2020 17:52

(b) (6)

Subject: China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares for Authorized Departure, Holds Town Hall

Colleagues,

Latest Mission China cable on 2019-nCoV.

Best regards,

(b) (6)

UNCLASSIFIED

SBU



Action Office: POL, ECON, MGT, PAS, IMO, RSO, CONS, SCIENCE, MED, CDC
Info Office: IMO_INFO, EXEC_INFO, DAO_INFO, RSO_INFO, POL_INFO, CONS_INFO, MGT_INFO, SCIENCE_INFO, ECON_INFO

MRN: [20 BEIJING 226](#)
Date/DTG: Jan 30, 2020 / 300943Z JAN 20
From: AMEMBASSY BEIJING
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: SHLH, CDC, HHS, NIH, CN, PGOV, SENV, PREL, CASC, AMGT, AMED, KPAO, KMDR, ASEC
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: A) [20 BEIJING 218](#)
B) [20 BEIJING 216](#)
C) [20 BEIJING 214](#)
D) [20 BEIJING 202](#)
E) [20 BEIJING 200](#)
F) [20 BEIJING 198](#)
G) [20 BEIJING 188](#)
H) [20 BEIJING 186](#)
I) [20 BEIJING 174](#)
J) [20 BEIJING 172](#)
K) [20 BEIJING 166](#)
L) [20 BEIJING 164](#)
M) [20 BEIJING 142](#)
N) [20 BEIJING 122](#)
O) [20 BEIJING 108](#)
P) [20 BEIJING 74](#)
Q) [19 WUHAN 112](#)
Subject: China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares for Authorized Departure, Holds Town Hall

1. (SBU) **Summary:** Mission China held a Town Hall January 30 led by Ambassador Branstad to discuss authorized departure and posture in response to the novel coronavirus. The PRC coronavirus response group led by Premier Li Keqiang called for the delayed return to work of some Chinese government personnel. Mission China is scheduled to reopen February 3 to focus fully on the response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. The Mission China Task Force

will continue to meet daily and report on the 2019-nCoV outbreak. **End Summary.**

Mission China Town Hall

2. (SBU) Embassy Beijing held a Town Hall January 30 led by Ambassador Branstad to discuss Mission China's authorized departure of family members and all non-emergency U.S. government employees, along with Mission posture in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Staff and family member from the Consulates also participated.

Assistance to AmCits and Relief Coordination for Wuhan

3. (SBU) Embassy Beijing continues to coordinate with the Department on assistance to and the possible evacuation of U.S. citizens who remain in Wuhan. The Mission China Wuhan Relief Group is coordinating with the Department to place relief supplies and donations aboard any aircraft that may travel to Wuhan to evacuate U.S. citizens.

Central Government Leaders Call for Delayed Return of Some Government Personnel

4. (SBU) The PRC's Central Leading Group for the 2019-nCoV Response convened a meeting on January 29, chaired by Premier Li Keqiang. The group noted that "the epidemic is still in the phase of spreading" and called on public agencies and entities to allow non-critical personnel traveling from areas with "high rates of infection" to delay their return to work. With the permission of the State Council, Hubei Province and other highly affected areas may delay the reopening of public offices, businesses, and schools, "as appropriate."

Triage Procedures at Beijing Hospitals Observed; No Reported Stresses on Healthcare Systems

5. (SBU) Embassy Beijing received a notice January 29 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) directing diplomatic personnel in Beijing with fevers to go to one of two hospitals: Ditan Hospital and You'an Hospital. (b) (6)

6. (SBU) At the hospitals, the (b) (6) of: (1) procedures for funneling individuals entering the hospital to one entry point where a triage nurse was set up; (2) screening and triaging patients at the entry point, including through temperature checks, symptom screen, and basic risk assessment (e.g., asking about recent travel history); (3) use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by healthcare workers (HCW) and training on PPE; (4) procedures for isolating individuals with a fever from the general hospital population and directing those with fever to the fever clinic; (5) presence of functioning negative-pressure isolation rooms on site; (6) lab testing capacity for 2019-nCoV on site in the fever clinics; and (7) existing protocols for HCW who may have been exposed. The expert assessed that all three hospitals had adequate capacity and procedures in place, to varying degrees. Among the three, BJU was superior in their triage procedures.

