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11 February

Dear All

Please find below the update 8 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

Five staff from HOPE Shanghai Office went back to office yesterday while staff from other offices are still working from home. Staff from Hangzhou and Nanjing are expected to go back to office next Monday as earliest according to local government policy.

We will have John Leggott College and its students, Managing Director from Brookes House College, and our guardian in the UK to speak on tonight's online seminar. More seminars are planned next week. Any institution interested in join our online seminar, please contact Alice Zhang, Manager of International Partnership, at a.zhang@hope-studyabroad.com.

If you originally planned to visit China to promote your institution and interview students but can not come now, please also contact Alice to arrange online promotion and interview.

We are closely monitoring the situation and local policy, and will update you on HOPE's various events in March and April, including the school fairs scheduled on 11th-12th April.

News on local media

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Kind regards

Daniel

Add: Room 411 Pole Tower, 425 Yishan Road, 200235, China
地址: 中国上海宜山路 425 号光启城办公楼 411 室, 邮编: 200235
Tel: +86 (0)21 33634525 Fax: +86 (0)21 33634528 Email: d.zheng@hope-studyabroad.com



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Novel coronavirus not a type of SARS, experts say

Updated: Feb 11, 2020 [China Daily](#)Print

Experts debunked the claim that the novel coronavirus is a type of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus, which has caused unnecessary panic on Chinese social media.

The novel coronavirus may share some genetic similarities with the SARS virus—both use the same ACE2 receptor to enter cells, for example—but it is inaccurate to say novel coronavirus is a type of SARS virus, they said.

The controversy began on Sunday night when virologist Chen Huanchun made the claim, which quickly went viral on Chinese social media and led to scientists scrambling to refute it.

Chen later apologized for the error in speaking, saying he intended to say both viruses belong to the same broad category—both are beta coronaviruses, one of the four major genera of the coronaviruses first discovered in 1968.



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The SARS epidemic between 2002 and 2003 still strikes a sensitive nerve in the Chinese public since it was the first viral outbreak in the 21st century to seriously challenge the nation's public health infrastructure and response mechanisms.

SARS's visible symptoms are also more serious, and it has a higher death rate, around 9.6 percent, than novel coronavirus, which is estimated to be around 2 to 4 percent, according to the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

As a result, scientists have been very careful when comparing the two coronaviruses. Zhong Nanshan, the leading expert spearheading China's epidemic response, was the first scientist to speak out against Chen's claim.

"The novel coronavirus belongs to a parallel classification of the SARS virus," he said. "They may belong to the same category, but they are not the same species. They are very different."

Of all the coronaviruses discovered, only seven can infect humans, according to the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Four are alpha coronaviruses, and the other three are beta coronaviruses such as SARS, novel coronavirus and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS.

According to the journal Lancet, novel coronavirus and SARS share about 79 percent of their genetic sequence, meaning they are related but are very distant organisms. In comparison, humans share 96 percent of their genes with chimpanzees and 80 percent with cows, according to the National Human Genome Research Institute

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Expats play their part in fighting virus

By ZHOU WENTING in Shanghai | China Daily | Updated: 2020-02-11 09:09 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



A worker from the neighborhood committee of Yanlord Garden in Shanghai's Pudong district goes to an apartment of expat residents to inform them of the latest government policies and protection measures amid the novel coronavirus epidemic in late January. [Photo provided to China Daily]

Foreign residents in Shanghai active on social media and their communities

In Shanghai's Pudong district, home to 150,000 expats, foreigners in local communities have shown a great deal of cooperation and participation in the collective fight against the novel coronavirus outbreak, a local official said.

Many of them — residents of the metropolis with the largest number of expats on the Chinese mainland — gave a thumbs up to the city government's rapid response to

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containing the spread of the epidemic since late January, its disbursement of transparent information to the public and its care and attention to the foreign community, Chen Bin, deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Pudong District, said on Wednesday.

"Their thoughts and beliefs are no different from those of the local Shanghai residents," Chen said. "They have paid close attention to the progress of the epidemic and authorities' rapidly updated measures. They have expressed their confidence that the battle against the virus is destined to triumph with united efforts."

