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Inside C2

Wednesday, April 06 2022

In U.N. speech, Ukraine's Zelenskiy accuses Russia of worst war crimes since WW2

UNITED NATIONS, April 5 (Reuters) -Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday that "accountability must be inevitable" for Russia as he accused invading Russian troops of committing "the most terrible war crimes" since World War Two.

Zelenskiy showed a short video of burned, bloodied and mutilated bodies, including children, in Irpin, Dymerka, Mariupol and Bucha, where Ukraine accuses Russian troops of killing hundreds of civilians. read more

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia then told the Security Council that Russian troops are not targeting civilians, dismissing accusations of abuse as lies. He said that while Bucha was under Russian control "not a single civilian suffered from any kind of violence."

Zelenskiy questioned the value of the 15-member U.N. Security Council, which has been unable to take any action over Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine because Moscow is a veto power, along with fellow permanent council members the United States, France, Britain and China.

"We are dealing with a state that turns its veto at the U.N. Security Council into the right to (cause) death," Zelenskiy said in a live video address from Ukraine's capital Kviv, urging reform of the world body. "Russia wants to turn Ukraine into silent slaves."

Russia says it is carrying out a "special military operation" that aims to destroy Ukraine's military infrastructure and "denazify" it, and denies attacking civilians. Ukraine, a parliamentary democracy, and Western countries say Moscow invaded without provocation.

Russia's partner China, which has abstained on most U.N. votes since the war started, was "deeply disturbed" by the images of civilian deaths in Bucha, China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun said, calling for verification of what happened.

India, which relies heavily on Russia for military hardware and has also abstained on U.N. action, condemned the killings in Bucha and called for an independent investigation. read more

Russia's Nebenzia said: "We are not shoot-



ing against the civilian targets in order to save as many as civilians possible. This is precisely why we're not advancing as fast as many expected."

'SHOW BACKBONE'

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said

responsible world powers and global leaders need to "show backbone and stand up to Russia's dangerous and unprovoked threat against Ukraine and the world."

"No one can be a shield for

Russia's aggression," she said as Washington pushes to suspend Russia from the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Council.

The 193-member U.N. General Assembly in New York is likely to vote on the move to suspend Russia on Thursday, diplomats said. A two-thirds majority of present voting members is needed. read

Nebenzia responded: "I hope that our colleagues from the United Nations will not allow themselves to be manipulated and play up to Washington."

The United Nations said some 11 million Ukrainians -- more than a quarter of the

to travel to Ukraine on Wednesday to meet with Ukrainian population -- have fled their homes. More officials. U.N. political affairs chief Rosemary DiCarlo said U.N. human rights monitors were seeking to

> verify allegations of sexual vio-"These include gang rape and rapes in front of children," she

road ahead of us" after what he

described as a "frank" meeting

with Russia's Foreign Minister

Monday. Griffiths said he hopes

Sergei Lavrov in Moscow on

said. "There are also claims of sexual violence by Ukrainian forces and civil defense militias."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned the Security Council that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is one of the greatest challenges ever to the international order "because of its nature, intensity, and consequences."



than 4 million of those people have left Ukraine.

U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths said at least 1.430 civilians have been killed. including more than 121 children. "We know this is likely a serious underestimate," he added.

Griffiths, who is seeking a humanitarian truce in Ukraine, said "we have a long





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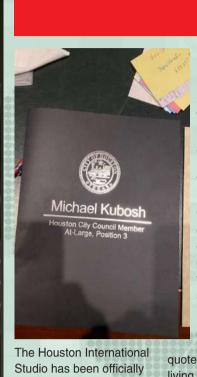
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EALEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

星期三

04/05/2022

Beautiful Words Gratitude In My Heart



launched this past week. There are continuous congratulatory messages from many supportive people. Among them, we are very grateful for the warm letter from Houston City Council Member

The Certificate of Appreciation letter he wrote read as follows:

Michael Kubosh.