7. (SBU) [REDACTED] (b) (6)
[REDACTED] observed that the triage nurse was wearing a face shield, mask, gloves, and a gown. The assigned security personnel escorting patients to the fever clinic were wearing masks and face shields. Adult patients with temperatures above 37.3°C (99.1°F) are escorted to the fever clinic; children are escorted to a pediatric fever clinic, and all accompanying family members are immediately masked (if not already) and screened by staff. A BJU triage nurse said that BJU can test for 2019-nCoV in-house, and that the fever clinic has fully functioning negative-pressure isolation rooms. Patients who test positive for the virus are sent to one of the city's designated treatment hospitals. The triage nurse further indicated that BJU has established protocols for HCW who are exposed and has conducted training with all staff on the proper use of PPE.

8. (SBU) [REDACTED] (b) (6)
[REDACTED] was not aware of the MFA notice and told ESTHOff the hospital did not have any special procedures or services for the intake of diplomatic personnel. The administrator suggested that Embassy staff and family just go to the nearest locally designated fever clinic or treatment hospital. [Note: Beijing city government has a published list of 101 fever clinics and 21 designated treatment hospitals in the city. End note.]

9. (SBU) CGs Shanghai and Guangzhou report no visible signs of stress to the local healthcare system. In Shanghai, private hospitals that serve international clients, including the official American community, appear to be operating as normal. In Guangzhou, there have been no reported changes to hospital conditions or wait times since the ConGenOffs' January 28 survey of facilities.

10. (SBU) According to contacts, as of today, Sichuan province has dedicated more than 2,273 beds in hospitals across the region, in addition to 30 backup hospitals, to treat patients infected with the virus. Sichuan currently has 54 quarantine sites, with an additional 249 backup sites. As of yesterday, 2,011 fever clinics at hospitals across Sichuan have screened over 75,000 patients for the virus.

11. (SBU) To ease the pressure on major hospitals in Chengdu, the provincial health commission has installed a new community-based early screening and referral system. Individuals with fever and other possible symptoms are urged to first contact their community health center for primary screenings. Symptomatic patients are then referred to fever clinics or placed under house quarantine for further monitoring. There are 197 hospitals with fever clinics in Chengdu, which are mandated to transfer confirmed cases to 17 designated treatment hospitals. Major hospitals in the city center, including Huaxi Hospital -- Sichuan's main provincial hospital and the primary hospital for CG Chengdu's community -- have not been designated as nCoV treatment hospitals. However, as noted in prior CG Chengdu reporting, Huaxi and other Chengdu hospitals have setup diagnostic and fever tents.

International Schools

12. (SBU) The PRC Ministry of Education January 27 suspended all classes at schools until

further instructions from local authorities. International schools in Beijing said January 29 the Beijing Municipal Education Commission (BMEC) announced that the reopening of schools shall now be determined by BMEC. The Western Academy of Beijing (WAB), International School of Beijing (ISB), and the British School of Beijing (BSB) said they will implement online learning starting February 3. American International School of Guangzhou (AISG), where all ConGen children study, still plans to re-open February 17 and sent instructions for on-line classes beginning February 3. Shanghai international schools attended by Consulate EFMs continue to plan on reopening February 17.

Beijing

13. (SBU) In Beijing, there are no reports of road closures or traffic restrictions from Beijing's transport authority and city police. Public buses and subway lines within the city continue to operate as normal. Grocery stores appear well-stocked. The DiDi ride-hailing app (similar to Uber) was functioning again on January 30. [Note: Didi announced January 29 that it was suspending most services by private drivers in Beijing "in response to local authorities' requirement." There was no announced reason why the service had resumed. End note.]

14. (SBU) China's Ministry of Transport (MOT) issued a notice on January 30 forbidding local transport authorities from closing highways or inter-province roadways in response to 2019-nCoV ([link](#)). MOT also published a notice on January 30 that vehicles carrying emergency supplies should receive free passage across provinces and would be exempt from any tolls or fees ([link](#)).

15. (SBU) [REDACTED] (b) (6)
[REDACTED] that their procedure following any guests identified with a fever is to call the police/ambulance to take the guest to a hospital. Hilton staff said they would ensure the guest had a mask on and was set aside until the police arrived.

