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Coronavirus Special Monitoring

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Situation in China

Members of China's Uighur minority living in exile are sounding the alarm over the risk of the coronavirus spreading in camps inside the country, where NGOs say hundreds of thousands of people have been rounded up by Beijing. (Al Jazeera, Qatar, 13/02/2020) more

In the latest effort to use big data to help contain the coronavirus outbreak, a province in southwestern China is asking residents to scan a code when they enter public places, sparking debate over whether the measure is effective. (South China Morning Post, China, 13/02/2020) more

A Hong Kong health official said on Thursday that the SAR does not need to adopt a new method of confirming coronavirus infections introduced on the mainland. (Radio Television Hong Kong, Hong-Kong, 13/02/2020) more

Le numéro un de la province chinoise du Hubei, berceau de l'épidémie de pneumonie virale Covid-19, a été démis de ses fonctions, a annoncé jeudi l'agence de presse Chine nouvelle. Jiang Chaoliang, secrétaire du Parti communiste chinois (PCC) pour la province située dans le centre du pays, a été remplacé par le maire de Shanghai, Ying Yong, a précisé l'agence officielle. (Agence France-Press, France/La Presse, Canada, 13/02/2020) more

La Chine a annoncé jeudi quelque 15.000 contaminations supplémentaires par le coronavirus, un bond record qu'elle justifie par une nouvelle définition des cas d'infection, les principaux responsables de la province berceau de l'épidémie étant eux démis de leurs fonctions. Ce chiffre inquiétant et ces sanctions disciplinaires alimentent les spéculations selon lesquelles la gravité de l'épidémie de pneumonie virale, désormais appelée Covid-19, pourrait avoir été sous-estimée. (Le Point, France, 13/02/2020) more

The number of new cases of the coronavirus in China dropped for a second straight day, health officials said Wednesday in a possible glimmer of hope amid the outbreak that has infected over 45,000 people worldwide and killed more than 1100. (Sydney Morning Herald, Australia, 13/02/2020) more

China remains in crisis mode weeks after the epidemic exploded, with much of the country shut down and the government pushing work-from-home policies to prevent people gathering together. (France24, France, 12/02/2020) more

China's health authorities have decided to no longer count as confirmed cases those patients who test positive but don't show symptoms. (New York Times, USA, 12/02/2020) more

Le président chinois Xi Jinping s'est félicité mercredi de ce qu'il a qualifié "d'évolution positive" de l'épidémie de coronavirus, mais à Genève l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) a tempéré son optimisme, estimant qu'il était "beaucoup trop tôt" pour prédire sa fin. (Le Point, France, 12/02/2020) more

Guangzhou and Shenzhen, two of southern China's biggest cities, have been given the authority to requisition private property to help fight the spread of the deadly new coronavirus. (South China Morning Post, China, 12/02/2020) more

Health authorities in Hong Kong quarantined roughly 100 residents living in the same apartment complex after two residents tested positive for the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The residents affected by the illness - a 62-year-old woman and a 75-year-old male patient - lived on separate floors of Hong Mei House, sparking fears that the virus could be transmitted through drainage pipes. (Euronews, France, 12/02/2020) more

A second Chinese citizen journalist who had been covering China's deadly coronavirus outbreak from its epicenter in Wuhan has gone missing just days after the disappearance of Chen Qiushi, a former rights lawyer who was video blogging from the city. Fang Bin, a Wuhan businessman who had been posting videos filmed from city hospitals, was allegedly arrested on Sunday. (Quartz, USA, 12/02/2020) more

International Situation and Reactions

World Health Organisation (WHO): Taiwan's presence at a World Health Organisation (WHO) meeting this week on the coronavirus outbreak that started in mainland China was the result of direct talks between the island and the body, and did not require Beijing's permission, Taipei said on Wednesday. (South China Morning Post, China, 12/02/2020) more

Le nombre de nouveaux cas de contamination au coronavirus Covid-19 s'est stabilisé mais cet apparent ralentissement de l'épidémie doit être interprété avec une "extrême prudence", a déclaré mercredi l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS). (Reuters, Canada) more

