

Shanghai Hangzhou Nanjing Ningbo Qingdao Jinan Wuhan UK

31 January

Dear All

Please find below the update 3 from HOPE.

Kind regards

Daniel

News from HOPE

- 1. Two online seminars on actions to take as the result of the cancellation of IELTS/TOEFL and Travel/Visa advice are scheduled on 3rd February and 5th February respectively for our students; We are planning more after 10th February including inviting some of our partner institutions to participate.
- 2. We are collecting our partner institutions' policy and statement for Chinese students regarding coronavirus, and will send to our students via wechat and email;
- 3. We have a group of key staff already working on daily basis, and all our counsellor will contact our current students individually next week to discuss their application and study plan.

Thank you all for your support and we know we are not fighting alone!



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China extends Spring Festival holiday to contain coronavirus outbreak

Updated: Jan 27,2020 08:54 AM Xinhua

BEIJING — China announced on Jan 27 that the Lunar New Year holiday will be extended to Feb 2 as a measure to contain the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The General Office of the State Council said in an announcement that the measure is taken to effectively reduce mass gatherings, block the spread of the epidemic, and to better safeguard the safety and health of the Chinese people.

The holiday started on Jan 24 and was originally to end on Jan 30.

Universities, primary and middle schools and kindergartens across the country will postpone the opening of the spring semester until further notice.

Employees unable to take leave due to epidemic prevention and control can take deferred holidays in accordance with the labor Law. Their wages and remuneration for the untaken leave should be paid in accordance with relevant policies.

Note from HOPE: most cities like Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou have decided to further extend the holiday to 9 February, back to work on 10 February.



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China to send charter flights overseas to return Hubei residents

By Mo Jingxi | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-01-31 11:23 f yin +

The Chinese government will send charter flights overseas to return people from Hubei province especially residents of Wuhan city, given consideration to the actual difficulties they are facing now abroad, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Friday.

Infections up as travel rush approaches

By WANG XIAODONG, ZHANG YANGFEI in Beijing and PALDEN NYIMA, DAQIONG in Lhasa | China Daily |

Updated: 2020-01-31 04:55 **f y** in **+**



Passeng

ers wearing face masks arrive at the Beijing Railway Station in Beijing on Jan 30, 2020. [Photo by Zou Hong/China Daily]



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Transport authorities say they're ready to control spread of novel coronavirus

As the Lunar New Year holiday nears its end, the number of confirmed cases of people infected by a novel coronavirus has continued to rise rapidly on the Chinese mainland. But transportation authorities say they are prepared to cope with the large number of people who are expected to return to the cities.

As of Wednesday, confirmed mainland cases of the coronavirus had risen to 7,711, with 170 deaths, the National Health Commission said on Thursday morning.

On Wednesday, 1,737 new confirmed cases, 38 deaths and 4,148 suspected cases were reported, the commission said.

Of the total infections, 1,370 patients were in serious condition, while 124 had been cleared and released from hospitals.

The authorities have traced a total of 88,693 people who had close contact with infected people, and 2,364 of those were released from medical observation on Wednesday, the commission reported.

Confirmed infections rose to 10 in Hong Kong, seven in Macao and eight in Taiwan, it said.

Hubei province remains the hardest-hit by the outbreak. It had confirmed 4,586 cases of the novel coronavirus as of Wednesday, the provincial health commission said on Thursday morning.

The number of confirmed cases in Hubei increased by 1,032, and the death toll climbed to 162, up by 37, the commission said. By day's end on Wednesday, 90 patients had been cleared and released from hospitals, while 4,334 were hospitalized, 711 showed serious symptoms and 277 were in critical condition, it said.

In Wuhan, Hubei's capital, 356 new confirmed cases and 25 new deaths were reported on Wednesday, bringing the number of confirmed infections to 2,261 with 129 fatalities in the city.

The Tibet autonomous region reported one confirmed case of the novel coronavirus on Wednesday, the first in the region, according to local authorities. That means all





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provincial-level areas in China have now reported at least one case of the novel coronavirus.

Tibet activated its highest public health alert on Wednesday.