(b) (6)

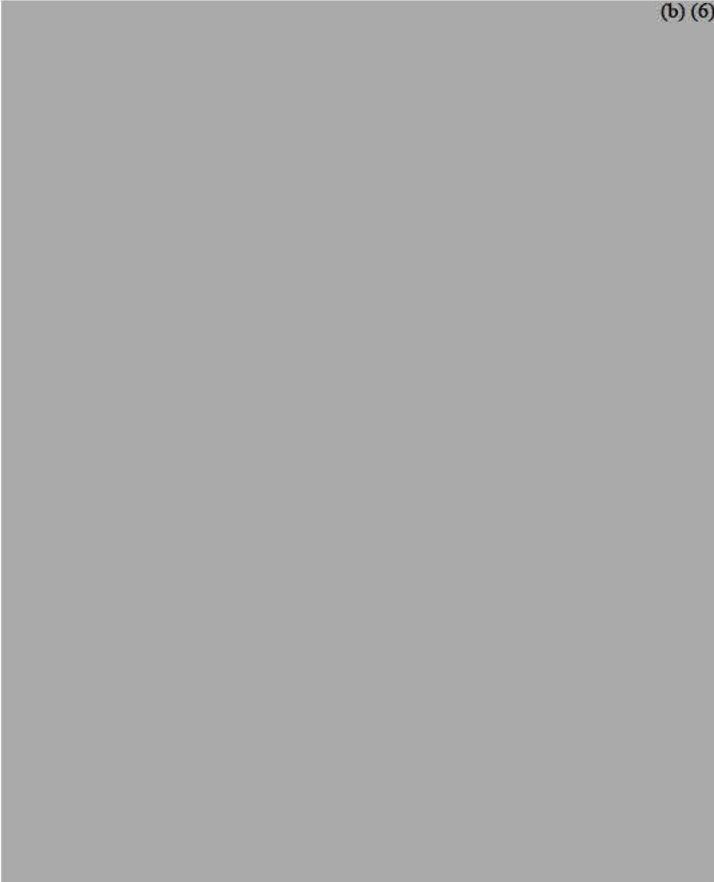


Figure: Hilton Beijing staff conducting temperature checks of hotel guests

Chengdu

16. (SBU) As of January 30, Sichuan province reported 142 cases of individuals infected with the nCoV virus. On January 30 Chengdu reported its first death, an 86-year-old woman with a history of prior illness. In Western Sichuan's remote Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, local authorities announced that two individuals were confirmed as having the virus, bringing the total number of cases in Ganzi to five. Another 29 individuals in Ganzi suspected of suffering from the virus remain under quarantine. One contact speculated that these individuals may have been tourists from Wuhan who had chosen to spend their New Year sightseeing in the area. (b) (6) speculated that the number of individuals infected with the virus in Western Sichuan might be higher, with one Tibetan telling us he was forced to depart Chengdu in a hurry to take care of his parents after "several" individuals in their village fell ill.

17. (SBU) As of January 30, China's ride sharing application, DiDi, pushed a message to its English-speaking users, indicating the company would no longer provide "inter-city services" between Chengdu and other cities. Post confirmed all travel within Chengdu and to the local international airport remains available.

18. (SBU) United Airlines, Hainan Airlines, and other international airlines continue to operate flights out of Chengdu. Consulate employees transiting Chengdu's Shuangliu International Airport have reported inconsistent levels of arrival and departure health checks. Upon departure

or arrival, all travelers are required to undergo a “health check” which entails filling out a form indicating recent travel and any potential symptoms.

19. (SBU) Controls on movement within Chengdu extend to the lowest levels of governance, contacts say. One contact reports local police in residential areas of Chengdu checking the home registration (户口) for all individuals entering a given neighborhood, saying that authorities have been turning away anyone whose registration shows that they do not reside in that neighborhood, even if they are registered elsewhere in Chengdu. In rural areas of the province, contacts report authorities are searching all vehicles to ascertain if any passengers have recently arrived from Wuhan, while in city areas, police are stopping all cars with license plates from Hubei, of which Wuhan is the provincial capital. According to contacts, Sichuan has designated hotels to quarantine individuals with recent travel to Hubei, while some private hotels are refusing to admit any person with registration there.

20. (SBU) Despite February 17 being the official start date for schools, some universities have begun to hedge on when students and faculty should return, with the Southwest Minorities University in Chengdu publishing a notice that “all individuals should wait until further instructions at a later date before planning their return.”

