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New coronavirus cases fall in China, but WHO concerned by global spread



Inside C2

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Factbox: Latest on coronavirus spreading in China and beyond



A man wearing face mask jogs near the National Centre for the Performing Arts, following an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the country, in Beijing, China February 22, 2020. REUTERS/Stringer NO RESALES. NO ARCHIVES.

(Reuters) - China reported a sharp decrease in new deaths and cases of the coronavirus on Saturday but a doubling of infections in South Korea and 10 new cases in Iran added to unease about its rapid spread and global reach.

** China has reported a total of 75,569 cases of the disease caused by the virus, known as COVID-19, including 2,239 deaths.

** Mainland China had 397 new confirmed cases on Friday, down from 889 a day earlier, but only 31 cases were outside of the virus epicenter of Hubei province, the lowest number since the National Health Commission started compiling nationwide data a month ago.

** The World Health Organization (WHO) is concerned about the number of cases with no clear epidemiological link, although the total number of cases outside China remains relatively small, its director general said on Saturday.

** Outside China, there have been more than 1,200 cases in 26 countries, the WHO said. That includes one confirmed case on the African continent, in Egypt.

** South Korea said on Saturday its number of new cases had doubled to 433, and suggested the tally could rise as more than 1,000 people who attended a church at the center of the outbreak reported flu-like symptoms. Two people have died in the current outbreak.

** Ten new cases have been detected in Iran, one of whom has died, the health ministry said on Saturday. This brings the total number of cases in the country to 28, with five people having died.

** Two people have died in Italy and another 51 have been infected as an outbreak spreads in the country's industrious north, forcing authorities to ban public events and companies to tell workers in affected areas to stay at home.

** China's Gansu province has lowered its emergency response measures, its health commission said on Friday, the first in the country to do so.

** In Hong Kong, citizens have set up a surgical face mask factory to ease supplies and deter price gouging.

** The International Monetary Fund predicted on Saturday the outbreak would lower China's growth this year to 5.6% and shave 0.1 percentage points from global growth.

** Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said on Saturday the yen's recent declines were largely driven by a strong dollar, shrugging off some market views that the virus epidemic is triggering an outflow of funds from Asia.

** Japan's factory activity suffered its steepest contraction in seven years in February, reinforcing the risk of a recession in the world's third-largest economy.

** Japanese automakers on Friday delayed the restart of plants near the outbreak's epicenter in China, raising the risk of fur-

ther supply disruptions.

** Two elderly passengers from aboard a cruise ship moored near Tokyo died, as hundreds more disembarked after two weeks in quarantine.

** Some 30 British passengers arrived back home on Saturday after spending more than two weeks stuck on a quarantined cruise ship in a Japanese port.

** Two Australians evacuated from the cruise ship have tested positive after returning to their home country, whose prime minister plans to extend a ban on arrivals from mainland China into a fourth week.

** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control issued a low-level travel advisory for Japan.

** Tokyo Metropolitan Government said it would either cancel or postpone major indoor events it has sponsored for the next three weeks.

** China's banking sector may face a surge of non-performing loans in 2020 if the virus doesn't peak until April.

** Hubei has established a 50 billion yuan (\$7.1 billion) special financing vehicle to help the local economy.

** Beijing's containment measures look set to delay the rollout of 5G as tenders for six big projects have been postponed since Jan.31.



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New coronavirus cases fall in China, but WHO concerned by global spread

BEIJING (Reuters) - China reported a sharp fall in new deaths and cases of the coronavirus on Saturday, but world health officials warned it was too early to make predictions about the outbreak as new infections continued to rise in other countries.

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The World Health Organization welcomed the reported decline in new Chinese cases, but said it was concerned about the number of new infections elsewhere with no clear link to China such as travel history or contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, as the disease caused by the virus is known.

"Our biggest concern continues to be the potential for COVID-19 to spread in countries with weaker health systems," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

The U.N. agency is calling for \$675 million to support most vulnerable countries, he said, adding 13 countries in Africa are seen as a priority because of their links to China.

In total, China has reported 75,569 cases to the WHO,



People wearing face masks play table tennis at a park, following an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the country, in Beijing, China February 21, 2020. REUTERS/Stringer

and 2,239 deaths, Tedros said. According to available data, the disease remains mild in 80% of patients, and severe or critical in 20%. The virus has been fatal in 2% of reported cases.

The disease has spread to some 26 countries and territories outside mainland China, killing more than a dozen people, according to a Reuters tally.

'BLUE WHALE' ARRIVES

The latest Chinese figures showed only 31 of the new cases on Friday were outside of the virus epicenter of Hubei province, the lowest number since the National Health Commission started compiling nationwide data a month ago.

People wearing face masks play table tennis at a park, following an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the country, in Beijing, China February

21, 2020. REUTERS/Stringer But new, albeit isolated findings about the coronavirus could complicate efforts to thwart it, including the Hubei government's announcement on Saturday that an elderly man took 27 days to show symptoms after infection, almost twice the presumed 14-day incubation period.

