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U.S. coronavirus death toll rises; New York, Los Angeles region confirm new cases



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. coronavirus cases surpass 100,000 as doctors cope with medical shortages



An empty street is seen near Chinatown during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Manhattan, New York City, U.S., March 27, 2020. Picture taken March 27, 2020. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon

NEW YORK, March 28 (Reuters) - The sum of known coronavirus U.S. cases soared well past 100,000, with more than 1,600 dead, as weary doctors and nurses coping with shortages resorted to extremes ranging from hiding scarce medical supplies to buying them on the black market.

American healthcare workers in the trenches of the pandemic appealed on Friday for more protective gear and equipment to treat a surge in patients that is already pushing hospitals to their limits in virus hot spots such as New York City, New Orleans and Detroit.

"We are scared," said Dr. Arabia Mollette of Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in New York City's Brooklyn borough. "We're trying to fight for everyone else's life, but we also fight for our lives as well, because we're also at the highest risk of exposure."

RELATED COVERAGE

Coronavirus outbreak is stretching New York's ambulance service to breaking point

Doctors are especially concerned about a shortage of ventilators, machines that help patients breathe and are widely needed for those suffering from COVID-19, the pneumonia-like respiratory ailment caused by the highly contagious novel coronavirus.

Hospitals have also sounded the alarm about scarcities of

drugs, oxygen tanks and trained staff.

The number of confirmed U.S. infections rose by about 18,000 on Friday, the highest jump in a single day, to more than 103,000. The United States has led the world in coronavirus cases since its count of known infections eclipsed those of China and Italy on Thursday.

With at least 1,634 lives lost as of Friday night - also a record daily increase - the United States ranked sixth in national death tolls from the pandemic, according to a Reuters tabulation of official data.

As shortages of key medical supplies abounded, desperate physicians and nurses were forced to take matters into their own hands.

New York-area doctors say they have had to recycle some protective gear, or even resort to bootleg suppliers.

Dr. Alexander Salerno of Salerno Medical Associates in northern New Jersey described going through a "broker" to pay \$17,000 for masks and other protective equipment that should have cost about \$2,500, and picking them up at an abandoned warehouse.

An empty street is seen near Chinatown during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Manhattan, New York City, U.S., March 27, 2020. Picture taken March 27, 2020. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon

"You don't get any names. You get just phone numbers to

text," Salerno said. "And so you agree to a term. You wire the money to a bank account. They give you a time and an address to come to."

Nurses at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York said they were locking away or hiding N-95 respirator masks, surgical masks and other supplies that are prone to pilfering if left unattended. "Masks disappear," nurse Diana Torres said. "We hide it all in drawers in front of the nurses' station."

One nurse at Westchester Medical Center, in the suburbs of the city, said colleagues have begun absconding with scarce supplies without asking, prompting better-stocked teams to lock masks, gloves and gowns in drawers and closets.

An emergency room doctor in Michigan, an emerging epicenter of the pandemic, said he was wearing one paper face mask for an entire shift due to a shortage and that hospitals in the Detroit area would soon run out of ventilators.

"We have hospital systems here in the Detroit area in Michigan who are getting to the end of their supply of ventilators and have to start telling families that they can't save their loved ones because they don't have enough equipment," the physician, Dr. Rob Davidson, said in a video posted on Twitter.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday invoked emergency powers to require General Motors Co GM.N to start building ventilators after he accused the largest U.S. automaker of "wasting time" during negotiations.



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China readies stimulus measures as local virus cases dwindle

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - China plans stronger steps to revive an economy hit by coronavirus, as the nation on Saturday reported no new locally transmitted infections for the previous day.

A street blocked by barricades is seen in Wuhan in Hubei province, the epicentre of China's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. The city is ending a two month long lockdown by allowing cars to enter, though it still bars them from exiting. March 27, 2020. REUTERS/Aly Song

The ruling Communist Party's Politburo said on Friday it would step up macroeconomic policy adjustments and pursue more proactive fiscal policy, state media reported. With the world's second-biggest economy expected to shrink for the first time in four decades this quarter, China is set to unleash hundreds of billions of dollars in stimulus.

The Politburo called for expanding the budget deficit, issuing more local and national bonds, guiding interest rates lower, delaying loan repayments, reducing supply-chain bottlenecks and boosting consumption.

"We expect government ministries to roll out more tangible measures in the coming weeks as this Politburo meeting gave them no choice but to do more," Goldman Sachs analysts said.