"Nous avons une chance réaliste de stopper cette épidémie", a déclaré le directeur général de l'OMS, alors que la courbe du nombre de contaminations et de décès liés au coronavirus, nouvellement nommé Covid-19, fléchit pour la première fois depuis le 2 février. (France24, France, 12/02/2020) more

L'épidémie de coronavirus partie de Chine constitue une "très grave menace pour le reste du monde", a déclaré mardi le directeur général de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) en lançant un appel pour le partage des échantillons du virus et une accélération de la recherche de traitements et de vaccins. (RTBF, Belgium, 11/02/2020) more

Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale (OACI): «L'OACI encourage les États et les compagnies aériennes à réagir de manière proportionnée au niveau de risque qui a été établi par l'OMS et d'autres experts médicaux », a déclaré la Secrétaire générale de l'Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale (OACI). (UN Info, 12/02/2020) more

UK: A case of coronavirus has been confirmed in London, and there are also fears the virus may have spread to Bali after a Chinese traveller who visited the island was diagnosed with it. [...] It brings the total number of cases in the UK to nine. (NewsHub, New Zealand, 13/02/2020) more

BRAZIL: Preparing for Rio de Janeiro's Carnival, when well over 1 million visitors pour into the "Marvelous City" for round-the-clock revelry, is always a daunting task for city officials. [...] In the days leading up to Carnival, which falls Feb. 21 to Feb. 26 this year, Rio officials have been setting up a "city contingency plan," and training health workers in the metropolis of nearly 7 million people how to identify and contain the new threat. (One America News Network, USA, 13/02/2020) more

ALGERIA: Le ministère de la Santé, de la Population et de la Réforme hospitalière a indiqué qu'un nouveau plan d'urgence a été élaboré pour parer à tout imprévu, suite à la propagation du coronavirus en Chine, affirmant que "l'Algérie est prête à faire face à toute urgence". (Le midi, Algeria, 13/02/2020) more

IRAN: An Iranian woman has died of a suspected coronavirus infection, the state daily newspaper IRAN reported on Wednesday, without citing any sources. [...] A spokesman for Iran's Health Ministry, Kianush Jahanpour, denied the report. (Reuters, Canada) more

AUSTRALIA: The coronavirus-related travel ban preventing Chinese visitors and students from entering Australia due to end this weekend has been extended for a further week. (New Castle Herald, UK, 13/02/2020) more

CAMBODIA: Authoritarian Prime Minister Hun Sen is dismissing the danger of COVID-19 to Cambodia, even while much of the rest of the world works overtime to limit their ties to China and their exposure to the deadly virus. (Washington Times, USA, 12/02/2020) more

SINGAPORE: Several international cases of the coronavirus from the UK to South Korea can be traced back to Singapore and some countries are now advising against travel to the international hub. But while Singapore has been commended for its management of the crisis, the tiny city-state faces unique challenges. (BBC, UK, 13/02/2020) more

NORTH KOREA: While North Korea has yet to publicly confirm any cases of the new coronavirus, authorities have doubled down on prevention efforts, extending quarantines and dispatching Red Cross workers around the country, state media said. (Reuters, Canada, 13/02/2020) more

LE VIETNAM a placé Son Loi, une commune de 10 000 habitants située près de Hanoï, en quarantaine pour 20 jours. Six cas d'infection au nouveau coronavirus Covid-19 ont été détectés dans cette ville. (Le Point, France, 13/02/2020) more

ZIMBABWE: Health minister Obadiah Moyo told journalists during a tour of Sally Mugabe Hospital in the capital Harare that the country would be conducting tests at the National Health Laboratory Services housed at the institution, the Daily News newspaper reported. "The reagents are now in the country. We can now do the tests locally. We do not have to send to South Africa anymore," Moyo said. (Nehanda Radio, Zimbabwe, 12/02/2020) more

Medical and health issues

Some of the coronavirus test kits shipped to labs across the country are not working as they should, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. (CNN, USA, 13/02/2020) more