From The City of Houston, **Presented To** Wea Lee, Houston International **Studio**

The City of Houston recognizes you for your superior contribution to the community. Your dedication to serve the people and your support of business in the community has proven to be the best. A famous

quote," We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Mr. Lee, you are a champion in the community and so many love you."

The City of Houston is proud of you and salutes you on this special day.

In Witness Whereof, I have Hereunto Set my Hand on this 31st Day of March 2022.

Michael Kubosh

Houston City Council Member At-Large

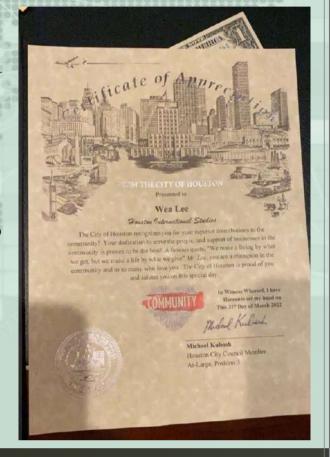
When I accepted and read this message carefully, my heart was really mixed and the past kept pouring into my mind.

Looking back on the early 1970's when I first set foot in the beautiful and charming city of San Francisco, I made up my mind to melt into this strange and wonderful dreamland. We left the Golden State and came to Texas where Asians are rare. Like any new foreign students, we had to start everything from scratch. And like many pioneers before us, our hard work has turned the raw land into an oasis and has become one of most successful business models in the nation. These achievements are

not accidental.

History is always moving forward in the huge wheel of the time. We would like to remind all of the younger generation to

continue our vision to serve your people and your community. Only by self-reliance and self-improvement will you be respected.







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Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center

Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



















Editor's Choice



Dima, a three-year-old boy who was wounded during the shelling of Mariupol, lies in a bed in the children's ward of the hospital in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, March 29, 2022. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



Crystal Palace's Wilfried Zaha in action during a Premier League match versus Arsenal at Selhurst Park, London, Britain, April 4. REUTERS/David Klein



ina, 33, plants tulips with her daughter Miroslava near an apartment building damaged during Ukraine-Russia conflict in the southern port city of Mariupol, Ukraine April 4. REU-TERS/Alexander Ermochenko

Local resident Viktoria Mukh-





Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy looks on as he is surrounded by Ukrainian servicemen as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Bucha, outside Kyiv, Ukraine, April 4. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



A Chilean Air Force's aerobatics team member performs ahead of the International Air and Space Fair (FIDAE) at Santiago international airport, Chile April 4. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado



Volunteers unload from a van bags containing bodies of civilians after they collected them from the streets to gather them at a cemetery before they take them to the morgue in Bucha, in Kyiv region, Ukraine April 4. REU-TERS/Zohra Bensemra

2022年4月6日

BUSINESS



Asia Sees Spike In COVID-19 Cases **After Lunar New Year Celebrations**

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



Thai classical dancers wearing face masks to help protect themselves from the coronavirus perform at the Erawan Shrine in Bangkok, Thailand, on Monday. (Photo/Sakchai Lalit/AP)

SINGAPORE (AP) — Many Asian countries are facing a spike in COVID-19 infections after the serious cases than in the delta surge widely-celebrated Lunar New Year holidays, as health officials grapple with the highly-transmissible omicron variant and expectations that numbers will continue to rise in coming weeks. The Lunar New Year, which is China's biggest holiday, was celebrated across Asia on Feb. 1 even as pandemic restrictions in many countries kept crowds and family In Japan, nearly 90,000 new cases nationwide outings to a minimum.

cases that are straining its so-called "zero-COVID" of slowing. Experts say the infections are now policy. On Monday, the city reported a new high of 614 local infections.

days. We consider this as some effects after the holdose of the coronavirus vaccine. iday events and clusters," told reporters on Monday Local outbreak numbers are similarly rising in In-Edwin Tsui, an official with the Centre for Health Protection.

we can still contain the disease.'