China's Wuhan, where the coronavirus emerged, begins to lift its lockdown

Shellshocked Spain reports record 832 new coronavirus deaths

See more stories

The Politburo did not elaborate on plans for the central government to issue special treasury bonds, which would be the first such issuance since 2007. China should issue at least 2 trillion yuan (\$282 billion) of such bonds to aid the economy, Morgan Stanley Chief China Economist Robin Xing said.



A street blocked by barricades is seen in Wuhan in Hubei province, the epicentre of China's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. The city is ending a two month long lockdown by allowing cars to enter, though it still bars them from exiting. March 27, 2020. REUTERS/Aly

Restrictions on foreigners entering the country went into effect on Saturday, as China reported no new locally transmitted infections and a small drop in so-called imported cases.

Airlines have been ordered to sharply cut international flights from Sunday.

Beijing has in recent days emphasized the risk posed by imported virus cases after widespread lockdowns within China helped to sharply reduce domestic transmissions.

The Politburo said it would shift its focus to prevent more imported cases and a rebound

in locally transmitted infections.

"We must be extremely vigilant and cautious, and we must prevent the post-epidemic relaxation from coming too soon, leading to the loss of all our achievements," the Communist Party's official People's Daily newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

The authorities also reversed planned reopenings of movie theaters, the state-owned China Securities Journal reported, citing sources.

REBOOTING

With local transmission of the virus basically under control, China shifts focus toward rebooting paused businesses.

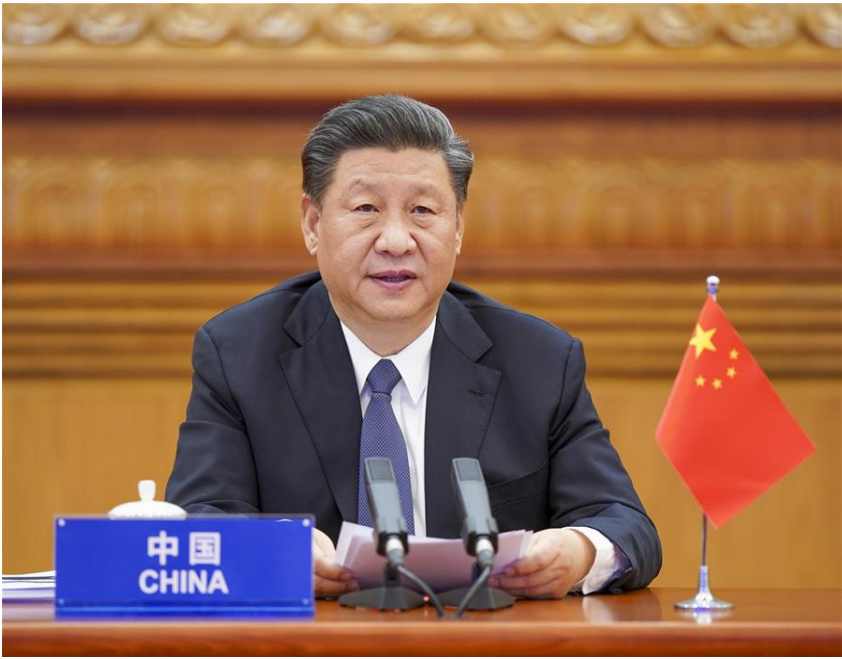
China's Ministry of Commerce said on Saturday nearly all of the country's major supermarkets, convenience stores, shopping malls and farm produce retail markets have reopened, while all e-commerce platforms are operating.

Stay home!

BUSINESS

Work safe!

China's President Xi Calls For "All-Out Global War" To Fight COVID-19 At G20 Summit



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the G20 Extraordinary Virtual Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 via video link in Beijing, capital of China, March 26, 2020. (Xinhua/Li Xueren)

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

BEIJING, March 26 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping Thursday called for a resolute all-out global war against the COVID-19 outbreak as leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) convened an extraordinary summit to coordinate multilateral response to the pandemic.

"It is imperative for the international community to strengthen confidence, act with unity and work together in a collective response," Xi addressed the summit via video link in Beijing. Calling major infectious disease the enemy of all, Xi said the international community must comprehensively step up international cooperation and foster greater synergy so that humanity as one could win the battle against the COVID-19.

The summit came as the global

death toll from the COVID-19, an illness caused by novel coronavirus, has climbed over 21,000 and the number of infections has surpassed 480,000 as of Thursday, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University.

