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Halliburton books \$1.1 billion charge, slashes spending by 50%



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Protests highlight growing U.S. unease over coronavirus lockdowns



FILE PHOTO: New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio speaks to the media during a press conference in temporary hospital located at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center as the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues in the Queens borough of New York City, New York, U.S., April 10, 2020. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz/File Photo

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. debate intensified on Monday over when to lift restrictions to control the coronavirus outbreak, with protesters gathering in state capitals to demand an end to lockdowns and officials urging caution until more testing becomes available.

Stay-at-home measures, which experts say are essential to slow the spread of the virus, have ground the economy to a virtual standstill and forced more than 22 million people to apply for unemployment benefits in the past month.

Demonstrations have flared in recent days across the country to demand an end to the lockdowns, with more planned on Monday. Thousands gathered outside the capitol building in Lansing, Michigan, last week to protest against Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Tim Walters, who was part of a "Reopen Maryland" protest over the weekend in which hundreds of people drove through the state capital Annapolis, said concerns about the virus must be kept in perspective and weighed against the economic toll of lockdowns.

"There is a lot of frustration about who decides what is essential. And people are hurting," said Walters, a management consultant for a group he estimated had 20,000 members on Facebook. Walters' group is not associated with another protest planned in Annapolis on Monday.

In Pennsylvania, where Democratic Governor Tom Wolf has promised to veto a Republican-backed bill that would force him to reopen some businesses, a large protest was expected in the state capital Harrisburg.

"Anyone who has been impacted by this shutdown in a negative way is welcome and we want them to be heard regardless of their party affiliation," said Stephen LaSpina, an organizer of the protest. He added that protesters would be encouraged to stay in their cars and maintain social distancing.

President Donald Trump, a Republican seeking re-election in November, has said state governors should have the final say but has favored an early end to the lockdowns, and many protesters in the past week have sported pro-Trump signs and campaign gear.

Republican lawmakers in several states have also backed the protests.

Joe Buchert, 48, a retired police officer who lives in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, attended the Harrisburg protest because he thinks the governor has overreached.

"The Democratic governors are just trying to kill the economy to hurt Trump," said Buchert, who was wearing a red Trump 2020 hat.

In Washington, lawmakers in Congress were near an agreement for extra money to help small businesses hurt by the

pandemic, a top Republican lawmaker said. The Trump administration sought to add \$250 billion to a small-business loan program established last month as part of a \$2.3 trillion coronavirus economic relief plan. That fund already has been exhausted.

Health experts and lawmakers on the front lines of the battle to curb the pandemic have warned that the country could face a second and even deadlier wave of infections if the lockdowns end prematurely.

The United States has by far the world's largest number of confirmed coronavirus cases, with more than 753,000 infections and over 40,500 deaths, nearly half of them in the state of New York, according to a Reuters tally.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Monday it could take weeks if not months before the country's most populous city reopens due to a lack of widespread testing, even as officials elsewhere began rolling back restrictions on daily life. De Blasio, whose city is at the U.S. epicenter of the coronavirus crisis, said New York needed to be conducting hundreds of thousands of tests a day and to see hospitalizations decline further before reopening the economy.

"The federal government is not stepping up ... I think I might be the first person in history to ask Donald Trump to speak up," De Blasio told a news conference. Earlier, the mayor told MSNBC the virus could boomerang if testing capacity was not ramped up.

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# Halliburton books \$1.1 billion charge, slashes spending by 50%

(Reuters) - U.S. oilfield services giant Halliburton (HAL.N) on Monday reported a \$1 billion first-quarter loss on charges and outlined the largest budget cut yet among top energy companies as U.S. crude futures plunged to two-decade lows.

U.S. oil prices have collapsed 80% since January and on Monday traded under \$11 a barrel CLc1, a 34-year low, and below many shale drillers' cost of production. The coronavirus pandemic has crushed oil demand and prompted a sharp decline in the need for oilfield services.