Hong Kong currently requires all cases to be hospitalized. On Monday, authorities announced that close have also climbed to 57, almost four times the rate contacts of infected persons will be allowed to isolate a week ago. at home, starting from Tuesday. Those who test positive while in home isolation will be transferred to a



Residents line up to get tested for the coronavirus have started to ease measured despite spikes in at a temporary testing center for COVID-19 in daily infections."

Hong Kong on Monday. (Photo/Vincent Yu/AP) Hong Kong has aligned itself with China's "zero-COVID" policy that aims to totally stamp out outbreaks, even as many other countries change their approach to living with the virus. Authorities look to impose lockdowns on residential buildings wherever clusters of infections are identified, and have banned public dining after 6 p.m.

In Singapore, a dramatic rise in coronavirus infections followed last week's holiday, with cases tripling to 13,000 on Friday. Daily infections have since dipped to 7,752 on Sunday, amid restrictions that include limited capacity for restaurants and capping the number of unique visitors to each household.

Singapore has reported over 100,000 cases spanning the last month, although over 99% of the cases are mild or asymptomatic.

COVID-19 cases are rising but there are fewer

Across Asia, authorities are confronting a similar pattern as the more easily transmissible omicron becomes dominant, even as health officials in several countries report that omicron surges are not driving hospitalizations or deaths as high as the previous delta variant.

were reported on Sunday, including 17,526 in To-Hong Kong's authorities are confronting record kyo, as local omicron infections showed no signs spreading to vulnerable elderly people who are beginning to fill more hospital beds. Less than 5% "We expect there will be more cases coming in a few of the country's population has received their third

donesia, edging toward the caseloads that marked the height of last year's devastating delta outbreak. "With our current containment measures, we hope On Jan. 6, Indonesia recorded 533 new COVID-19 cases and seven deaths. A month later on Sunday, the daily figure had soared to 36,057. Daily deaths

In Thailand, officials on Monday reported more than 10,000 daily cases for the third day in a row, but the Department of Disease Control said that the number of severely ill patients was dropping, while the fatality rate has remained stable. Department chief Opas Karnkawinpong said that Thailand might consider relaxing some of the country's pandemic restrictions, as the omicron variant seemed to be less severe.

"The global situation of COVID-19 seems to be moving in the same direction," he was quoted as saying in The Bangkok Post. "Many countries



Students wearing face masks as precaution against the coronavirus wait during class at the Nurul Fattah Islamic Boarding School in Tangerang, Indonesia, on Monday. (Photo/Tatan Syuflana/AP)

Officials warn that wave of infections will continue In other countries where the Lunar New Year is a major holiday, governments are likewise on high alert ahead of expectations that omicron will continue to stoke higher infections.

New cases in Malaysia have been hovering higher, with the health ministry reporting 11,034 on Monday. The rise came after the Lunar New Year when many Malaysians travel, but health officials said most of the cases were asymptomatic or have light symptoms. Top health official Noor Hisham Abdullah has warned that daily cases could double by the end of March and urged Malaysians to take their booster dose. Some 98% of adults in the country have completed their vaccination and half of them have received their third jab.

In South Korea, health experts warn that the country may see daily jumps of 130,000 or 170,000 by late February. The country reported 38,691 new cases of the virus, a nine-fold increase from the levels seen in mid-January, when omicron became



South Korean prospective soldiers wearing face masks have their blood taken during a medical checkup at the Seoul office of the Military Manpower Administration in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday. (Ahn Young-joon/AP)

In Vietnam, authorities have warned that infections may rise after the popular new year holiday. Vietnam reported 192 cases of the omicron variant in the past month, with most of those showing only mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. With low hospitalization and death rates. Vietnam had previously moved toward resuming most social activities.

The Philippines has moved to ease coronavirus restrictions and open its doors to tourists as outbreak numbers eased to about 8,300 on Sunday, down from a peak of 39,000 in mid-January.