21. (SBU) [REDACTED] (b) (6) believe the next 5-8 days will be crucial for the municipality to contain the virus. On January 28, the first confirmed coronavirus case was reported in the municipality’s Yuzhong district, where many of the foreign consulates are located. This appears to have triggered a more stringent set of public health measures, with mandatory temperature checks observed at residential compounds, gas stations, malls, and car routes. [REDACTED] (b) (6) there remains a lot of concern, locally that Chongqing could become another epicentre for coronavirus infection based on the significant flow of people between Chongqing and Wuhan. On January 28, the Deputy Director of Chongqing’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention was quoted as saying that some 210,000 people had ‘recently’ travelled from Wuhan to Chongqing prior to movement controls being implemented in Hubei Province. This has triggered a widespread grid search campaign by authorities to identify people in Chongqing coming from Wuhan and those with whom they have been in contact.

22. (SBU) [REDACTED] (b) (6) Chongqing has ordered non-essential businesses to stay closed until February 9th. Schools are to remain closed until February 17. As of January 28, Chongqing’s one international hospital, Raffles Medical, still offers fever screening and blood test and directs patients to a designated public hospital if they test positive for the virus. English service at Raffles Hospital is reportedly inconsistent, and our diplomatic contacts said they have been unable to assess the availability/quality of foreign language services at the two hospitals designated for foreigners suspected of coronavirus infection.

23. (SBU) On January 28, Chongqing municipal government held a press conference, stating it had implemented containment measures, including setting up checkpoints at airports, train stations, highway exits, and piers to identify vehicles and passengers coming from Hubei Province. Starting on the morning of January 26, Chongqing’s municipal metro system began operating on a reduced schedule. Chongqing has also stopped all interprovincial bus services.

Our contacts reported no indication that flights and trains have or would be disrupted. In addition, Chongqing FAO has suspended all activities with foreign countries until the end of February and has requested the city's consulates general do the same.

24. (SBU) (b) (6) also reported that masks remain difficult to procure locally. Chongqing FAO has circulated an updated list of supplies that the government needs for its response, which mainly consist of personal protective equipment. Authorities are asking foreign company contacts that are cleared to sell these supplies in China to increase their imports of such products. Chongqing is also willing to accept donations from private organizations and sub-national governments.

Guangzhou

25. (SBU) USDH and EFMs participated in Mission China's townhall January 30, followed by a ConGen Guangzhou Q&A session on authorized departure. CG Guangzhou will conduct an EAC January 30.

26. (SBU) Guangdong's provincial FAO, health commission, and information bureau held a briefing January 30 for the consular corps. The officials sought to calm anxiety in the consulate community by reiterating the province's pledge not to resort to lock down measures, to maintain normal transportation, and to quickly resolve supply shortages of face masks. Guangdong FAO officials told the consular corps there was "no need to withdraw" foreign nationals from Guangdong.

27. (SBU) (b) (6) guidance for responding to mandatory temperature checks, instructing USDH and EFMs to contact RSO if at any point they encounter forcible attempts to bring personnel to a fever hospital for further testing. At the (b) (6) told the consular corps the protocol for foreign diplomats would be at-home quarantine.

28. (SBU) As of January 30, all regularly scheduled flights to the United States from Guangzhou and Shenzhen are operating normally. According to the FAO, the main carrier out of Guangzhou, China Southern (code share Delta, AA), has not cancelled any international routes.

29. (SBU) In Guangdong, provincial and municipal governments resumed normal operations as of January 30. Banks are scheduled to re-open February 3.

30. (SBU) CG Guangzhou reported that as of COB January 29, the New Zealand Consulate is working with minimal staff and LES working from home if needed. Some Consulate staff, including New Zealand Police, have voluntarily left China, although a Consulate contact reported Foreign Affairs had not yet decided to repatriate non-essential staff and their dependents. The UK Consulate is running with minimal staff and has offered voluntary departure to its staff. The Canadian Consulate has drawn down to minimal staff through at least February 3 and is offering essential consular services only. The Canadian Consulate has set up a screening station outside the Consulate entrance. Canadian Consulate leadership is actively

discussing evacuating dependents from Guangzhou.

31. (SBU) As of January 30, grocery stores surveyed by [REDACTED] (b) (6) were well stocked and appeared to be increasing the availability of meat and produce. Water deliveries to Consulate personnel remain available through the Consulate's supplier, though delivery times were constrained through the extended holiday.

