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Outbreak will not change China's commitments to buy U.S. goods: senior U.S. official



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

**Publisher:** Wea H. Lee  
**President:** Catherine Lee  
**Editor:** John Robbins, Jun Gai  
**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** News@scdaily.com

Saturday February 22, 2020 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

## Stone sentenced to 3-1/3 years, Trump signals no immediate pardon for adviser



Former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone departs after he was sentenced to three years and four months in prison for charges that include lying to Congress, obstruction of justice and witness tampering, at U.S. District Court in Washington, U.S., February 20, 2020. REUTERS/Leah Millis

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A federal judge on Thursday sentenced President Donald Trump's long-time adviser Roger Stone to three years and four months in prison and said his lies to lawmakers investigating Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election amounted to a threat to American democracy.

After U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson sentenced the veteran Republican operative in Washington, Trump indicated to an audience in Las Vegas that he has no immediate plans to pardon Stone and would let the legal process play out but said "at some point I'm going to make a determination."

In a stern lecture during a 2-1/2-hour sentencing hearing, Jackson also delivered an implicit rebuke to Trump, who has attacked her along with the jury and prosecutors in the high-profile case.

"There was nothing unfair, phony or disgraceful about the investigation or the prosecution," Jackson said, citing words that the Republican president has used.

#### RELATED COVERAGE

Factbox: Stone is one of dozens ensnared in Trump-Russia probe

Stone's lawyer had asked that he get no prison time. The 67-year-old Stone, who has been a friend and adviser to Trump for decades, was convicted on Nov. 15 on all seven counts of lying to Congress, obstruction of justice and witness tampering.

"He was not prosecuted - as some have complained - for standing up for the president. He was prosecuted for covering up for the president," Jackson said.

"The truth still exists. The truth still matters," Jackson added. "Roger Stone's insistence that it doesn't, his belliger-

ence, his pride in his own lies are a threat to our fundamental institutions - to the very foundation of our democracy."

The judge also said Stone "knew exactly what he was doing" when he posted an image on social media last year that positioned a gun's cross-hairs over her head.

The defendant engaged in threatening and intimidating conduct toward the court," Jackson said. "This is intolerable to the administration of justice."

Stone declined to speak at the hearing. Clad in a dark gray pin-stripe suit with a polka dot handkerchief in the pocket, Stone stood at a lectern as the judge announced the sentence.

After leaving, Stone - still subject to a judicial gag order - told reporters, "I have nothing to say." In a chaotic scene outside the courthouse, Stone walked through a throng of people with a slight smile on his face and climbed into a waiting vehicle. Some of Trump's allies urged him to pardon Stone.

"The last victim of the Russia hoax, Roger Stone must never spend a moment in jail," Michael Caputo, an informal Trump adviser, wrote on Twitter.

Former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone departs after he was sentenced to three years and four months in prison for charges that include lying to Congress, obstruction of justice and witness tampering, at U.S. District Court in Washington, U.S., February 20, 2020. REUTERS/Leah Millis

Democratic congressman Adam Schiff, who now heads the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee to which Stone was convicted of lying, wrote on Twitter that "to pardon Stone when his crimes were committed to protect Trump would be a breathtaking act of corruption."

On Tuesday, Trump granted clemency to prominent convicted white-collar criminals including financier Michael Milken and

former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich.

Jackson's sentence fell well short of the seven to nine years that were initially recommended by the original prosecutors in the case before they were overruled by the Justice Department after Trump complained publicly. Those prosecutors quit the case.

Jackson, who was appointed by Trump's Democratic predecessor Barack Obama, said the Justice Department's reversal did not influence her sentencing decision. The judge also fined Stone \$20,000.

"This was still a very substantial sentence, especially for a non-violent, first time offender of his age," said Mark Allenbaugh, a consultant who formerly worked for the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

#### 'A HUMAN BEING'

Defense attorney Seth Ginsberg said Stone's career as a self-described "dirty trickster" overshadowed other aspects of a spiritual man who has served as a mentor, loves animals and is devoted to his family.

"Mr. Stone is, in fact, not simply that public persona, but a human being," he said.