There are four vaccine candidates for the coronavirus that has killed hundreds in China and testing could start within months, the World Health Organisation's chief scientist said Wednesday. (Sydney Morning Herald, Australia, 13/02/2020) more

There is now have an official name for the disease caused by the new coronavirus, which has killed more than 1000 people so far: Covid-19. The World Health Organization (WHO) made the announcement in a tweet on 11 February. The name is a shortened version of coronavirus disease 2019. (Asian Tribune, Sri Lanka, 13/02/2020) more

Only one in a sample of 1,099 patients infected with the new coronavirus was found to have an incubation period of as long as 24 days, a top Chinese scientist has clarified. (Straits Times, Singapore, 12/02/2020) more

Frédéric Tangy, professeur et directeur du laboratoire d'innovation vaccinale à l'Institut Pasteur explique mercredi sur francinfo que "c'est notre propre système immunitaire qui fait partir le virus". Frédéric Tangy, qui dirige l'équipe qui est en train de mettre en place un vaccin contre le coronavirus, ajoute toutefois qu'un vaccin est utile "si jamais cette épidémie n'arrive pas à rentrer toute seule dans l'ordre". (France TV Info, France, 12/02/2020) more

The fast-spreading coronavirus is starting to disrupt testing of experimental medicines in China, posing a threat to plans by global drugmakers that have invested billions of dollars to harness the potential of the Asian economic powerhouse. (The Peninsula, Qatar, 12/02/2020) more

A team of British scientists believe they have become the first to start animal testing of a vaccine for the new coronavirus that has killed more than 900 people. Researchers at Imperial College London said their ultimate goal was to have an effective and safe way of halting the SARS-like strain's spread by the end of the year. (Agence France-Presse/France24, France, 11/02/2020) more

EU/Consular issues

GREECE: A Chinese citizen who recently traveled from China to Greece and had developed symptoms related to the coronavirus was cleared of carrying the disease on Wednesday. (Greek Reporter, Greece, 12/02/2020) more

Economic issues

Turkish, Iranian and Russian steel mills are eyeing a potential gap in international markets should Chinese steel exports fall as a result of coronavirus-related restrictions, mill and trading sources say but caution that prices might still need to rise to boost this trade. (Hellenic Shipping News, Greece, 13/02/2020) more

With scores of Chinese factories now sitting idle because of the spread of the novel coronavirus, now named COVID-19, American officials and experts are warning the economic shock could be felt in the U.S. in the months to come. (Irish Sun, Ireland, 13/02/2020) more

The likely slowdown in China's economy due to the coronavirus outbreak is likely to shave 0.1 to 0.2 percentage points off both euro zone and UK growth this year, credit rating agency S&P Global estimated on Wednesday. (Hellenic Shipping News, Greece, 12/02/2020) more

Australian exporters brace for impact as death toll rises and much of China's huge economy remains in lockdown. (The Guardian, UK, 12/02/2020) more

Several analysts cut their gas demand forecasts for China, the world's top gas importer, as the fast-spreading coronavirus outbreak is expected to depress industrial, commercial and transportation appetite over the next few months. (Devdiscourse, India, 12/02/2020) more

The coronavirus crisis, which has already battered oil prices, threatens to further undercut Gulf economies battling a downturn and struggling to wean themselves from a decades-old energy addiction. (France24, France, 12/02/2020) more

Links

Corona virus real-time tracking map (Johns Hopkins University, USA)

Why a coronavirus-fuelled revolution in China is unlikely, despite Western commentators' fondest hopes (South China Morning Post, China, 13/02/2020)

Coronavirus: How the outbreak is testing China's vaunted surveillance technology (South China Morning Post, China, 12/02/2020)

Coronavirus: China raising virus prevention awareness in remote areas (Straits Times, Singapore, 12/02/2020)

From SARS to 2019-Coronavirus (nCoV): U.S.-China Collaborations on Pandemic Response (Rand Corporation, USA, 05/02/2020)

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