
China Coronavirus Updates: Latest Developments and Business Advisory

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Latest COVID-19 updates

- **July 14** – China [reported](#) 3 newly confirmed cases (all imported cases in Shanghai) in the last 24 hours; no new deaths; no new suspected cases. 5 new cases of asymptomatic infections (all imported cases) were recorded in the country; there are now 110 asymptomatic cases under medical observation (87 imported cases).
- **July 13** – China [reported](#) 8 newly confirmed cases, all of which were imported (4 cases in Inner Mongolia, 2 cases in Guangdong, 1 case in Shanghai, and 1 case in Shandong); no new deaths; no new suspected cases. 6 new cases of asymptomatic infections (all cases imported) were recorded in the last 24 hours with no conversion to confirmed cases; 8 cases under medical observation were released yesterday (of which 5 cases were imported). There are 110 cases of asymptomatic infections (85 cases imported) under medical observation as of Monday's official update.
- **July 12** – China [reported](#) 7 newly confirmed cases, all of which were imported cases (4 cases in Tianjin, 2 cases in Shanghai, and 1 case in Zhejiang); no new deaths; no new suspected cases. 5 new cases of asymptomatic infections (all imported) were added; 112 cases of asymptomatic infection were in medical observation (84 cases imported).
- **July 11** – China [reported](#) 2 newly confirmed cases, both imported (1 case in Liaoning and 1 case in Guangdong); no new deaths; no new suspected cases. 4 new cases of asymptomatic infections (3 imported cases) were reported; 111 cases of asymptomatic infection (82 cases imported) are under medical observation.
- **July 10** – China [reported](#) 4 newly diagnosed cases, all of which were imported from abroad (1 case in Shanxi, 1 in Inner Mongolia, 1 in Liaoning, and 1 in Shanghai); no new deaths; 3 new suspected cases. 3 new cases of

asymptomatic infections were recorded yesterday but there was no conversion to the confirmed case; 2 cases of medical observations were released on the same day. There are 113 cases of asymptomatic infection (82 cases imported) under medical observation. Beijing [reported](#) no new confirmed, asymptomatic, or suspected cases on Thursday.

- **July 9** – China [reported](#) 9 newly diagnosed cases, all of which were imported from abroad (3 cases in Liaoning, 3 cases in Shanghai, 2 cases in Guangdong, and 1 in Sichuan); no new deaths; no new suspected cases. 6 new cases of asymptomatic infections (5 imported cases) were recorded yesterday, one of which was converted to the confirmed case; 10 cases of medical observations were released on the same day (4 cases imported). There are 112 cases of asymptomatic infection (79 cases imported) under medical observation. Beijing [reported](#) no new confirmed cases for the third day in a row.
- Given these uncertain times, foreign investors choosing to do business in China or assessing their options for market entry need to be more flexible and cost effective in their strategies.

China Briefing discusses an alternative market entry mode, called [Global Staffing Solutions](#), that alleviates the stress on businesses to establish a corporate entity and outsources the day-to-day management of employee payroll and the entity's tax compliance to a local firm. To learn more, read here: [Planning for Uncertainty: Global Staffing Solutions to Facilitate Your China Market Entry](#).

- **July 8** – China [reported](#) 7 newly diagnosed cases, all of which were imported from abroad (4 cases in Inner Mongolia, 1 case in Shanxi, 1 case in Guangdong, and 1 in Yunnan); no new deaths; no new suspected cases. 6 new cases of asymptomatic infections (5 imported cases) were recorded yesterday but there was no conversion to confirmed cases; 3 cases of medical observations were released on the same day (all imported). There are 117 cases of asymptomatic infection (79 cases imported) under medical observation.
- **July 7** – China [reported](#) 8 newly confirmed cases, all of which were imported (2 cases in Liaoning, 2 cases in Shanghai, 2 cases in Sichuan, 1 case in Inner Mongolia, and 1 case in Guangdong); no new deaths; 2 new suspected cases, both imported (1 case in Inner Mongolia and 1 case in Shanghai). 15 new cases of asymptomatic infections (14 imported cases) were recorded yesterday; 2 cases were converted to confirmed cases on the same day (both

imported); 8 cases under medical observation were released on the same day (7 imported cases). There are 114 cases of asymptomatic infection still under medical observation (77 imported cases).