Stone was convicted of lying to the Intelligence Committee about his attempts to contact WikiLeaks, the website that released damaging emails about Trump's 2016 Democratic election rival Hillary Clinton that U.S. intelligence officials have concluded were stolen by Russian hackers.

The judge noted that Stone was not charged with or convicted of having any role in conspiring with Russia. But Jackson said Stone's effort to obstruct a congressional investigation into Russian election meddling "was deliberate, planned - not one isolated incident."



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# Trump: U.S. may give farmers more aid until trade deals ‘kick in’



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump holds a campaign rally in Colorado Springs, Colorado, February 20, 2020. REUTERS/ Kevin Lamarque/ File Photo

The White House, the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative’s office all declined to comment.

Last month, Trump signed a trade deal with Canada and Mexico into law, along with a separate Phase 1 accord with China that went into effect in mid-February.

Canada has not yet ratified the deal and experts had been skeptical that China, which had pledged to increase its purchases of U.S. goods by \$200 billion over two years, would be able to meet the goal even before a coronavirus outbreak hit the country’s imports and exports.



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States may give American farmers additional money until trade deals with China, Mexico, Canada and other countries fully go into effect, President Donald Trump said on Friday.

“If our formally targeted farmers need additional aid until such time as the trade deals with China, Mexico, Canada and others fully kick in, that aid will be provided by the federal government,” Trump wrote in a Twitter post entirely in capital letters.

It was not immediately clear how large the aid package would be or how long it would last. The Trump administration set aside a \$16 billion aid package to farmers in 2019, and \$12 billion a year earlier. In January, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said farmers should not expect another bailout package in 2020.

Trump is seeking re-election in the Nov. 3 presidential election. Farmers form a key part of his electoral base, but they have been badly bruised by low commodity prices and Trump’s tit-for-tat tariff dispute with China.

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# Editor's Choice



People wearing face masks take a picture with a mobile phone outside Rafik Hariri hospital, where Lebanon's first coronavirus case is being quarantined, in Beirut



People wait to check in at the airport in Wuhan, China February 20, 2020 in this picture obtained by Reuters from social media on February 21, 2020. INSTAGRAM/@JULIA\_VOLOK via REUTERS THIS IMAGE HAS BEEN SUPPLIED



A woman wears a mask at a main shopping area, in downtown Shanghai



Lebanon's Minister of Health, Hamad Hasan and Iman Shankiti, WHO representative in Lebanon, attend a news conference, after the country's first case of the novel coronavirus was confirmed, in Beirut



Men wearing face masks sit on a bench with a cat underneath, at a park in Beijing, China following an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the country



Passengers wearing protective masks disembark from a plane upon their arrival at Najaf airport

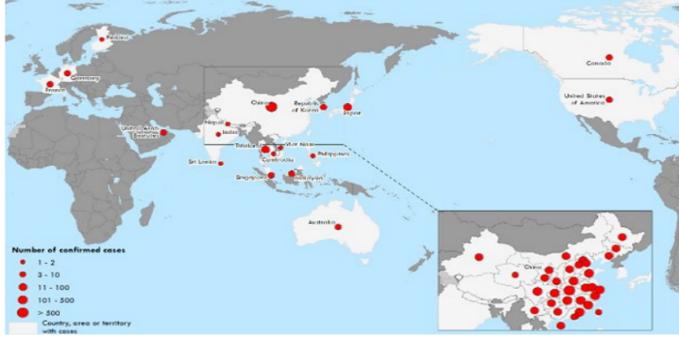


A man wears a mask outside KFC at a main shopping area, in downtown Shanghai



People wear masks at a main shopping area, in downtown Shanghai

# Coronavirus Anxiety: Four Ways To Cope With Fear



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

As the coronavirus spreads, more and more people are becoming anxious about what it means in their life. After all, entire cities have been quarantined in China. Travel restrictions have been put in place throughout the world. It's perfectly normal to feel anxiety about this emerging health crisis. The coronavirus can be a deadly disease, but we also know that it's most likely to be deadly in people who already have a weakened immune system. Here's how to cope with the anxiety and fear surrounding the coronavirus outbreak.