Halliburton said it would cut this year's capital outlays by roughly 50% to \$800 million, the steepest by a major energy company so far, and reduce other costs by about \$1 billion. It has laid off hundreds and furloughed thousands of workers.

The company has no plans to cut its shareholder dividend but added it was a "lever" that could be pulled and promised not to take on debt to protect the payment. Rival Schlumberger (SLB.N) last week cut its dividend by 75%, a move welcomed by investors.

Halliburton, which generates most of its business in North America, booked \$1.1 billion in pre-tax impairments and other charges, mostly relating to the value of a pressure pumping business that breaks shale rock to release trapped oil and gas. It posted a 25% drop in revenue from the region to \$2.46 billion, while reporting a 5% increase in international revenue to \$2.58 billion. "North America is experiencing the most dramatic and rampant activity decline in recent history," Halliburton Chief Executive Jeff Miller said in a call with analysts. Customers' capital spending is headed toward a 50% reduction for 2020, he said.

Oilfield service rivals Schlumberger and Baker Hughes (BKR.N) also recorded large hits to earnings on write-



FILE PHOTO: The company logo of Halliburton oilfield services corporate offices is seen in Houston, Texas April 6, 2012. REUTERS/Richard Carson/File Photo

downs and slashed their project spending budgets.

Wall Street analysts were encouraged by Halliburton's cost cutting measures, and its shares were up about 2% to \$7.73 in morning trading. They are down 70% year-to-date. "We like the company's proactive mindset and actions," analysts for investment firm

Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co wrote in a note.

Halliburton warned it faced business disruptions from coronavirus-related border closures and travel restrictions that have prevented the company from accessing certain operations, as well as stay-at-home work arrangements.

It reported a net loss of \$1.02 billion, or \$1.16 per share, in the first quarter, com-

pared with a profit of \$152 million, or 17 cents per share, a year earlier.

Excluding charges, Halliburton earned 31 cents per share, beating Wall Street estimates of 24 cents per share, I/B/E/S data from Refinitiv showed.

Stay Healthy!

## BUSINESS

Wash Your Hands!

### Trump's 3-Phase Plan To Reopen America's Economy Explained



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks as Vice President Mike Pence and White House coronavirus response coordinator Deborah Birx listen during the daily briefing of the White House Coronavirus Task Force in the briefing room at the White House April 16, 2020, in Washington, D.C. (Photo/WONG/GETTY)

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

President Donald Trump unveiled guidelines for ending lockdowns and stay-at-home orders due to the coronavirus pandemic. The three-phased guidelines, called Opening Up America Again, are for state and local authorities to follow when reopening their economies. Though Trump has previously said that he has the authority to lift state lockdowns, the power to reopen states remains with the governors. The Opening Up America Again plan is a guideline, not an order, and state governors are not required to follow the plan. Some states are joining forces to decide how they will begin lifting their lockdown. California, Oregon, and Washington have teamed up "to work together on a shared approach for reopening our economies," according to a statement. An East Coast group, made up of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Rhode Island, will also work together to develop a reopening plan. According to an introduction to the guidelines, the plan is "based on up-to-date data and readiness, mitigates risk of resurgence, protects the most vulnera-

ble," and is "implementable on statewide or county-by-county basis at governors' discretion." criteria:  
 1. A downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses and COVID-19 syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period.  
 2. A downward trajectory of documented cases or positive tests as a percent of total tests, within a 14-day period.  
 3. Hospitals are treating patients without crisis care and have a robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing.  
 Once states meet these criteria, Trump recommends that they begin the first stage of lifting the lockdown.  
**Phase One of the Opening Up America Again Guidelines**  
 When a state enters phase one, according to the guidelines, individuals should continue to social distance when in public, and social settings of more than 10 people should be avoided. Individuals should minimize non-essential travel, and follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding self-isolating following travel.

Vulnerable individuals should continue to stay at home and members of their households should be aware that returning to work where distancing isn't practical risks passing on the coronavirus to the vulnerable person.