32. (SBU) Guangzhou public transportation remains open. [REDACTED] (b) (6) metro and bus ridership seemed to be up compared to previous days. Checkpoints have been stood-up at key freeway junctures to screen all inter-provincial inbound car traffic.

33. (SBU) High speed rail link suspension for mainland trains to Hong Kong went into effect at 12:00 AM January 30. [REDACTED] (b) (6) that as many as one-third of overall rail frequencies in an out of the city are cancelled the evening of January 29, while no cancellations were evident at a second station.

34. (SBU) Foot traffic is light at inter-city bus terminals and plenty of tickets available to most mid-range destinations, according to [REDACTED] (b) (6) bus service to Hong Kong Airport was suspended.

Shanghai

35. (SBU) CG Shanghai reported January 30 Shanghai has not yet seen signs of significant disruption to local transportation, food distribution, or medical services. The Shanghai consular district accounts for about 11 percent of total confirmed cases, with approximately half of those in Zhejiang Province. Confirmed cases in Shanghai – currently around 100 - remain low both in absolute terms and relative to the size of the population. [REDACTED] (b) (6) continue to find grocery stores accessible and well stocked, though supplies of some products – especially fresh vegetables and pork – are in short supply in some stores some of time. The Shanghai municipal government has acknowledged that demand for these items is higher than normal, attributing the increase in demand to decreased travel outside of the city and more residents cooking at home rather than eating out. While many restaurants remain closed, meal and grocery delivery services are operating as normal.

36. (SBU) The Shanghai subway network and the Didi ride hailing service continue to operate as normal. The ride-hailing app Didi is requiring all passengers and drivers to wear protective masks. The airport and high-speed rail service continue to operate, although a number of airlines have reduced or discontinued service to Shanghai from overseas. Some of these airlines have explicitly cited public health reasons as the main factor in their decision while others have pointed to reduced demand as the main driver.

37. (SBU) Calls into CG Shanghai ACS regarding the crisis have risen steeply in the last 24 hours. The Consulate's public mailbox had over 300 inquiries with questions about evacuations and guidance on the coronavirus. More than 700 U.S. citizens have enrolled in the STEP program since Friday.

38. (SBU) [REDACTED] (b) (6) said the company had merely delayed post-holiday reopening by a week to comply with a request from local authorities. Google offices will reopen and function normally from February 10.

39. (SBU) Health inspection sites on highways between Shanghai and other cities remain in place. [REDACTED] (b) (6) observed four health inspection sites on the highway between Shanghai and Kunshan. Despite light traffic on the highway, long queues were present at inspection sites, where temperatures of all drivers and passengers were being checked.



Figure: Health inspection site on highway between Shanghai and Kunshan.

Shenyang

40. (SBU) CG Shenyang reported January 30 that the situation remains stable with increased monitoring measures. Shenyang city is quiet with most residents heeding the government's call to stay home. Public transportation is operating, albeit on a reduced schedule. Taxis are available. There have been no significant changes to transportation within Shenyang since our last update. Transportation service between cities has been reduced. As reported in previous updates, intercity bus service was suspended in Liaoning province and some high-speed trains will skip Shenyang. While transportation is available, individual districts within the city have begun announcing measures to isolate neighborhoods and track residents down to the city block level. For example, Tiexi district, a district within Shenyang city, announced "isolation management" measures on January 29 that require people entering Tiexi district to have their

temperatures checked. Only residents in Tiexi can enter and leave freely while visitors will need to register so that the local officials can maintain accountability of them. While Tiexi was the first district to announce these “isolation measures” publicly, consulate staff report that these procedures are being expanded to cover all districts in Shenyang. [REDACTED] (b) (6) residents of his neighborhood who traveled out of town for the Lunar New Year holiday were contacted and told they could not return home once the neighborhood went into “isolation management.” Within NE China, Chinese media have reported that some cities have enacted stringent measures to prevent cases of coronavirus from entering the city limits. For example, Yanji city, near the North Korean border, has reported no cases of coronavirus. The city has suspended all public transportation within the city as well long-distance transportation. Hotels in Yanji cannot accept outsiders.