- **July 6** – China [reported](#) 4 newly confirmed cases, including 3 imported cases (1 in Inner Mongolia, 1 in Liaoning, and 1 in Shaanxi) and 1 local case (in Beijing); no new deaths; no new suspected cases. The country recorded 11 cases of asymptomatic infections (10 imported cases) in the last 24 hours; there are 109 cases of asymptomatic infections (72 imported cases) under medical observation as of the latest update released Monday.
- **July 5** – China [reported](#) 8 newly confirmed cases, including 6 imported cases (3 in Gansu, 1 in Tianjin, 1 in Shanghai, and 1 in Sichuan) and 2 local cases (both in Beijing); no new deaths; 1 newly suspected case (imported) in Shanghai. The country reported 7 cases of asymptomatic infections (all imported cases), there were 99 cases of asymptomatic infections (63 cases imported overseas) under medical observation.
- **July 4** – China [reported](#) 3 newly diagnosed cases, including 2 imported cases (1 in Shanghai and 1 in Guangdong) and 1 local case (in Beijing); no new deaths; 2 newly suspected cases, including 1 imported case (in Shanghai) and 1 local case (in Beijing). There were 4 cases of asymptomatic infections (3 imported cases); there were 98 cases of asymptomatic infections (61 imported cases) under medical observation.
- **July 3** – China [reported](#) 5 newly confirmed cases, including 2 local cases (both in Beijing) and 3 imported cases (1 in Liaoning, 1 in Shanghai, 1 in Yunnan); no new deaths; 1 new suspected case in Beijing. 4 new local cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded (3 imported cases); 97 cases of asymptomatic infection (59 imported cases) are still under medical observation.
- Anxin county in Hebei province has been under strict lockdown since Sunday when officials announced that it would be “fully enclosed and controlled”, as [reported by BBC](#). The lockdown, which will affect around 400,000 people, is part of China’s immediate response to contain the spread of the cluster in Beijing and limit the possibility of a second wave in the country. Anxin county is around 150 km (90 miles) south of Beijing and reported new cases in the last two weeks connected to the Beijing cluster. However, given Anxin is not as densely populated, local officials remain optimistic they can stop the spread of the virus.

- *China Briefing* has published its latest magazine issue titled: **Opportunities for Foreign Investors in China's Service Industries After COVID-19**. It is available as a complimentary download on the [Asia Briefing Publication Store](#). In this edition, we focus on how key industries in China's services sector have entered into a new normal since the COVID-19 outbreak. Linked to this pandemic-triggered disruption, we provide an overview of the emerging opportunities for foreign investors already based in China or those strategizing market entry. Finally, we spotlight two major industries impacted by COVID-19 – healthcare and food and beverages, where new opportunities represent the larger trends towards technology mobilization, industrial upgrades, and online retail.
- China recently announced a series of fee reductions for businesses in order to stabilize their economic outlook and to shore up market confidence amid the ongoing pandemic. The latest cuts include reductions and waivers to electricity fees, port costs, highway tolls, telecommunication rates, and oil liability insurance. If taken together with the cuts introduced since the outbreak started, companies are expected to save around RMB 310 billion (US\$44 billion) over the course of this year. To learn more, [read our article here](#).
- **July 2** – China reported 3 new confirmed cases, including 1 local case (in Beijing) and 2 imported cases (1 in Shanghai and 1 in Guangdong); no new deaths; no new suspected cases. 2 new local cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded; 99 cases of asymptomatic infection (60 imported cases) are still under medical observation.
- **July 1** – China [reported](#) 3 newly confirmed cases (all local cases in Beijing); no new deaths; 2 new suspected cases (imported cases, both in Shanghai). 3 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded (all imported cases); 100 cases of asymptomatic infection (63 imported cases) are still under medical observation.
- **June 30** – As per this morning's update, in the last 24 hours, China [reported](#) 19 newly diagnosed cases, including 8 local cases (7 cases in Beijing and 1 case in Shanghai) and 11 imported cases (4 cases in Guangdong, 3 cases in Shanghai, 3 cases in Sichuan, and 1 case in Gansu); no new deaths; and 1 new suspected case (imported case) in Shanghai. With the addition of 4 cases of asymptomatic infections (3 imported cases), there are now 99 cases of asymptomatic infection under medical observation (60 imported cases).