### 1. Don't Inflate the Risk

Our brains are used to taking something that is made to sound scary and unknown, and inflating the risk of it actually happening to us. It's a part of our brain's intrinsic, built-in fight-or-flight response. Big and scary gets attention. Ordinary but also potentially bad for our well-being gets less attention. We're scared of getting mauled by a coyote, but think nothing of getting into an automobile and driving every day. This despite the chances of dying in an automobile crash being much higher. So a new virus outbreak is scarier than an existing health epidemic. Many news

outlets and other sources of information online and social media overemphasize the problem — and its accompanying risks.

The ordinary flu is so far responsible for 15 million infections, 140,000 hospitalizations, and 8,200 deaths in the United States just this season. In comparison, as of January 31, 2020, the coronavirus has only infected approximately 8,000 people around the world (the vast majority of them in China) with less than 200 deaths. It is believed the coronavirus's death rate may be around 2 percent, according to Reuters.1

In short, the flu is far more common and so kills far more people every year. While the coronavirus may be more deadly, it's not clear that it will infect as many people as the flu does.



**2. Take Normal, Healthy Precautions**  
Both flu and coronaviruses are spread through everyday contact, through touch, a cough, or a sneeze. If you're sick, stay home and don't go to work or out in the world. If you're not sick, stay away from close contact with a person who is and engage in healthy habits when it comes to cleanliness.

That primarily means washing your hands regularly and thoroughly. Out running errands? Come home and wash your hands, saying the ABC song in your head as you do. Use warm-to-hot water, plenty of soap, and don't stop washing until the song is done. Can't get to a sink? Carry a small travel-size bottle of hand sanitizer with you (keep it in your car if you prefer), and use it regularly. Keeping your immune system happy and healthy can help too, especially if you do get sick. A healthy immune system starts with a balanced diet and getting the amount of sleep you need to feel well-rested every night. Engaging in regular exercise is also important, even in the winter.

### 3. Avoid Overconsumption of Media

The longer you watch or read something, the more money a company makes, whether it's online, on the TV, or on your phone. The coronavirus is a great opportunity for companies, as they work to scare you into believing that this outbreak is something you need to worry about constantly **right this very minute.**



It's not. So instead of playing into their hands, limit your consumption of media and stories related to the outbreak. Scientists and public health officials are working overtime to better understand the virus and are looking at ways to limit its impact. Trust in their work and efforts.

If you need updates, check out a government resource for the best, most accurate information, such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### 4. Use Your Past Coping Skills

No matter what the focus of one's anxiety, using what's worked in the past to help manage those feelings is usually a good bet. Maybe it's engaging in self-talk, to undo the irrational thoughts coming into your head with rational, fact-based responses. Maybe it's reaching out to a trusted friend or family member, just to talk through your anxiety. Or maybe it's engaging in some mindfulness

or meditation techniques — ones that you've learned and that have worked for you in the past.

Whatever works to help relieve your stress and reduce your anxiety, try to do more of that in times like this, when you feel like the stress of this virus outbreak is getting to you.

Remember, outbreaks like this do occur from time to time throughout the world. It's normal. While they can be very scary — especially if you live in a highly-infected area — the actual chances of your becoming infected are very small if you take common-sense precautions. (Courtesy <https://psychcentral.com/blog>)

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**China Grows Isolated As Airlines Cancel More Than 50,000 Flights**

**World Closes Its Doors To China**



**OVERVIEW**

More than a dozen airlines have canceled flights or scaled back service to China. The country is the world's second-largest aviation market after the U.S. Thousands of flights have been canceled, cutting off access to travelers looking to return from or get to China.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Dai Xin planned to fly to the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang this month to celebrate her 40th birthday. The rapid spread of coronavirus changed her mind. "I'm nervous to come back," the New York-based surgical technician said as she was canceling her Air China flight at a travel agency in the Flushing section of Queens on Saturday because she was worried about the difficulty of returning to the U.S. "It's not worth it" to visit her native China now, she said. One by one, air carriers have cut service after demand fell sharply and governments took more drastic measures that they say aim to curb the spread of the disease, which has sickened more than 28,000 people, most of them in China, and killed at least 565 people as of Thursday morning, according to health officials. These steps have left China, the world's second-largest air travel market after the U.S., more isolated. Airlines in dozens of countries — from New Zealand to

Finland to the United Arab Emirates — have scaled back service or in the case of U.S. airlines canceled flights altogether to the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong as the coronavirus spreads. This will drive down airlines' 2020 revenue and deprive other segments of the travel industry, including hotels and retailers, of high-spending tourists.