With hundreds of millions of migrant workers across the country expected to return to cities at the end of the Spring Festival holiday, road, railway and air transport authorities say they are ready to provide services to people and to prevent the spread of the coronavirus during travel.

Wu Chungeng, a spokesman for the Ministry of Transport, said at a news conference on Thursday that the ministry will take measures to limit the spread of the disease.

Transportation authorities across China will strictly carry out prevention and control measures, including proper ventilation, sterilization of vehicles, equipping body temperature facilities at long-distance bus and ferry stations and establishing quarantine areas in some highway service areas and passenger ships to accommodate passengers suspected of having the coronavirus, he said.

They will also work with health authorities to take quarantine measures as needed and trace patients' close contacts, he said.

Huang Xin, chief of passenger services at State-owned China Railway, said the company will intensify disease control measures on all trains and in railway stations, including ventilation and sterilization. Passengers will also have to undergo body temperature tests before entering and exiting railway stations, and anyone with a fever will be quarantined.

Zhu Tao, a health official at the Civil Aviation Administration of China, said the authority has maximized air circulation on all the planes and intensified sterilization to reduce the chance of the coronavirus being spread aboard aircraft. In addition, emergency medical equipment including disease prevention and control kits have been provided for all planes.

"We are confident that with these measures we can minimize the spread of the disease through airplanes," he said. "Meanwhile, we also advise passengers to wear masks whenever taking public transportation, including airplanes, to protect themselves and others."

'Everything is good' in Wuhan, says US man amid epidemic

By Li Lei and Zhou Lihua | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-01-31 10:23 f yin +



Stephen C McClure, 64, a US research associate working at Wuhan University's Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (LIESMARS).

I live alone in Wuhan, and everything is good.

I have been working at Wuhan University for nine years, helping students, faculty, and staff polish academic papers on subjects ranging from computer science to electrical engineering, helping authors through the publication process. Before that, I was at George Mason University in the United States; many of my associates were from Wuhan. A visiting professor invited me to work in Wuhan for a year, and after that, I decided to stay longer.



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I first heard about the coronavirus in the last week of December, from the foreign affairs personnel at our lab. At first, it was an unexplained cluster of cases associated with a local market. At the time nobody was certain how it was transmitted, and whether it was animal-to-human or otherwise.

There was not any evidence suggesting it could be passed between humans at the point. However, many of us began taking precautions, such as staying away from crowded places, washing hands, not taking crowed elevators and wearing masks in some cases.

These are the same type of precautions recommended during the cold and flu season. I only began wearing a mask after the lockdown started Jan 23. Right now, I am following the public health recommendations, and staying in my apartment as much as possible. Currently I am trying to figure out if I can work remotely, reading papers at home, even though face-to-face is much more effective. A health hotline has been set up so that foreigners at our lab can get medical help, if necessary. The biggest problem is eating.



Stephen C McClure, 64, is a US research associate working at Wuhan University's Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (LIESMARS). [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]



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I used not to cook because there are so many good places to eat but now all of those restaurants, canteens and shops are locked down. I had no supplies, and my stove was not working. A friend contacted the resident committee for me, and some people came and made sure my stove worked.

I went to the grocery store today, and everything was orderly. There were no shortages; but then again, I was there early and a line was forming at the vegetables.

In this health emergency, it is everybody's responsibility to protect others and ourselves. I do not want to spread the disease and I do not want to catch what other people have. Currently you cannot drive. There is no public transportation. My friends are scattered across Wuhan, and right now, all over China and the world, since it was Spring Festival. The only way to get in contact is by phone and the messaging tools like WeChat and QQ. The social isolation I hope will slow the spread of the coronavirus, but some people are trying to run away from it.

The US government airlifted a group of Americans out of the city. I decided to stay. I have a job here. I have friends here. It is a commitment and a contract. This thing will pass. I really like the street I live on. I like the food. I like hot and dry noodles. I like the Wuchang fish. I like the atmosphere in Wuhan, and people are down to earth. I walk down the streets and go to shops. When you live somewhere awhile, you become part of the community; it does not matter if you are a foreigner or not. I will continue to stay in isolation until the outbreak is over, and I will go back to work.

Stephen C. McClure spoke with Li Lei