The guidelines define vulnerable people as "elderly individuals, individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy."  
 Employers should continue to encourage their employees to work remotely, when possible, and return to work in phases. Additionally, employers should close common areas, minimize non-essential travel, and consider special accommodations for vulnerable employees.  
 During phase one, schools, daycare centers, and camps should remain closed, and visits to senior living homes and hospitals should be prohibited. Large venues, like dine-in restaurants, movie theaters, sports venues can reopen under strict physical distancing protocols. Gyms can reopen if they adhere to strict physical distancing and sanitation protocols, but bars should remain closed. Additionally, elective surgeries can resume on an outpatient basis at facilities that adhere to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines.



**Phase Two of the Opening Up America Again Guidelines**

During phase two, vulnerable individuals should continue to stay at home. Individuals should continue to social distance, but social settings of more than 50 should be avoided. Non-essential travel can resume. Employers should continue to encourage their employees to work remotely, should keep common areas closed, and should continue to consider special accommodations for the vulnerable population.  
 In phase two, schools, daycare centers, and camps can reopen, and bars can open with reduced standing-room occupancy.  
**Phase Three of the Opening Up America Again Guidelines**  
 Vulnerable individuals no longer have to stay at home but should practice social distancing and minimize their exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical. Low-risk populations should minimize their time spent in crowded environments.  
 Employers can allow their workers to return to work in phase three. Visits to senior care facilities and hospitals can resume, but those who interact with residents and patients must maintain high standards of hygiene. Large venues, like movie theaters and sports venues, can operate under limited physical distancing protocols. Bars can operate with increased standing room occupancy.  
**Guidelines to be followed throughout all phases**

- Continue to wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Strongly consider using face coverings while in public, and particularly when using mass transit.
- People who feel sick should not go to work or school and should contact and follow the advice of their medical provider.



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advice on Using Face Coverings to Slow Spread of COVID-19**  
 CDC recommends wearing a cloth face covering in public where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. A simple cloth face covering can help slow the spread of the virus by those infected and by those who do not exhibit symptoms. Cloth face coverings can be fashioned from household items. Guides are offered by the CDC. Cloth face coverings should be washed regularly. A washing machine will suffice. Practice safe removal of face coverings by not touching eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash hands immediately after removing the covering.  
**World Health Organization advice for avoiding spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19)**  
**Hygiene advice**  
 Clean hands frequently with soap and water, or alcohol-based hand rub. Wash hands after coughing or sneezing; when caring for the sick; before, during and after food preparation; before eating; after using the toilet; when hands are visibly dirty; and after handling animals or waste.  
 Maintain at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.  
**Medical advice**  
 Avoid close contact with others if you have any symptoms. Stay at home if you feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as headache and runny nose, to avoid potential spread of the disease to medical facilities and other people.  
 If you develop serious symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) seek medical care early and contact local health authorities in advance.  
 Avoid touching your hands, nose and mouth. Do not spit in public. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing. Discard the tissue immediately and clean your hands. The COVID-19 virus can still be picked up on rubber gloves and transmitted by touching your face. (Courtesy newsweek.com)

# Editor's Choice



A health worker scans a resident with an infrared thermometer to check her temperature as a precautionary measure against the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at a residential area in New Delhi, India, April 20, 2020. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi



Staff from La Paz hospital take a minute of silence to remember Joaquin Diaz, the hospital's chief of surgery who died of COVID-19, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Madrid, Spain, April 20, 2020. REUTERS/Susana Vera TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Two men hold signs as they protest against the state's extended stay-at-home order to help slow the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as hundreds gather to demonstrate at the Capitol building in Olympia, Washington, U.S. April 19, 2020. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



People wear face masks at Shinagawa station during the rush hour after the government expanded a state of emergency to include the entire country following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Tokyo, Japan, April 20, 2020. REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon TPX