Chinese citizens wear face masks to protect against the spread of the Coronavirus as they check in to their Air China flight to Beijing, at Los Angeles International Airport, on February 2, 2020.

The outbreak has some travelers exercising more caution with their travel,

even for destinations other than China. Many travelers would be inquiring about spring travel during this time of year, said Cindy Guo, who runs Top Travel International in Flushing. "Some people prefer to stay home" because of the virus, she said.

The U.S. instituted travel restrictions on Sunday that include requiring returning U.S. citizens who have been in Hubei province — where Wuhan, the epicenter of the virus, is located — to face mandatory, 14-day quarantines. The Trump administration has ordered self-quarantines for U.S. citizens who have been in other parts of mainland China. Additionally, foreigners who have been in China in the last two weeks, except for immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents and a few others, won't be allowed in at all.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says it processed an average of 371,780 people at U.S. airports each day in the last fiscal year, although February travel demand is much lower than in the summer. Some 14,000 people flew into the U.S. from China each day — almost 5 million for that year. At stake are more than 165,000 scheduled flights in and out of China between Jan. 29 and March 28 that would affect 27 million travelers, according to data from aviation consulting firm Cirium.



Thousands of flights to and from China have been cancelled.

United Airlines this week followed American in halting Hong Kong flights in addition to its mainland China routes. Delta Air Lines also pushed up its planned cuts to this past weekend.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China has requested local airlines keep operating international flights to countries that haven't placed restrictions on

inbound travel.

But even state-owned Chinese airlines are also weighing service cuts. Air China on Monday told the U.S. Department of Transportation it would like to reduce its China-U.S. service to just two routes: from Beijing to Los Angeles and then on to San Francisco, and from Beijing to New York and then on to Washington Dulles. The carrier has authorization to fly nonstop between Beijing and Houston and Newark, but plans to stop those flights.

Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific this week said it would reduce its flying to mainland China by 90% and warned about "significant reductions around the rest of the network during the next two months depending on market conditions and other factors." (Courtesy cnbc.com)

**Related**

**Travel bans plunge China into deepening isolation over coronavirus**



Security staff wearing masks walk in an empty shopping mall in Beijing. Photograph: Reuters

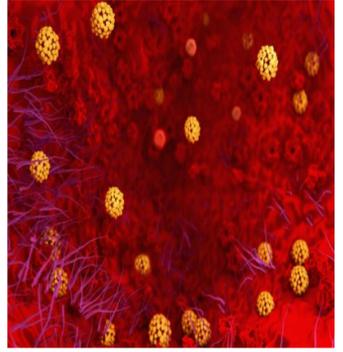
**Australia and other countries follow US in imposing near-total travel ban as foreign companies scale back activity**

The growing coronavirus epidemic is isolating China, as other countries, trying to ward off infection or contain their own smaller outbreaks, bar entry to travellers from China, and companies including Apple scale down travel and business there.

The UK announced on Saturday it had withdrawn all but essential staff from embassies and consulates in China, as authorities at home dealt with fallout from the first two cases confirmed in

Britain — a student at the University of York and a visiting relative.

The two patients are now under quarantine in Newcastle, and the York hotel room they had been staying in has been disinfected. The university said the student is not believed to have come into contact with anyone on campus while they had symptoms.



Authorities are trying to trace people who had "close contact" with the pair — which is defined as spending at least 15 minutes within two metres of the infected person.

In total, 203 people have been tested for the disease in Britain, and only two results have been positive. The vast majority of infections and all deaths are still inside China, and concentrated in Hubei province. By Saturday, 13,968 cases and 304 deaths had been confirmed, 45 of them overnight in Hubei province. But the rapid spread of the virus beyond Chinese borders has raised fears that other countries could face large-scale outbreaks, and many governments are taking increasingly strong measures to prevent an epidemic on their territory. On Saturday, Australia followed the US by imposing a ban on entry to most travellers from China. Canberra said citizens, residents or relatives would still be allowed in. Countries including Uzbekistan and Vietnam cancelled flights from China altogether. (Courtesy https://www.theguardian.com/)

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