But social distancing restrictions remain in place amid fears of an outbreak ahead of the country's presidential and general elections May 9. Campaigning begins on Tuesday, with a ban in place on handshakes, kissing, hugging and large crowds. In mainland China, new local infections continue to fluctuate, falling as low as nine on Friday, but rising again to 45 on Monday, most of them in the southern region of Guangxi.



been tightly contained. Chinese authorities have imposed strict local lock downs and mass testing, as the country kicked off the Beijing Winter Olympics last week.

Meanwhile, the far-flung Pacific archipelago nation of Tonga has been trying to contain its first outbreak since the start of the global pandemic, which might have been brought in with the delivery of emergency medical supplies and water after last month's volcanic eruption and tsunami.

Two Tongan men who worked handling shipments tested positive last week. Over the weekend, Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni said two more positive cases were confirmed, bringing the total of active cases to seven. (Courtesy npr.org)

Japan Is Ramping Up COVID-19 Restrictions As Omicron Cases Surge

TOKYO — Restaurants and bars will close early in Tokyo and a dozen other areas across Japan beginning Friday as the country widens COVID-19 restrictions due to the omicron variant causing cases to surge to new highs in metropolitan areas.

The restraint, which is something of a pre-state of emergency, is the first since September and is scheduled to last through Feb. 13. With three other prefectures — Okinawa, Hiroshima and Yamaguchi — under similar measures since early January, the state of restraint now covers 16 areas, or onethird, of the country.

While many Japanese adults are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, few have gotten a booster shot, which has been a vital protection from the highly contagious omicron variant of the corona-



COMMUNITY

against the spread of the coronavirus walk on a street lined with bars and restaurants in Tokvo on Jan. 19, 2022. (Photo/Koji Sasahara/AP File Photo)

The Health Ministry on Friday approved Pfizer vaccinations for children aged 5-11, who are increasingly vulnerable to infection. Throughout the pandemic, Japan has resisted the

use of lockdowns to limit the spread of the virus and has focused on requiring eateries to close early and not serve alcohol, and on urging the public to wear masks and practice social distancing, as the government seeks to minimize damage to the economy. Under the latest measure, most eateries are asked to close by 8 or 9 p.m., while large events can allow full capacity if they have anti-virus plans. In Tokyo, certified eateries that stop serving alcohol can stay open until 9 p.m. while those serving alcohol must close an hour earlier. Mitsuru Saga. the manager of a Japanese-style "izakaya" restaurant in downtown Tokyo, said he chose to serve alcohol and close at 8 p.m. despite receiving less compensation from the government.

"We cannot make business without serving alcohol," Saga said in an interview with Nippon Television "It seems only eateries are targeted for restraints."



Japan briefly eased November but quick-ly reversed them to ban most foreign entrants when the omi-

cron variant began spreading in other countries. Japan says it will stick to the stringent border policy through end of February as the country tries to reinforce medical systems and treatment. The tough border controls have triggered criticism from foreign students and scholars who say the measures are not scientific.

Some experts question the effectiveness of placing restraints only on eateries, noting that infections in the three prefectures that have already been subjected to the measures for nearly two weeks show no signs of slowing.

Tokyo logged 8,638 new cases of coronavirus infection Thursday, exceeding the previous record of 7,377 set the day before.

At a Tokyo metropolitan government task force meeting, experts sounded the alarm at the fastpaced upsurge led by omicron. Norio Ohmagari, Director of the Disease Control and Prevention Center of National Center for Global Health and an advisor to the Tokyo metropolitan government panel, said Tokyo's daily new cases may exceed 18,000 within a week if the increase continues at the current pace.

Surging infections have already begun to paralyze hospitals, schools and other sectors in some areas.



The ministry has trimmed the required self-isolation period from 14 days to 10 for those who come into close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, and to seven days for essential workers if they test negative.