Since Jan 20, when the first confirmed novel coronavirus infection case was reported in Shanghai, Chen's team has joined hands with local centers for disease control and prevention to call on expat residents who had recently traveled to or lived in Wuhan—the epicenter of the outbreak and capital of Hubei province—to cooperate with screening.

While communicating with those expats, at least one of the workers speaks fluent English to make sure that the expats fully understand the situation and policy and to address their concerns, Chen said.

"Putting ourselves in their positions, we might also feel nervous when seeing a group of government people, in protective masks and goggles, telling us that we are subject to medical quarantine and observation in a foreign country," Chen said, adding that workers always try their best to explain the necessity of the medical measures for their own safety and that of society as a whole.

The expats have all cooperated well and agreed to stay in quarantine at home. They are provided with daily necessities and psychological assistance, Chen said.

In some neighborhoods with a high proportion of expat residents, such as Yanlord Garden on Puming Road, there are several expats who work regularly with their neighborhood committee.

They have helped with translating public notices immediately to ensure others stay up to date on the local situation, including those requiring residents who recently traveled to Hubei to report to the local community, those requesting returnees from other provinces and overseas to fill out a personal health information form, and

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those encouraging people to stay at home once the city elevated its level of public health emergency response.

Some expats in Yanlord Garden also participated in creating a bilingual manual with illustrations to explain to expats what the virus is, why it is important for people to avoid going out and reminders about personal hygiene.

In a WeChat group of around 240 expat residents from 20 countries in the neighborhood, local workers also update them with the latest social policies and information and welcome them to register with the neighborhood committee to buy masks at designated pharmacies when they obtain supplies from official channels, since most drugstores have run out of masks.

"All such efforts are to assist expats to get them rapidly accustomed to the changes that have occurred recently and help them feel safe and reassured," Chen said.

A 69-year-old Yanlord Garden resident from France, who preferred to be referred to as Paul, said expat residents have praised the local government's quick response and have been very cooperative in social measures.

"When the local neighborhood started to gather information on residents about whether they had traveled to Wuhan in the past month, the expats spontaneously sent them messages one after another in the WeChat group," he said.

Home to Pudong International Airport, the district is an important gateway linking Shanghai and other domestic and foreign cities. Chen's team sends foreigners who do not have a residence in Shanghai to designated venues for medical quarantine and observation if they run a fever or arrive from Hubei.

Seventeen have been quarantined at such venues, with 14 having completed their quarantine period, Chen said.

"Now we are ensuring that we reach a person subject to medical quarantine within 15 minutes of his or her arrival in Shanghai, regardless of the means of transportation, and send him or her to the nearest quarantine venue as soon as possible to maximize the safety and interests of the public, including Chinese and international citizens in the city," Chen said.



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In one case, a man from a Western country, along with his Chinese wife, 2-year-old child and his mother-in-law, all of whom traveled from Wuhan to Shanghai in late January, refused to be quarantined.

They insisted that they were healthy and did not have a fever, and that there was no need for quarantine, Chen said.

"They were concerned about the toddler's safety in the designated quarantine venue, and the father made requests for vitamins and refused a carpet in the room to prevent allergy," he said.

With the assistance of the consulate of the foreigner's home country, Chen's team eventually persuaded them to accept quarantine after continuous explanations.

"We reassure all the expats that the medical quarantine here abides by international standards and will provide special care for vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children and pregnant women, if necessary," Chen said.

Expats said they were impressed with the city authority's concerns about all residents' right to know.

The latest social situation, prevention measures and tally of novel coronavirus infections have been being updated for the city's 220,000 expat residents via a column in five languages—Chinese, English, French, Japanese and Korean—on the website of Shanghai's Foreign Affairs Office since Feb 1.

Expat residents in the city can also dial 12345 to inquire about prevention rules and methods, and answers will be available in seven foreign languages.

Singaporean Jessie Panisset and her husband have been residents in Pudong for almost a decade. Panisset, who is fluent in Chinese and highly involved in community management, returned to Singapore for a holiday in mid-January but stayed active online to explain government policies and protection measures to expat neighbors and friends in Shanghai.

"I've bought a ticket and will fly back to Shanghai on Tuesday. Shanghai is my second home, and I feel I need to return to help as much as possible," she said.