- **June 29** – China [reported](#) 12 newly confirmed cases, including 7 local cases (all in Beijing) and 5 imported cases (3 in Sichuan, 1 in Liaoning, and 1 in Shanghai); no new deaths; 4 new suspected cases (all local cases in Beijing). With the addition of 6 cases of asymptomatic infections (5 imported cases), there were still 102 cases of asymptomatic infection under medical observation (63 imported cases).
- **June 28** – China [reported](#) 17 newly diagnosed cases, including 14 local cases (all in Beijing) and 3 imported cases (1 in Shanghai, 1 in Shaanxi, 1 in Gansu); no new deaths; 1 new suspected case (local case in Beijing). With the addition of 7 cases of asymptomatic infections (4 imported cases), there were still 106 cases of asymptomatic infection under medical observation.
- **June 27** – China [reported](#) 21 newly diagnosed cases, including 17 local cases (all in Beijing) and 4 imported cases (2 cases in Guangdong, 1 case in Shanghai, 1 case in Gansu); no new deaths; 1 new suspected case, imported overseas (in Shanghai). With the addition of 12 cases of asymptomatic infections (8 imported cases), there were 106 cases of asymptomatic infection under medical observation.
- **June 26** – China reported 13 newly diagnosed cases, including 11 local cases (in Beijing) and 2 imported cases (both in Shanghai). There were 3 new suspected cases, all local cases in Beijing, and no new deaths. 5 new cases of asymptomatic infection (4 imported cases) were recorded yesterday; 97 cases of asymptomatic infections are under medical observation.
- **June 25** – China [reported](#) 19 newly diagnosed cases, including 14 local cases (13 cases in Beijing and 1 case in Hebei) and 5 imported cases (3 in Gansu, 1 in Guangdong, and 1 in Shaanxi); no new deaths; no new suspected cases. 1 new case of asymptomatic infection (imported) was recorded yesterday; 97 cases of asymptomatic infections are under medical observation.
- According to [reporting by Reuters](#), the National Health Commission has said that mainland China is capable of “conducting nucleic acid tests on 3.78 million people per day, compared with 1.26 million people in early March”. On Wednesday, Guo Yanhong, an official at the health commission, briefed media that this is “an increase of 200% as of June 22”.
- **June 24** – China [reported](#) 12 newly confirmed cases today. This includes 9 local cases (7 cases in Beijing, 2 cases in Hebei) and 3 imported cases (2 in Shanghai and 1 in Shaanxi). No new deaths. 4 new suspected cases were recorded, all

local cases in Beijing. There are 3 new cases of asymptomatic infections (1 imported case); 100 cases of asymptomatic infections were under medical observation.