休斯頓企業界人士舉辦招待酒會 支持州長阿博特領導德克薩斯州

【美南新聞記者泉深報導】2月19日晚上，大休斯頓地區企業家 LAYNE & JONATHAN FRELS, DARIN HALL, MARIE LOUISE & DAVID KINDER, KAREN & RAMON MANNING, MACY & HON. MAYES, MIDDLETON STEPHANIE, STEVEN MITZNER, ANAT & JAY ZEIDMAN, TRICIA & LEE ZEIBEN, ALLEN LEE 醫學博士等在休斯頓市中心 萬豪酒店 (Marriott Marquis Houston) 舉行招待酒會，支持州長格雷格·阿博特領導德克薩斯州，贊揚他從2015年1月上任川長至今，為德克薩斯州做出了傑出貢獻，將原來的經濟增長全美排名第二變成了全美排名第一。休斯頓金融界、企業界、商業界近兩百人出席。

德州是美國本土最大的州，在美國經濟中占重要地位，近年被譽為美經濟復蘇的“領頭羊”。德州經濟總量僅次於加州，在美國排名第二，經濟總量相當於整個加拿大經濟總量。在能源、石化、農業、電子、航天、生物醫藥等產業均較發達。《財富》500強企業中有57家在德州落戶。在過去的60年裏，德州是整個美國人口增長最快的州之一，從1950年至今，人口從780萬人增長到2900萬人。1995年，德州的人口超過了紐約州，僅次於加州的3950萬人，成為美國人口第2大州。

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Editor's Choice



Shared bicycles and barricades block the way in Wuhan, the epicentre of the novel coronavirus outbreak, Hubei province, China February 22, 2020. REUTERS/Stringer CHINA OUT.



People wearing face masks walk near the National Centre for the Performing Arts, following an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the country, in Beijing



A boarded-up entrance to a residential compound is seen in Wuhan, the epicentre of the novel coronavirus outbreak, Hubei province, China February 22, 2020. REUTERS/Stringer CHINA OUT.



Men wearing face masks sit by the road, following an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the country, in Beijing's central business district



A woman wearing a face mask leaves the hospital of Codogno amid a coronavirus outbreak in northern Italy, in Codogno, Italy, February 22, 2020. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



Codogno's train station, which was closed by authorities blocking public transport due to a coronavirus outbreak, is seen empty in Codogno, Italy, February 22, 2020. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



Passengers who have been under quarantine on a coronavirus-stricken cruise ship off the coast of Japan, leave RAF Boscombe Down in Amesbury



Passengers who have been under quarantine on a coronavirus-stricken cruise ship off the coast of Japan, arrive at RAF Boscombe Down in Amesbury

BEIJING, Feb. 20 (Xinhua) -- China's daily number of newly cured and discharged novel coronavirus patients has surpassed that of new confirmed infections for a second consecutive day, according to the National Health Commission Thursday.

Wednesday saw 1,779 people walk out of hospital after recovery, much higher than the number of the same day's new confirmed infections, which was 394, showed figures from the commission. A total of 16,155 patients infected with the novel coronavirus had been discharged from hospital after recovery by the end of Wednesday, according to the commission.



Wednesday's number of new infections reported from China's 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps was 394, sharply down from 1,749 on Tuesday.



The daily number of new cases has fallen for three consecutive days since Monday when it dropped to 1,886, for the first time under 2,000 since Jan. 31. Hubei, the epicenter province of the outbreak, reported 349 new cases on Wednesday, sharply down from 1,693 of



The recovered patients with severe novel coronavirus pneumonia (NCP) pose for photos with medical staff at the west campus of Wuhan Union Hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, Feb. 19, 2020. (Xinhua/Cai Yang)

Update: China's Newly Recovered Coronavirus Patients Continue To Outnumber New Infections

OVERVIEW

China's newly cured coronavirus patients continued to outnumber new infections for a second consecutive day. Hubei, the epicenter province of the outbreak, reported 349 new cases on Wednesday, sharply down from 1,693 of a day earlier.

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

a day earlier.

China's daily number of new infections outside Hubei has dropped for 16 consecutive days. A total of 45 new confirmed cases were reported outside Hubei Wednesday, down from 890 on Feb. 3, according to the commission.

Related Chinese authorities stress protecting, caring for medical workers



Medical workers check patients' information at Jiangxia temporary hospital that mainly adopt Traditional Chinese medicines (TCM) to treat the

patients in Wuhan, capital city of central China's Hubei Province, Feb. 14, 2020. (Xinhua/Cheng Min)

BEIJING, Feb. 20 (Xinhua) -- Chinese authorities Thursday stressed better protecting and caring for medical workers and prompt use of effective drugs to cure patients infected with the novel coronavirus.

Measures that can improve the working conditions of medical workers and ensure their physical and psychological health should be well implemented, according to a high-level meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

The meeting of the leading group of the CPC Central Committee on the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus outbreak, which is headed by Li, also demanded efforts to ensure the supply

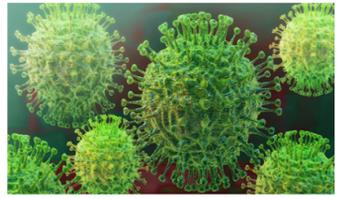
of protective gear for frontline medical workers and better benefits such as allowances for them.



The meeting stressed putting effective drugs into wider clinical use to improve treatments and rolling out measures to encourage recovered patients to donate their plasma.

The coordination between epidemic control and economic and social development should be strengthened, with more targeted and precise prevention measures taken to facilitate the resumption of busi-

ness operation, according to the meeting. The meeting also asked the joint prevention and control mechanism of the State Council to better work with Hubei Province and the city of Wuhan, which are at the center of the outbreak, to ensure the supply of life necessities for the residents.



Wang Huning, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and deputy head of the leading group, attended the meeting. (Courtesy http://www.xinhuanet.com/english)



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