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GUIDELINE ON DIFFERENT MASKS FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE ②

GUIDELINE ON DIFFERENT MASKS FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE ①



RECOMMENDED OPTIONAL USE

RECOMMENDED OPTIONAL USE

| PEOPLE AND SCENE | | 4 Particle protective masks | 5 Medical protective masks | 6 Protective masks (with P100 filter cotton) |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| RELATIVELY HIGH RISK | Health workers in emergency rooms | ○ | | |
| | Epidemiological investigators of people having close contact with infected patients | ○ | | |
| | Staff testing epidemic related samples | ○ | | |
| HIGH RISK | Fever clinics in infected area | ✓ | ○ | ✓ |
| | Health workers in the isolation ward | ✓ | ○ | ✓ |
| | High-risk medical workers doing intubation and incision | | ○ | ○ |
| | Service staff in quarantine areas (cleaning, cadaver disposal, etc.) | ○ | ✓ | |
| | Investigators for confirmed, suspected cases and epidemiological surveys | ✓ | ○ | |

| PEOPLE AND SCENE | | 1 No need to wear masks or wear an ordinary one | 2 Disposable medical masks | 3 Medical surgical masks |
|---------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LOW RISK | At home | ○ | | |
| | People doing outdoor activities | ○ | | |
| | Workers, children and students in well ventilated places | ○ | | |
| RELATIVELY LOW RISK | People in crowded places | | ○ | |
| | Indoor working environment with a relatively dense population | | ○ | |
| | People going to medical institutions | | ○ | |
| | Children in kindergarten and students at school gathering to study and do other activities | | ○ | |
| MEDIUM RISK | Medical workers at clinics and wards, etc. | | ✓ | ○ |
| | Staff in densely populated areas | | ✓ | ○ |
| | Employees engaged in administrative management, police, security guards and express delivery workers who may be exposed to the epidemic | | ✓ | ○ |
| | People in isolation at home and people living with them | | ✓ | ○ |

NOTE

For people exposed to high risks, when medical protective masks are in short supply, they can choose particle protective masks meeting N95/KN95 and higher standards or self-priming filter respirators (full or half face type) with a cotton filter for particle prevention. The protective effect of dynamic air supply filter respirators is better.

SOURCE: THE NATIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION
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地址：中国上海宜山路 425 号光启城办公楼 411 室，邮编：200235

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Americans work around travel ban, quarantines

By KONG WENZHENG in Beijing | China Daily Global | Updated: 2020-02-11 00:45 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



Megan Monroe, an American teacher of English at Pro-Stage in Wuhan, leads her pupils in a Christmas song in December. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

The coronavirus' fallout has disrupted the lives of some Americans who travel between the US and China, such as Megan Monroe, currently a teacher in Wuhan who decided to stay in the outbreak's epicenter even though she had a chance to evacuate with other US citizens.

Monroe, who is from California, is an English teacher in the city, which is the provincial capital of Central China's Hubei province. She decided to stay in the city of 11 million despite the US government having sent planes there to repatriate American citizens.

Having been in Wuhan for two months teaching children to perform and speak English in a company called Pro-Stage, Monroe wants to "continue that aspiration as much as I can even with the quarantine going on", she said.

地址：中国上海且山路425号九层城办办公楼411室，邮编：200235

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Monroe keeps busy working on her online teaching credential and producing English-instruction clips and an online curriculum for her pupils. Although the country's schools are currently on an extended winter break, China's Ministry of Education has asked schools at all levels to postpone the start of the 2020 spring semester until further notice. Also, after-school training institutions (of which Monroe's is one), also have had to cancel their classroom instruction.

"My mom prefers that I stay in isolation here than get on a plane with a hundred people who might have the virus," said Monroe.

She was also concerned about the quarantine process, which "heightens the chances of getting the virus since you might be in close quarters with someone who's already sick", she said.

For Monroe, concerns over traveling and quarantines are not her only reasons to stay in China.

"I also want to understand the Chinese culture better, and there's no better way to get to know the people and their values than to see how they respond to a crisis like the coronavirus," she said.

Monroe also told China Daily that "the United States is charging its citizens \$1,100 to fly out of here".

"I think this is just where I'm supposed to be right now," she said.

For half a month, she has been making short videos for her company's TikTok account, in which she shares her feelings and cheers people on.