This is the first time for the leaders of the world's 20 major economies to hold a summit online since the mechanism, which used to only gather finance ministers and central bankers, was elevated to be the world's premier platform for international economic cooperation in 2008.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH CONFIRMED CASES



Stressing the outbreak is spreading worldwide and the situation is disturbing and unsettling, Xi called on countries to move swiftly to stem the spread of the virus.

He proposed that a G20 health ministers' meeting be convened as quick as possible to improve information sharing, strengthen cooperation on drugs, vaccines and epidemic control, and cut off cross-border infections.

Xi also proposed a G20 COVID-19 assistance initiative for better information sharing and policy and action coordination with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China will be more than ready to share its good practices and provide assistance in its capacity to countries hit by the growing outbreak, he said.

Xi called on countries to make a collective response for control and treatment at the international level.

China has set up its online COVID-19 knowledge center that is open to all countries, said Xi.



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the G20 Extraordinary Virtual Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 via video link in Beijing, capital of China, March 26, 2020. (Xinhua/Pang Xinglei)

He said it is imperative that countries pool their strengths and speed up research and development of drugs, vac-

cines and testing capabilities in the hope to achieve early breakthrough to the benefit of all.

The summit was chaired by Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The kingdom, which holds the presidency of the G20 this year, said it organized the extraordinary meeting to advance global efforts to tackle the pandemic and its economic implications.

The leaders of G20 members were joined by their counterparts from some invited countries, including Spain, Jordan, Singapore and Switzerland, as well as the United Nations, the World Bank and other international organizations, and the chairing states of some regional organizations.

Comprising 19 countries plus the European Union, the G20 members account for about two thirds of the entire human population and some 86 percent of the gross world product. (Courtesy <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english>)

Related

Xi says China Wants To Contribute To A Stable World Economy

BEIJING, March 26 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping said Thursday that China will contribute to a stable world economy by continuing to advance reform and opening-up, widen market access, improve the business environment and expand imports and outbound investment.



Xi made the remarks in Beijing while attending the G20 Extraordinary Virtual Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 via video link.

China will increase its supply of active pharmaceutical ingredients, daily necessities, and anti-epidemic and other supplies to the international market, Xi told the summit.

China will also continue to pursue a proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy, he said. (Courtesy <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english>)



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Editor's Choice



A worker sprays disinfectant on a street during the movement control order due to the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia March 28, 2020.



Picture shows a special artificial respiration device in an intensive care unit where patients with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) could be treated in Hanau



Rajesh Babu, a police officer, wearing a helmet depicting coronavirus, requests a commuter to stay at home during a 21-day nationwide lockdown to limit the spreading of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Chennai, India, March 28, 2020. REUTERS//P. Ravikumar TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wipes his nose as he holds a news conference on Japan's response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, at his official residence in Tokyo, Japan, March 28, 2020. REUTERS/Issei Kato TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



The showcase of a souvenir-shop displays a protective gear at the famous red-light district "Reeperbahn" during the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Hamburg



A passenger wearing a protective mask arrives at a railway station in Wuhan on the first day inbound train services resumed following the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Wuhan of Hubei province, the epicentre of China's coronavirus outbreak, March 28,



A local priest blesses coffins that have been piling up in a church due to a high number of deaths, before they are taken away by military trucks, as Italy struggles to contain the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Seriate, Italy March 28, 2020. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



A local priest blesses coffins that have been piling up in a church due to a high number of deaths, before they are taken away by military trucks, as Italy struggles to contain the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Seriate, Italy March 28, 2020. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo

The COVID-19 Pandemic That Began In China
Has Sickened Thousands Worldwide

Tracking The Spread In The
U.S. And Around The World



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

COVID-19 GLOBAL SPREAD

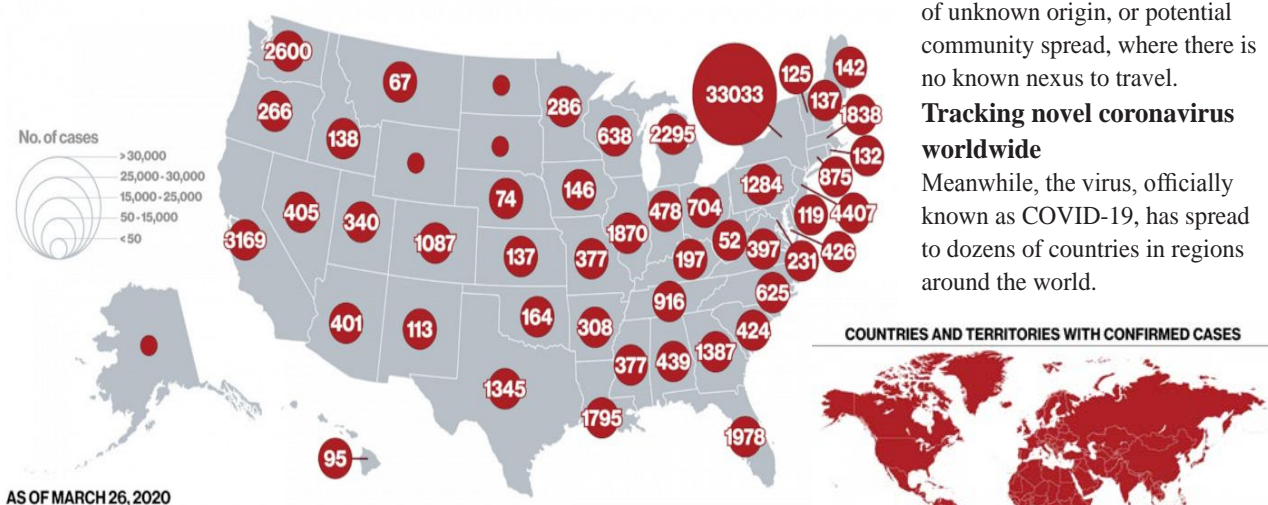
	CONFIRMED CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS
China	81,782	74,181	3,291
Italy	74,386	9,362	7,503
United States	69,197	619	1,046
Spain	56,188	7,015	4,089
Germany	39,502	3,547	222
Iran	29,406	10,457	2,234
France	25,604	3,907	1,333
Switzerland	11,125	131	165
United Kingdom	9,642	142	467
South Korea	9,241	4,144	131

AS OF MARCH 26, 2020
SOURCE: JOHNS HOPKINS CSSE

By last Thursday, the novel coronavirus outbreak in the United States had grown to at least 69,197 cases in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. There are outbreak clusters in New York, Washington State and California, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking reports and confirming them with local health departments.

The number of cases in the U.S. and worldwide is the subject of some debate, as testing has been rolled out unevenly and the criteria for diagnosis (through clinical means or a lab test) has varied from country-to-country.

U.S. CORONAVIRUS CASES



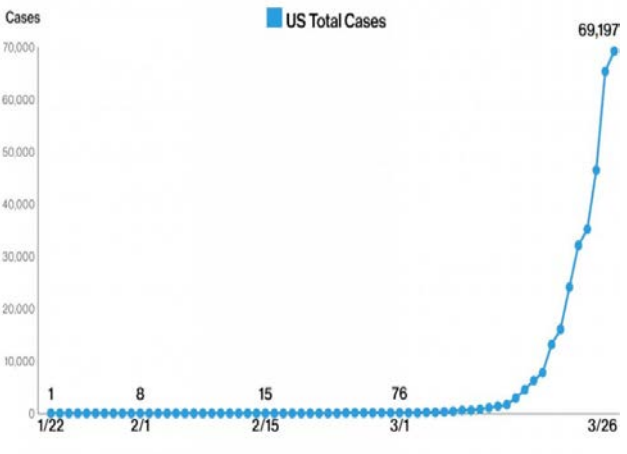
AS OF MARCH 26, 2020
SOURCE: JOHNS HOPKINS CSSE
*Does not include individuals repatriated to the US from Wuhan, China, and from the Diamond Princess cruise ship.

The growing number of lab-confirmed cases in the U.S. at this point still pales in comparison to the seasonal flu, which kills an estimated 12,000 to 61,000 people per year and affects between 9 million and 45 million people in the country, according to the CDC.

Still, experts warn that the COVID-19 shouldn't be downplayed or compared to a bad case of the flu. Instead, the respiratory disease is more akin to severe pneumonia, and in serious cases, patients experiencing difficulty breathing have been hospitalized and put on ventilators.

What is unknown is how deadly coronavirus, which has no treatment at this point, is compared to the flu or how serious its effects are for those who are sickened but do not die.

CUMULATIVE CORONAVIRUS CASES IN U.S.



SOURCE: JOHNS HOPKINS CSSE
*Does not include individuals repatriated to the US from Wuhan, China, and from the Diamond Princess cruise ship.

Of those cases in the U.S. (pictured above), at least 48 were diagnosed in individuals who were repatriated to the United States on government charter flights from Wuhan, China, and

from the Diamond Princess cruise ship. But many others are cases of unknown origin, or potential community spread, where there is no known nexus to travel.