41. (SBU) Shenyang Airport is operating normally with temperature check stations for passengers in vehicles leaving and arriving at the airport. China Southern’s direct flight from Shenyang to Los Angeles operates three times a week and remains in operation, according to contacts at the Shenyang Airport. Data shared by CG Shenyang contacts show that outbound flights to Los Angeles are at almost full capacity. Tuesday’s flight from Shenyang to Los Angeles had 20 empty seats and Thursday’s flight has 10 empty seats out of a maximum capacity of 286 seats. In comparison, contacts noted that the inbound flight from Los Angeles to Shenyang has fewer passengers but is still within an acceptable range. Thursday’s flight from Los Angeles to Shenyang had 170 passengers out of 286 seats. Contacts noted that both inbound and outbound flights are normally at full capacity during the Lunar New Year because of students studying in the United States. The China Southern flight is NE China’s only direct international flight to the United States.

42. (SBU) Consulate Shenyang held an EAC meeting and joined the Ambassador’s town hall meeting for AMCIT employees and family members on January 30. Shenyang will also hold an LE staff town hall meeting on the first workday after the extended holiday on February 3. Over the last 24 hours, the total number of patients with confirmed coronavirus in NE China increased by 16. Chinese media reported that two patients in Jilin and Liaoning province has recovered from the coronavirus and were released. These are the first reported cases of patients being fully cured and released from quarantine in NE China.

Media/Social Media

43. (U) [People’s Daily](#) continued to publish new stories about how China will “definitely win the battle against the epidemic.” People’s Daily cited statements by international personages in support of China’s efforts against the epidemic, including the tweet by U.S. President Trump which appreciated China for its efforts in preventing and controlling pneumonia caused by the new coronavirus. As well as Alex Azar, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services appreciated China’s prior disclosure of gene sequence information of new coronavirus, and emphasized that this is helpful for the development of virus diagnosis methods. [Xinhua](#) and widely amplified by all media including CCTV prime time is an order from Xi Jinping to the Chinese military to “keep its mission firmly in mind and shoulder responsibility to make contributions to winning the battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic.” The military resolutely implemented the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee after the

novel coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan of Hubei Province, Xi said, adding that the armed forces rapidly initiated the joint prevention and control mechanism and sent elite medical teams to combat the epidemic at the frontline. Xi said the epidemic prevention and control “remained grim and complex and demanded the armed forces shoulder their responsibility, fight the hard battle and actively assist local authorities in fighting the epidemic.” [Xinhua](#) and CCTV also featured Li Keqiang and officials emphasizing the treatment of patients and the supply of medical resources. The piece said that prevention and control efforts are in full swing and have been intensified, but the epidemic keeps spreading, with a rapid rising trend in some regions. The meeting also stressed efforts of epidemic prevention and control amid the return trips of people after the Lunar New Year holiday, adding that proper postponement of return should be allowed. Delays in business operation and school opening should be applied. [Chinese outlets](#) also report over 7,700 confirmed cases of coronavirus in China, 170 deaths, and 128 recovered patients. [Xinhua](#) amplified a health official in Beijing that “early reporting, isolation, diagnosis is the best way to contain coronavirus.” [Xinhua](#) and other outlets also covered work by the Wuhan Institute of Virology to screen new coronavirus drugs that can inhibit coronavirus. Another article in [Global Times](#) praised Wuhan residents for “whistle-blowing” on virus outbreak. A top epidemiologist at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC) on Wednesday commended eight residents, who were detained in early January for spreading “rumors” about the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. Zeng Guang, Chief epidemiologist at the CCDC, said those eight residents should be highly regarded as they turned out to be correct about the viral outbreak, even though the information they spread “lacked scientific evidence.” Zeng’s comment followed an article from the Supreme People’s Court of China (SPC) on Tuesday, in which the top court said that the eight Wuhan residents should be “tolerated” and their act of spreading the information, if taken seriously, would have done much good to the public. [China Daily](#) reports on efforts to guarantee key supply items and featured promises by various businesses including Wumart and Alibaba.