"I know that I have my whole life ahead of me, and I'm not going to let this virus get in the way of that," she said.

As for future plans, she mentioned finishing her teaching credential, exploring more of China and staying in Wuhan longer.

"I know I will be in Wuhan for a couple [of] years at least! It's a lovely city; I just need to brush up on my Chinese," she said.

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According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), after the first flight carried around 210 US citizens from Hubei to the March Air Reserve Base in California on Jan 29, four more planes have brought hundreds of people to four Air Force bases in California, Texas and Nebraska.

All passengers face a 14-day mandatory quarantine period, during which they are housed at the bases and closely monitored by medical staff.

The US State Department said on its website that the "evacuation flights" are available for private US citizens "on a reimbursable basis".

For US citizens not in Wuhan, some newly enacted travel policies in response to the outbreak also have created some concerns.

According to the Level 4 travel advisory for China that the US State Department issued Feb 3, American citizens who are currently in China should "attempt to depart by commercial means", which have been limited following a travel ban related to the coronavirus.

"I was finally able to get a ticket back to the US after making tens of phone calls nonstop for two days," said a woman who gave only her first name, Lisa, a San Francisco Bay Area resident who flew back to the Northern California city Thursday from the Northeast China city of Changchun, in Jilin province, where she spent the Lunar New Year holiday with her family.

Lisa's original plan was to fly back Feb 10 for work, but her carrier – Air China – notified her that the flight was canceled after the US announced it would deny entry of foreign nationals who were on the Chinese mainland two weeks prior to entering the US.

Three US airlines – Delta, United and American – all have temporarily halted flights between the two countries. Chinese airlines also are significantly reducing the number of flights.

According to Ctrip, China's major flight and hotel booking platform, only about a half-dozen airlines are offering flights from the Chinese mainland to the US in February, with barely any nonstop flights.



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Lisa said that her plane was only half full, with all passengers wearing masks. Upon their arrival in the US, they went through temperature checks and were greeted by officials distributing messages in English and Mandarin, asking them to conduct a 14-day monitored self-quarantine.

The number of US airports that receive flights from China has dropped to 11, according to the US Department of Homeland Security. All have implemented enhanced screening procedures and the capacity to quarantine passengers.

"It does not make a lot of sense to restrict travel to and from areas which are not seriously affected, so long as proper health-screening measures are adopted," said Robert Lewis, co-founder of the Beijing-based think tank CGGT and tech startup docQbot.

Lewis, who has worked in China as an international lawyer for almost three decades, has frequently flown back and forth between China and the US. However, he had to put off a trip to China on Jan 31 because of canceled flights.

"Having lived in Beijing at the time of the SARS panic in 2002-2003, I would not personally have concerns about returning to Beijing now under the current conditions," said Lewis, who added that he was "quite shocked" that US airlines canceled all flights between the two countries.

He was, however, concerned about not being able to fly to the US once he returned to China and was even more concerned about the possible mandatory quarantine process.

"Under current policies in the US, I am concerned that I may not even be allowed to self-quarantine at my home in Utah upon my return to the US. It is a big risk — not a big risk of contracting the virus, but of having my personal freedoms curtailed due to what appear to be overly aggressive quarantine measures adopted by the US government," said Lewis, who is currently working remotely in Utah and looking into flying back to Beijing once "conditions are stabilizing".

Mario Cavolo, an American author and speaker based in Shenyang, wrote in a recent LinkedIn post: "The world should be applauding China's unprecedented, broad, aggressive response. I am on the ground here in China watching with my own eyes and it is quite incredible by any measure, not to mention an enormous economic sacrifice."



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Cavolo criticized what he called "hateful, vicious attacks on the Chinese government" and restrictive measures taken by other countries, including the US, that are "isolating" China.

Comparing the current coronavirus outbreak with the 2009 H1N1 outbreak — a pandemic that resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths globally and more than 12,000 deaths in the US, as the CDC estimated, Cavolo noted that no country issued travel bans to and from the US, and the Americans did not get "xenophobically attacked and targeted by anti-American sentiments like the Chinese are experiencing now".

Foreigners in China are "most likely safer and more peaceful and more stable by simply staying put than by leaving right now", he wrote, adding that in China, "almost everyone is staying home and dutifully isolating themselves with awareness".