While about 80% of Japanese have received their first two vaccine doses, the rollout of booster shots has been slow and has reached only 1.4 % of the population so far. (Courtesy npg.org)



How To Handle Quarantining, Testing, And Masking After Covid-19 Exposure

Omicron Is Exploding. What To Do If You're Exposed

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



People line up for a Covid-19 test in Los Angeles on January 5, 2022, as the omicron variant continues to spread at a blistering pace. (Frederic J. Brown/AFP/Getty Images)

If you find out you've been exposed to someone who's tested positive for Covid-19, a rush of questions might come to mind: Do I have to quarantine? What if I can't find a good mask or a test? Even if I test negative, can I be certain that I'm not contagious? With omicron causing record-shattering case growth over the past few weeks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidelines about what to do after exposure have shifted, and they remain frustratingly unclear. The last thing anyone wants to do when they've just learned they've been exposed is to dig through a bunch of confusing guidelines.

Yet we all need to know what to do in this situation. Even if you're not worried about omicron's effects on you personally - maybe because it appears to be milder, because you're in a low-risk group, or because you think Covid-19 is inescapable at this point — it's crucial to do all you reasonably can to avoid spreading it to others right now, especially anyone who might be elderly, immunocompromised, or unvaccinated. Testing capacity is currently very strained and some hospitals are already running out of staffing and beds. It's really important that we not contribute to that crunch. Experts aren't suggesting Americans have to go back to a March 2020-style lockdown. Unlike at the start of the pandemic, we have vaccines and boosters that are highly effective at preventing serious illness and death. But they are advising people to be thoughtful about risk right now — both in terms of the precautions we take to avoid being exposed to omicron, and in terms of what we do if we have been exposed.

There's a spectrum of views here from three epidemiologists; within this spectrum, you can decide where you fall depending on your own risk calculus, the people you come in contact with, and the community spread in your area.

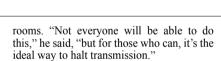


1) I just found out I've been exposed to someone who tested positive - what's the first thing I should do? There's broad unanimity on this front.

Don't run to get tested. And don't panic," said David Dowdy, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. If you spent time indoors with someone and then find out they've tested positive, it's possible you might get Covid-19 from the exposure, but you won't test positive immediately after it. So if it's only been a day or two since your exposure, the thing to focus on first is not testing, but the possibility of needing to quarantine — and the certainty of needing a good mask. If you're unvaccinated, or are vaccinated with two doses but not yet boosted, you should quarantine for five days and continue to wear a mask around others for five more days after that. If you're boosted, then you don't need to quarantine, according to the CDC guidelines. But you should still wear a mask around others for 10 days after the exposure.



And yes, "wear a mask around others" includes others in your home — like children or roommates - if possible. Dowdy acknowledged that's hard to do, but said his family did it when one of them recently had Covid-19: They opened the windows in the house, wore N95s, and slept in different



All that said, the CDC guidance has also led to other questions. 2) The CDC says I don't need to quaran-

tine if I'm vaccinated and boosted. Is that really sound guidance?

When I asked the epidemiologists whether they agreed with the CDC on this point, they expressed a range of opinion.

"I think this is a safe bet. Boosters prevent infection from omicron very well," Katelvn Jetelina, an infectious diseases epidemiologist with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, told me by email. In other words, if you're boosted, the chance that you'll spread the omicron variant is significantly lowered because there's a lower chance of you becoming infected with it in the first place.



Dowdy, for his part, said of the CDC guidance, "I think this is reasonable, depending on the level of transmission in your area. If you're in the midst of a hot spot, it probably makes sense to quarantine even if you are vaccinated. But if transmission levels are low, this is reasonable advice."

He added that it's important to consider a couple of other factors in making your personal decision: first, whether you frequently come into contact with other people who could get really sick if they got infected, and second, if it's been more than a few months since your last vaccine dose. "In either of these cases, it makes sense to quarantine, even if you are vaccinated," he said.

Tara Smith, an epidemiologist at Kent State University, told me she doesn't think we have enough data about omicron to know if the CDC's advice is solid. "If you can quar-



3) When should I take a test? What should I do if I have difficulty getting a test?