A person walks along the sand under flags of the United States of America at the Coney Island beach during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Brooklyn, New York City, New York, U.S., April 19, 2020. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly REFILE - REMOV-



Residents maintaining a safe distance stand with signs demanding the shift of a quarantine center, setup for the suspected carriers of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at a local hotel in the neighborhood, during a protest in Islamabad, Pakistan April 19, 2020. REUTERS/Waseem Khan



A priest sprinkles holy water on believers during the Orthodox Easter celebrations in Donetsk



A man wearing a protective face mask throws a fishing net into a river during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Bangkok, Thailand April 19, 2020. REUTERS/Soe Zeya Tun TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

Dr. Birx: Federal Government Is 'Working On Expanding Testing Strategy Across The U.S.'



Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Friday, April 17, 2020, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

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

Coronavirus task force member Dr. Deborah Birx has spoken out on making coronavirus testing more widely available across the U.S. On Sunday, Birx announced the federal government is working with every governor, mayor and laboratory to ensure quality tests are getting out to the American people. She also estimated around 30,000 to 50,000 tests are being done, but not all are being reported. According to the doctor, the president initially prioritized testing and treating those who needed it the most. However, she noted the government is now expanding its testing strategy. "He wanted to make sure that everyone who was sick had a test, everyone that was sick who needed a hospital bed got a hospital bed, and everyone that needed a ventilator got a ventilator," stated Birx. "Now we're working on expanding testing strategy across the United States, but in deep partnerships with governors and, more importantly, lab

directors, who actually know precisely what the issues are that need to be solved."

Dr. Deborah Birx outlines massive nationwide testing capacity for millions of tests https://youtu.be/L6lAOLFy06k On Twitter



6:43 PM - Apr 17, 2020 Twitter Ads info and privacy 30 people are talking about this Drivers wait in line at a drive-thru COVID-19 testing location Saturday, April 18, 2020, in Franklin, Tenn. An expanded testing effort launched in

Tennessee Saturday includes workers from the Tennessee National Guard at 15 drive-thru testing sites across the state. (AP Photo/Mark Humphrey) While speaking on China's response, Birx emphasized the first country exposed to a pandemic has a "higher moral obligation on communicating and transparency."

"There is never an excuse to not share information," she said. "When you are the first country to have an outbreak, you really have a moral obligation to the world to not only talk about it, but provide that information that's critical to the rest of the world to really respond to this credibly."



The task force expert went on to say studies are underway to determine how long someone is immune to the coronavirus. She noted there are a number of experiments going on to discover how the virus affects a person's body. In terms of a vaccine, Birx has said scientists are still working to see whether giving antibodies from someone who's already recovered from the virus to another will "confer protective immunity." According to her, this is likely the case, but it's unclear how long immunity would last. "In most infectious diseases, except HIV, we know that when you get sick, recover (and) you develop antibody, that antibody often confers immunity," she explained. "We just don't know if its immunity for a month, six months, immunity for six years." Some experts believe immunity from the coronavirus lasts about two to three years, based on what's already known about the virus. (Courtesy https://www.oann.com/)



Vice President Mike Pence listens as President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Monday, April 6, 2020, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

'Road map' to recovery report: 20 million coronavirus tests per day needed to fully open economy

The United States has conducted 3.7 million tests for COVID-19. Experts offer road map to reopen the country. The bipartisan panel will include doctors, economists and political scientists with the goal of massively ramping up testing of the coronavirus.

With President Donald Trump saying he wants to lift stay-at-home novel coronavirus orders and open up parts of the country, more than 45 economists, social scientists, lawyers and ethicists say there's a growing consensus pointing to a major step necessary to put Americans back to work: dramatically upscaling testing. In a report titled "Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience," released on Monday morning, a blue-ribbon panel of thought leaders across the political spectrum called COVID-19 "a profound threat to our democracy, comparable to the Great Depression and World War II." "It's a moment for a 'Can Do America' to really show up and put itself to work," Danielle Allen, lead author of the report and a professor at Harvard University's Edmond J.Safra Center on Ethics, told ABC News.