44. (U) In commentary [Xinhua](#) said China’s virus battle unites people and protects the world. [Xinhua](#) said, accusations that the massive city lockdown in Wuhan is a violation of human rights emerged, but the citizens of Wuhan disagree. Since the lockdown was put in place, they have been staying indoors and practicing quarantine measures with the utmost respect for the government’s guidance and their hallmark perseverance and optimism. They have a sober understanding that while inconveniences may emerge, the historic quarantine serves their health, safety and overall interests. Social cohesion binds the people of Wuhan at this critical moment. [Xinhua](#) concludes, time will prove that China has made wise decisions and will emerge even stronger after coming through the epidemic. [Messages](#) to CPC members continued to “stand up in time of crisis--resolutely winning the battle of prevention and control of epidemic.” [Global Times](#) comments that Provincial Governor Wang Xiaodong himself made a mistake in that press conference about the annual production capacity of masks in Hubei Province, which attracted fierce criticism from the public. But after that, the leading cadres in Hubei province did not shrink back, and Wang Xiaodong attended the press conference for the second time to communicate with the media and the public. At last night’s press conference, Governor Wang Xiaodong first expressed “understanding and appreciation” for the public’s supervision and criticism of the work of Hubei Province since the outbreak. He praised and bowed to medical staffs as a tribute at the press conference. Many people who watched last night’s press conference felt that the governor’s behavior was very sincere, says [Global Times](#).

45. (U) Social media continued to track and monitor the virus. One of the most popular related topics is the first case confirmed in Tibet. The top story on Weibo is a 100 second [video](#) that went viral with Zhang Wenhong, the infectious disease expert tasked with managing Shanghai’s response to the novel coronavirus. In the video, Mr. Zhang said he asked all CCP members of his hospital, to replace those who already has been combating the coronavirus for a long time. “You cannot bully obedient people ” said Mr. Zhang. Other popular topics include the live streaming of the construction of the two field hospitals in Wuhan - every vehicle and machine has been nicknamed by netizens. Top three hashtags have received 76 million views: 1. Hubei governor responded to criticism of netizens; 2. The epidemic is still in spreading process; 3. Pets need to be isolated if they touch virus. Other popular posts showed factory production of masks and protective gear, profiles of doctors and medical providers working to protect others, and other stories on numbers of cases.

All 31 Provincial-Level Territories at Highest Level of Alert

46. (SBU) The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) decided to raise its public health alert to Level 1 on January 29, the highest level. All 31 provincial-level territories have now declared Level-1 emergencies (*People’s Daily*).

Nationwide Cases: All 31 Provincial-Level Territories with Confirmed Cases

47. (SBU) China’s National Health Commission (NHC) reported 1,737 newly confirmed cases on January 29 as of 24:00, as total confirmed cases rose to 7,711, including 1,370 cases in serious or critical condition ([link](#)). Among the new cases is the first confirmed case in the TAR. NHC further reported 38 new deaths on January 29, including 37 in Hubei and one in Sichuan. The number of patients treated and released rose to 124. A total of 12,167 cases are currently suspected, with 81,947 close contacts in isolation under medical observation.

Table: Confirmed Cases in Mainland China as of January 29

Province/City/Region	Total confirmed cases to date	New confirmed cases	Total deaths to date	New deaths reported
Anhui	200	48	--	--
Beijing	111	20	1	--
Chongqing	165	18	--	--
Fujian	101	17	--	--
Gansu	26	2	--	--
Guangdong	311	70	--	--
Guangxi	78	20	--	--
Guizhou	12	3	--	--
Hainan	46	3	1	--

Hebei	65	17	1	--
Heilongjiang	43	6	1	--
Henan	278	72	2	--
Hubei	4,586	1,032	162	37
Hunan	277	56	--	--
Inner Mongolia	18	2	--	--
Jiangsu	129	30	--	--
Jiangxi	162	53	--	--
Jilin	14	5	--	--
Liaoning	39	1	--	--
Ningxia	17	5	--	--
Qinghai	6	--	--	--
Shaanxi	56	10	--	--
Shandong	145	24	--	--
Shanghai	101	21	1	--
Shanxi	35	8	--	--
Sichuan	142	34	1	1
Tianjin	27	3	--	--
Tibet	1	1	--	--
Xinjiang	14	1	--	--
Yunnan	70	19	--	--
Zhejiang	428	132	--	--
TOTAL (NHC Reported)	7,711	1,737	170	38
TOTAL (From Provinces)	7,703	1,733	170	38

-- zero cases. Source: NHC, provincial health commissions, and state media.