Tracking novel coronavirus worldwide

Meanwhile, the virus, officially known as COVID-19, has spread to dozens of countries in regions around the world.

The novel coronavirus outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in late December, and has since sickened at least 463,751 people worldwide, including at least 69,197 in the United States, and killed thousands, primarily in mainland China, Italy and Spain, according to data from Johns Hopkins. A least 113,769 people have already recovered, JHU said. (Courtesy <https://abcnews.go.com/>)



瑞典华侨留鄂战“疫”记 与故乡同呼吸、共进退

探亲遇突发疫情，旅居瑞典的医学博士王维武主动放弃返回瑞典及赴哈佛大学访学机会，留在家乡湖北咸宁，投身抗“疫”一线。

参与各家医院重症、危重症的会诊，作为专家组成员制定诊疗方案、检查各单位的隔离、消杀、防护措施等是否合规，处理突发事件……紧张而繁忙，成为这位瑞典华侨的“工作日常”。

留守家乡抗“疫”

2009年，王维武被瑞典卡罗琳斯卡医学院录取，毕业后在卡罗琳斯卡医学院附属南方医院做博士后研究。

今年1月20日，王维武从瑞典回到故乡湖北咸宁崇阳县。眼看疫情越来越严重，原本有机会回瑞典的他却选择留在家乡。

“作为一名医学专家，这个时候应当留下来，与故乡人民同呼吸、共进退。”他说，当提出上一线后，老母亲非常担心。

“如果这个病在咸宁大面积蔓延，后果不堪设想，我们小家也不能独善其身。”王维武宽慰母亲，自己曾参与过2003年抗击非典，有经验，会保护好自己。

“众志成城筑堡垒，誓破魑魅迎春晓，人间无疾扰。”王维武在朋友圈写道。1月28日，他请缨加入咸宁市新冠肺炎防控指挥部医疗和专家组团队。

研制中药方剂

作为中国中医科学院、瑞典卡罗琳斯卡医学院中西医双博士后，王维武提出自己的看法。他认为，此次新型冠状病毒起病迅速、传播速度快，符合中医“风性善

行数变”的特点，为风温伏邪致病，非大家所认为的湿温。发病因素单一，病程路线清晰，完全可以用传统中药防治。

在抗击非典后多年积累经验的基础上，王维武研制出预防治疗疫情的统方“肺毒清”。从武汉一位70多岁的确诊老人成为第一个用中药治愈的患者开始，药方造福越来越多的人。

1月31日，经专家组讨论研究，咸宁市在全省率先提出了中医方施药与西药同用的治疗方案，下发各县市参照试行，并着重在嘉鱼、通山、咸安等县区率先推广使用。

“从免疫学角度来看，中医药可以起到‘免疫佐剂’（防与‘免疫平衡剂’（治）的作用。”王维武说，中医药早期“可防

”、中期“可治”、后期“可养”，传染病后期往往有一些后遗症，例如肺部纤维化、肝肾等多脏器损伤，中医药在患者后期康复上也能起到重要作用。

“过去人们总认为中医是‘慢郎中’，不能救急，实际上中医在急救方面的效果也很突出。”他分享了借助针灸对一例危重患者进行急救的故事，该患者在治疗中配合服用“扶正急救汤”，现已行动如常，核酸也转阴了。

冀中医药惠泽世界

旅居瑞典期间，王维武一直致力于研究推广中医药工作。他说，通过多年努力，国外对于中医的认知正越来越清晰，接受度越来越高。

在他看来，中医药国际化要做到科学

有序、有组织、有创新能力，让中医药不但走出国门，而且是以瑰宝的高大形象走向国门。

“中医药要走向世界，首要的是翻译，而翻译的一个最大障碍是标准化。”王维武说，正在与团队着手建设中英双语中医药数据库，将已经标准化的名词术语、诊疗标准、临床路径等在中医药外刊上统一推行，扫清中医药国际化的障碍，这样才能与世界顶尖的科学家联手，对中医药做更深的研究与开发。

当前，新冠肺炎在世界范围蔓延，他期待中医药能更多惠泽世界。“作为具有中西医双背景、在海外留学工作多年的中医人，非常愿意在将来承担更多的重任。”他说。

侨商施乾平的战“疫”转产记 休戚与共 危中存机

从工业打印机领域翘楚到口罩、口罩机生产行当“新兵”，中国侨商会监事长、美国华人企业家联合会会长、德迈国际产业集团有限公司董事长施乾平所带领的团队用30余天完成了口罩、口罩机企业的筹备、量产。