The report says that ending the quarantine safely will require testing, tracing, and supported isolation, a combination known by the acronym TTSTI.

"What people need to recognize is that a massively scaled-up testing, tracing and supported isolation system is the alternative to national quarantine," Allen said. "We all had to learn PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] and we all had to learn about flattening the curve ... now we have to learn about TTSTI." (Courtesy https://abcnews.go.com/)



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科普知識受青睞 一條口罩影片播放量逾220萬

短視頻平台成防疫學堂

疫情來襲，讓課堂搬上了網絡，也促進短視頻平台成為了“學習區”。近日，復旦大學“硬核教授”張文宏和上海醫學院副院長吳凡上線B站直播，教授“新冠肺炎防控第一課”，1個多小時的直播課程，通過綜合統計人氣峰值達到70萬，彈幕數近4.5萬；另外，人氣UP主(Uploader)“蠟筆和小動”的一份詳細解讀防病毒口罩的短視頻，一共獲得了超過220萬的播放量。

香港文匯報記者 倪夢環 上海報道

記者了解到，在2019年，僅B站學習類UP主數量已同比增長151%，學習視頻播放量同比增長274%。“之所以在疫情期間做了這個防疫視頻，一個原因是我們的短視頻本來就以普及知識為主，在買口罩的時候也遇到過問題，所以希望對權威文件做解讀，讓官方的內容被更多人聽到，避免被謠言誤導。”UP主“蠟筆”在接受香港文匯報記者採訪時這樣說道。同時，B站移動端已開設有專門的“學習區”，冀與用戶共建優秀學習社區。

匯總視頻獲電視台轉發

今年的疫情可謂帶來了多方面影響，尤其目前已到開學季，不少城市已開通網上教學，而短視頻平台上有關疫情知識分享也猛增。其實早在春節期間，有關防疫內容的短視頻已開始增多，不少UP主更“高產”上載一些頗有質量的防護知識短視頻，並得到了讀者的青睞。其中，包括“蠟筆與小動”所出的“防疫口罩知識”在內的視頻均被推上平台首頁。“最初做這個視頻是源自我自己選口罩遇到了問題，又發現網上各種說法不一樣，而且資料很多很雜，就單純想做個匯總，方便大家。”蠟筆表示，當第一期視頻推出後，收到了很多觀眾的回饋，“防顆粒物口罩可以用嗎？”、“工業口罩可以用嗎？”

由於問題眾多，蠟筆會在視頻下面做一些實時更新。“事實證明其實這種實用性內容傳播很廣，甚至一些電視台包括省級電視台都有私信問能否轉發。”

參考文獻支持信息準確性

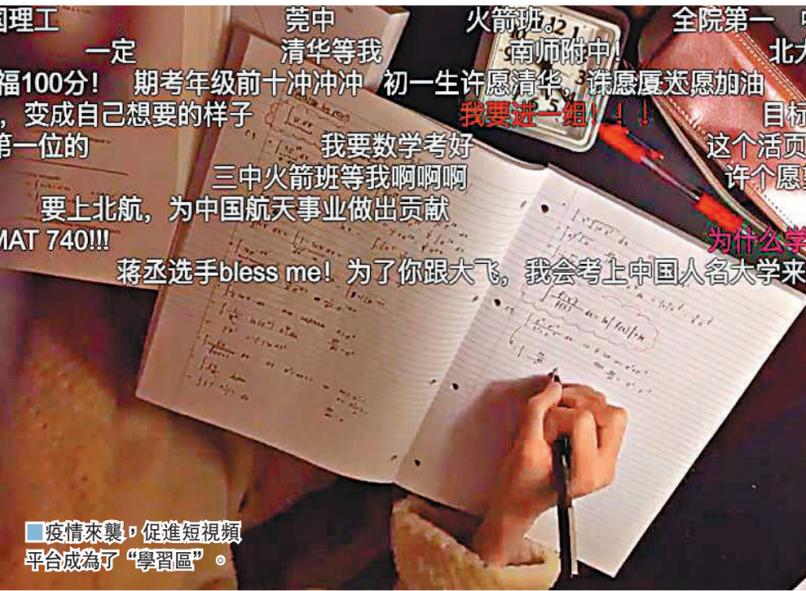
粉絲的回饋很熱烈，“我們發現大家的消息來源很複雜，網上會不斷有各種關於病毒的聲音甚至謠言，反而官方的信息會被模糊掉。”於是，蠟筆與夥伴又接着做了第二期視頻。