- **June 23** – The National Health Commission’s [update for Tuesday](#) showed 22 newly diagnosed cases. There are 13 new local cases, all in Beijing, and 9 new imported cases (7 in Gansu, 1 in Jiangsu, 1 in Shaanxi); no new deaths. There are 2 new suspected cases (both in Beijing). There are 7 new cases of asymptomatic infections (5 imported cases); 99 cases of asymptomatic infections were under medical observation.
- **June 22** – On Monday, China [reported 18 newly diagnosed cases](#) – 11 local cases (9 cases in Beijing, 2 cases in Hebei) and 7 imported cases (3 in Shanghai, 2 in Shaanxi, 1 in Tianjin, 1 in Liaoning); no new deaths. There were 2 new suspected cases – both local cases in Beijing, epicenter of the latest cluster outbreak. There were 7 new cases of asymptomatic infections (1 imported case) reported; 114 cases of asymptomatic infections were under medical observation.
- **June 21** – On Sunday, China updated the following COVID-19 situation over the 24-hour period: China [reported 26 newly diagnosed cases](#), including 25 local cases (22 in Beijing, 3 cases in Hebei) and 1 imported case (in Fujian); no new deaths. There were 3 new suspected cases, all local cases (all in Beijing). There were 6 new cases of asymptomatic infections (2 imported cases) reported; 111 cases of asymptomatic infections were under medical observation.
- From *Reuters* – “A total of 2.3 million nucleic acid tests had been carried out in Beijing as of 0600 local time on Saturday (2200 GMT on Friday), Zhang Qiang, an official from Beijing’s municipal committee, said at a news conference.”
- **June 20** – On Saturday, China updated the following COVID-19 situation over the 24-hour period: [27 newly diagnosed cases](#), including 23 local cases (22 cases in Beijing and 1 case in Hebei) and 4 imported cases (3 cases in Guangdong and 1 in Shanghai); no new deaths. There were 4 new suspected cases, all local cases (all in Beijing). There were 7 new cases of asymptomatic infections (5 imported cases) reported; 108 cases of asymptomatic infections were under medical observation.
- A further five residential compounds in Beijing were designated as being at higher risk on Thursday; as of the last update, there is one high risk and 31 medium risk residential compounds in the city. More than 356,000 people have been tested over a 5-day period, with strict monitoring of at risk neighborhoods.

Schools are closed, flights cancelled, and travel restricted. On Wednesday, Beijing raised its emergency response level from level three to level two.

- The director for China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Gao Fu, has said that the latest COVID-19 cluster in the country, traced to Beijing's Xinfadi wholesale food market, may have broken out a month earlier but went undetected due to asymptomatic infections. *The Guardian* [quotes Gao](#), speaking at a seminar in Shanghai on Tuesday, "A lot of asymptomatic or mild cases were detected in this outbreak and that is why the environment has such amount of virus." Addressing its similarity to the Wuhan outbreak, the Chinese CDC chief epidemiologist, Wu Zunyou, told state paper, *Global Times*, on Monday, that cold and wet places were conducive to virus survival.
- **June 19** – China reported [32 newly diagnosed cases](#) today – 28 local cases (25 cases in Beijing, 2 in Hebei, and 1 in Liaoning) and 4 imported cases (3 in Guangdong and 1 in Gansu). There are 2 new suspected cases, both local ones (both in Beijing). 5 cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded Thursday, and there 110 cases of asymptomatic infections under medical observation.
- **June 18** – China today [reported](#) 28 newly confirmed cases. There were 24 local cases (21 cases in Beijing, 2 in Hebei, and 1 in Tianjin) and 4 imported cases (2 cases in Shanghai, 1 in Shaanxi, and 1 in Gansu); no new deaths. 3 new suspected cases were reported, all local (all in Beijing). 8 new cases of asymptomatic infections (2 cases imported abroad) were recorded; there are 111 cases of asymptomatic infections under medical observation now.
- China has halted its salmon imports over possible links to the Beijing outbreak as consumers of fish products are being over cautious. Experts have, however, said that no evidence thus far has shown that fish can carry the disease. China's state media had reported that the coronavirus was discovered on chopping boards used for imported salmon at the Xinfadi market. While this indicates that [cross-contamination](#) has been likely, China is taking no chances. Investigations at the market continue alongside mass testing and contact tracing.
- Cities across China have warned that they will quarantine arrivals from Beijing. Shandong, Zhejiang, Sichuan, Liaoning, Heilongjiang, Fujian, and Shanghai have all introduced a range of quarantine measures for travelers from Beijing.
- Compounds neighboring Xinfadi have been fenced off with 27 now designated medium risk and one designated high risk. The Beijing government has called for residents of medium- and high-risk areas, as well as those related to the Xinfadi