The best time to get tested seems to be about five days after exposure (or at any time after a fever develops). Just remember that tests - especially rapid antigen tests - are not retailers like WellBefore, Bona Fide Masks. foolproof. "Testing negative doesn't mean you can go mask-free. You should still mask around others in public" until it's been 10 days since the exposure, Smith said. "Even with a negative test, if you have exposure and symptoms, it's best to assume you are

Covid-positive and act as such." What about if you can't get access to a test? In that case, Dowdy said, "The best thing to do is continue quarantine for 10 days after any exposure. If you haven't developed symptoms within 10 days, it's reasonable to end quarantine at that time.

With all of this, he said, there is a balance of risks and benefits — as well as personal circumstances — that must be assessed on an individual level. "What I'm describing is the ideal situation — for example, someone who can easily quarantine and continue working at home," he said. "But most of us don't live in those ideal situations, and it's important for all of us to be understanding of others who may not have the same support systems



Jetelina agrees that if you have difficulty getting a test, you should assume that you are positive and isolate until you can get your hands on one. "If you're still asymptomatic after five days (and still can't get a test), you can stop isolation as long as you can wear a good mask for five more days," she wrote, noting N95s are the best option.

4) The CDC says I'm supposed to mask up for 10 days after exposure. Is that really necessary?

Both Jetelina and Smith were crystal-clear on this one: Yes!

'This is incredibly important as you can still be infectious after five days," Jetelina said. We're still learning about the transmission dynamics of omicron, and although many people will probably stop being infectious before 10 days have passed, "wearing a mask during that period will help to reduce any chance of spreading the virus," Smith explained. Dowdy noted that compared to other measures that could be enacted (like lockdowns), wearing a mask in public places is arguably not the hardest thing to do. So wearing a mask for 10 days is "the ideal," he said, though he reemphasized the caveat that "we have to be understanding of people for

whom this might not be possible 5) What kind of mask should I wear? What should I do if I can't get an N95? The best bet is an N95, KN95 masks work

great, too. Even though these masks are in high demand right now, you can still order them from mass suppliers like Walmart or Amazon, or from

DemeTECH, and N95 Mask Co. (There may be a shipping lag for some of these masks, so even if you haven't been exposed, it's a good idea to stock up now so you'll be prepared.) "Remember that the fit of the mask is just as important as the type of mask," Dowdy said. Wearing an N95 without fitting it to your face is defeating the purpose of wearing an N95 in the first place.

If you can't get an N95 or a KN95, the nextbest option is a tight-fitting surgical mask. Adding a cloth mask on top of your surgical mask will further help eliminate gaps around your face. If you've been exposed or tested positive, do not rely on a cloth mask alone to prevent you from spreading the virus to



6) If I get a negative rapid test result, can I trust the result enough to go see, say, my elderly parents?

It's important to remember that rapid tests aren't perfect — and even with more sensitive tests like PCR, being negative one day doesn't mean you won't be positive in another day or two.

"If you have symptoms or a close contact [with an infected person], I would not trust one negative test," Jetelina said, adding that it's a good idea to retest at least 24 hours lat-

Likewise, Smith said, "I would still try to mask around others if you have been exposed, when possible, especially if individuals you may spend time with are in high-risk

She noted that there have been some reports recently that sampling the nose isn't sensitive enough early on to detect omicron infection, and that samples from the throat or saliva may detect it earlier. (Note that these reports are not yet peer-reviewed.) However, we don't vet know if those early throat or saliva samples mean infected individuals are already spreading virus to others. According to Dowdy, it's "really a judgment call at this point" whether you should feel comfortable visiting parents after one negative rapid test result. You have to consider your level of exposure, your parents' health, how long and in what setting you'll be seeing each other, and how both you and your parents weigh the value of seeing each other against the risk of them getting sick

If your parents are relatively healthy and you haven't been closely exposed (and are feeling well), it's probably reasonable to trust that negative test result," he said. "If your parents are much more frail and you're living with someone who has Covid in your house, I'd wait." (Vox.com)