如何保證視頻的準確性？蠟筆表示，視頻中幾乎每句話都有參考文獻或者權威組織發佈的資料支持，“這源自本身科學素養的積累以及我之前寫論文的經驗。我們的內容基本都是來自原文獻、經典教科書或者權威機構官方網站的原始資料，可以最大限度避免信息在傳遞過程中的損失。”

不僅如此，為了保障視頻內容質量，避免為觀眾帶來誤導，蠟筆同時尋求了浙大校友會的幫助，同時還尋找了醫學相關的校友(前中國CDC員工)進行內容審查。“在第二期視頻中我們還和北大免疫學博士洋蔥君進行了深度合作、聯合投稿，以確保內容更加準確。”

知名學者加入視頻行列

另外，隨着在線學習的熱度增高，越來越多的“高材生們”也加入了職業



疫情來襲，促進短視頻平台成為了“學習區”。

UP主的行列，“我覺得短視頻不是一個行業，只是信息的一個新的承載形式，本質上跟過去紙媒沒什麼差別。短視頻也應該有各行各業的優秀人才加入，並且現在確實是這樣發展的，比如李永樂老師、局座(張召忠)都在做短視頻，而且做得非常優秀。”蠟筆這樣說道。

據B站數據顯示，2019年泛知識學習類內容的觀看用戶數已突破5,000萬，接近2019年高考人數的五倍。被B站用戶稱為“study with me”的學習直播，2019年有超過4,600萬人次觀看，總互動彈幕數逾3,000萬。“從回饋來看，知識類內容是大家非常需要的，我們也會繼續做下去，但我們也會多嘗試其他類型。”目前，B站也已完成《中小學生防疫公開課》首播，並開啟“不停學”專區，冀推出更多實用在線學習內容。



蠟筆上傳了多個防疫知識視頻，並得到了不錯的回饋。



掃描QR Code可觀看有關影片。

滬中小學全面開啓在線學習

受疫情影響，3月份起，上海大中小學全面開展在線教育。其中，中小學在線教育從3月2日開始，且在線教育安排盡量兼顧教學內容與學生健康平衡，小學生每天需要收看的總時長基本不超過2小時。同時，疫情期間，在滬各類培訓機構和託育機構不得開展線下培訓和託育工作。

上海市教委主任陸靖表示，上海已經開始推進授課師資選配與課程錄製、網絡平台搭建、教學輔助資源集羣和在線教學管理制度建設等。在基礎教育方面，上海已組織了全市各學段、各學科一千多名優秀骨幹教師按照課程標準錄製相關課程。同時，學生可以通過電視、網絡等渠道觀看和下載相關課程。高等則可據具體情況“一校一策”開展在線授課等。

“我覺得從家長角度看這個問題各有利弊，好的方面是可以省去接送時間，家長還能直觀地看到孩子學到了什麼。”市民王小娟向記者表示，自己的孩子正讀小學，平時也會上補習班，但由於居住地與學校有一定距離，平時送孩子上學較為耗時，“對年齡較小的孩子來說，線上教育需要家長在旁邊督促，對他的自控力是有要求的，而且若孩子不感興趣可能就去別的事情，專注力不如線下課好。”

陸靖亦表示，在線學習不能完全替代在校學習，正式開學後學校還需對學生在線學習的成效進行評估，“該補課、該加強的還會再安排。”