记者17日采访了从农历新年至今几乎没有休息过的施乾平。“1月27日，全球口罩、防护服等防疫物资已几近脱销，但是防疫需求仍有巨大缺口。”施乾平回忆说，他第一时间召开董事会，决定暂时停产其主营的工业打印机项目，协商筹备智能机械公司和医疗器械公司，从北京、上海等地调回骨干力量，开始涉足从未触及过的口罩、口罩机生产领域。

“疫情暴发初期，世界各地的华侨华人快速行动，利用人脉广泛的自身优势，纷纷通过商会、基金会、个人募捐等多种形式捐款捐物。”施乾平说，全球华侨华人与祖籍

国心相印，同舟共济，共克时艰。

施乾平介绍，依靠北京金恒丰科技有限公司20多年在工业打印机领域积累的技术、供应商资源和生产经验，成立了全资子公司德启智能，专攻口罩机制造。“公司调集40位工程师用时七天七夜设计口罩机图纸，2月3日开始进行数字模拟测试，三天后生产测试样机。”2月27日，施乾平公司的第一批口罩机交付使用，预计3月底将达到月产500台。

山东德启智能科技有限公司董事长、口罩机设计师颜常宁介绍，借助20年工业打印机领域的数字模拟技术，技术人员在电脑模拟环境中测试口罩机，提高了接近80%的效率，降低了零件和样机的废品率。

与口罩机生产公司同步建设的还有口罩生产公司。1月28日，德迈集团开始建设10万级无菌净化车间和生产加工车间，第二天就订购了50台高速全自动口罩机。2月3日提

报公司注册手续，2月12日山东华纳医疗器械有限公司正式成立。施乾平说，为了生产口罩，16天准备一家公司，涉足从来没有接触的领域，“胆子也挺大的”。

记者采访当天，一间10万级无菌净化车间和口罩生产线正在组装调试。山东华纳医疗器械有限公司总经理孙光明介绍，3月底，一次性口罩产量将达到日产500万只，可以填补山东医用口罩需求缺口。

除了加速进行口罩及口罩机的生产，保障防疫需求外，施乾平还通过中国华侨公益基金会，先后为抗击疫情捐款120万元人民币。

“决定进入口罩生产行业，初心是为抗击新冠肺炎疫情贡献力量。”施乾平坦言，随着全球疫情蔓延，口罩生产行业已出现商机。“危中见机，可以预见口罩生产或许可以弥补疫情对工业打印机造成的损失。”

德迈集团位于济南市槐荫区山东德迈国

际信息产业园，包含工业打印园、工业数码打印生产车间、国际医疗等。受疫情影响，山东德迈国际信息产业园入驻企业近五成延迟开工，且受上下游产业链、回款、还贷等多种因素影响，企业利润受损。但施乾平相信：“中国经济韧性在加强，疫情的短期影响不会改变中国经济长期向好的趋势。作为企业，有困难，但更要有信心。集团正调动各方资源，力争在防控疫情同时，为园区企业提供‘及时雨’，携手渡过难关。”

施乾平说，转战口罩行业过程中，山东省统战部、各级侨务部门、济南市政府、槐荫区政府为公司提供了政策、资金、用工、原材料等方面的帮助。政府部门帮公司紧急招聘了500名员工，提供了熔喷布的原材料供应商。“疫情中，中国政府部门、企业和民众都很在‘状态’，每个人都在自己的战线上努力战斗，对抗疫情。”

“这次疫情中，中国集中力量办大事，

全国一盘棋的状态体现得淋漓尽致。”施乾平说，面对现在全球疫情暴发的情况，作为侨胞可以理解海外华侨华人、留学生回国“心安”的心情，但是短期内全部回来并不现实。“希望在海外的华侨华人、留学生做好自我防护，关注住在国的相关疫情信息，保护好自己就是对住在国抗疫的最好贡献。”

目前施乾平旗下公司的口罩和口罩机主要还是保障中国国内的需求，未来将根据中国政府的安排为全球抗疫做出应有贡献。施乾平说，作为侨商，公司还将为中国侨商联合会的友好单位提供支持。“抗击新冠肺炎疫情需要全世界共同努力，我们是命运共同体。地球村已形成，无论是疫情还是商贸，全球都在紧密联动。为了人类的健康，全球医疗专家和科学家也应跨国界携手合作。我们期待胜利到来。”