Table: Confirmed Cases in Other Countries and Regions as of Mid-Day January 30

Country/Region	Total Cases	New Confirmed Cases
Thailand	14	--
Hong Kong	10	2
Singapore	10	5
Japan	10	3
Taiwan	8	--
Macau	7	--

Australia	7	2
Malaysia	7	4
United States	5	--
France	5	1
South Korea	4	--
Germany	4	--
Canada	3	2
Vietnam	2	--
Nepal	1	--
Cambodia	1	--
Sri Lanka	1	--
United Arab Emirates	1	1
Finland	1	1
Total	101	21

Notes: As of 10:30 AM on January 30. Source: Ding Xiang Yuan, <http://www.dxy.cn/>

More Confirmed Cases of Third-Country Nationals in China, But No Amcits

48. (SBU) Guangdong authorities confirmed January 29 in a press conference that one Pakistani and two Australians had contracted the virus, the first cases involving foreigners in the province. According CG Guangzhou contacts, the Australians were students in Wuhan and have recovered. Health authorities reiterated to the Guangzhou consular corps January 30 there have been no fatalities in Guangdong and the preponderance of cases had a direct tie to Hubei, or a very close contact with someone with Hubei travel. No cases of Amcits currently in China have been confirmed and reported by PRC authorities.

Evacuation of Third-Country Nationals

49. (SBU) Nine of the 210 Japanese citizens evacuated from Wuhan to Tokyo on a second chartered aircraft on January 30 are reportedly symptomatic, with cough or fever. Two other Japanese passengers with fever or cough had been stopped from boarding at a pre-flight health screening in Wuhan ([CCTV](#)). Earlier, three of the 206 Japanese citizens that were evacuated from Wuhan to Tokyo on January 29 on the first chartered aircraft were diagnosed with 2019-nCoV ([CCTV](#)). Five of the passengers on the January 29 flight reportedly had fevers before they arrived in Tokyo.

Public Spending on 2019-nCoV Response

50. (SBU) China's national and local governments have reportedly spent RMB 27.3 billion (US\$ 3.9 billion) in public funds on the 2019-nCoV response as of 1700 on January 29 ([CCTV](#)). The Organization Department of the Communist Party announced on January 30 that it would release RMB 108 billion from CCP member dues to assist local governments ([The Paper](#)).

Mask Shortages – Daily Production in China Currently at 40-Percent Capacity

51. (SBU) Officials from China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) have estimated the country’s maximum daily production capacity for masks at around 20 million per day, about half the global total ([link](#)). According to the officials, current production is at around 8 million masks per day due to the holiday. MIIT has called on enterprises to increase shifts and resume their normal production levels, though officials noted difficulties faced by producers. As one official said, “Most workers have returned home, supplies of raw materials have stopped, and logistics are at a halt.” Officials also noted disruptions in inter-province rail service and trucking routes as a factor. Guangdong authorities told the consular corps January 30 that 27 of the 29 manufacturers in the province have resumed operation and estimated local shortages should ease within days.

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Signature: (b) (6)

Drafted By: BEIJING: (b) (6)

Cleared By: ESTH: (b) (6)
POL: (b) (6)
POL: (b) (6)
POL-ECON: (b) (6)
RSO: (b) (6)
CONS: (b) (6)
POL: (b) (6)
MGT/MED: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
POL-ECON: (b) (6)
HHS/CDC/CGH: (b) (6)
PD: (b) (6)
ECON: (b) (6)
HHS/CDC/IRD: (b) (6)
INFO: (b) (6)
INFO: (b) (6)
INFO: (b) (6)

Approved By: CDA: (b) (6)

Released By: BEIJING: (b) (6)

Info: SEOUL, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; TAIPEI, AIT *ROUTINE*; HANOI, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; SINGAPORE, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ULAANBAATAR, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; PHNOM PENH,

AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; BANGKOK, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; HONG KONG, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; MANILA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; PARIS, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; VLADIVOSTOK, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; ATLANTA GA, CDC *ROUTINE*; DIA WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; CIA WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI *ROUTINE*; CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*; ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

XMT:

CARACAS, AMEMBASSY; ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

Action Post:

NONE

Dissemination Rule:

POL, ECON, MGT_ACTION, IMO_INFO, PAS, IMO, POL_INFO, RSO, CONS_ACTION, SCIENCE, DAO_INFO, RSO_INFO, CONS_INFO, SCIENCE_INFO, MED, CDC

UNCLASSIFIED

SBU