market, to not leave Beijing. Other residents should not leave the city if travel is not necessary. Those who have to leave should first report a negative nucleic acid test result that is no older than 7 days. All exhibitions, sports events, and shows will be stopped and tourist services to other provinces and overseas stand suspended. All outbound taxi and car-hailing services were also suspended on Tuesday.

- Beijing's emergency response was moved to the second highest risk level late on Tuesday night, barely two weeks after it had been lowered. The outbreak has caused authorities to reimpose a partial lockdown on all residents. "People from "key areas" – which are defined as estates, markets or neighborhoods with confirmed COVID-19 patients – are banned from leaving Beijing," *SCMP* reported.
- [Reporting from SCMP](#): "There are now 137 patients linked with the sprawling Xinfadi wholesale food market, plus three suspected cases and a further six people who have tested positive for the disease but are yet to develop symptoms. The eastern province of Zhejiang also reported one confirmed case – a vendor from the market who was diagnosed after returning to his home in Wenling."
- **June 17** – Beijing reported 31 new infections today as the Xinfadi COVID-19 cluster continues to grow case numbers, also linked to 1 new case in Zhejiang province. As per the National Health Commission's [official update today](#), China reported 44 newly confirmed cases, including 33 local cases (31 cases in Beijing, 1 case in Hebei, and 1 case in Zhejiang) and 11 imported cases (10 in Gansu and 1 in Sichuan); no new deaths were recorded.
- *China Briefing* article update as Beijing combats an outbreak and the rest of China is labeled low-risk: **China's Travel Restrictions due to COVID-19: An explainer**.
- All the 32 local cases reported over the last 24 hours can be traced back to the [Xinfadi food wholesale market](#) in Beijing, where the cluster outbreak has now affected at least 106 people.
- **June 16** – China continues to see the impact of its latest COVID-19 cluster, which broke out last week after 55 days of no new cases in the capital. However, clearly defined control measures are now in place to contain such outbreaks, including contact tracing efforts, lockdown of residential and commercial areas, mass testing, etc.

According to today's [official update by the National Health Commission](#), the country reported 40 newly diagnosed cases, including 32 local cases (27 in Beijing, 4 in Hebei, 1 in Sichuan) and 8 imported cases (3 in Shanghai, 3 in Guangdong, 1 in Inner Mongolia, and 1 in Liaoning); no new deaths were reported.

- Zhou Yuqing, deputy head of Fengtai district, where the market is located, Wang Hua, party secretary of Huaxiang township, and Zhang Yuelin, the market's general manager, were all sacked on Sunday "for negligence".
- [SCMP notes](#): "Yang Peng, an epidemiologist from Beijing Centre for Disease Control and Prevention told state broadcaster CCTV that initial investigation of genome sequencing showed the virus was imported from Europe, but researchers still needed to work out exactly how it had started the chain of infection. One possibility was that frozen food had been contaminated by someone infected with COVID-19 and the low temperature had preserved the virus during transport. "People then could have been infected by coming into contact with the contaminated seafood or meat in the market and further spread the virus," Yang said."
- Local cases reported in China since last Thursday in Liaoning (2) and nearby Hebei province (3) have all been linked to Xinfadi food market.
- Beijing authorities have asked people who visited the Xinfadi market over the past 14 days to self-quarantine/ stay at home.
- [Reporting by SCMP](#) sums up the situation in Beijing right now: the total number of people affected by the fresh outbreak amount to 79 – "all of them linked to the Xinfadi wholesale market, a food distribution center in southern Beijing, which occupies 107 hectares and supplies food to northern provinces like Shandong, Shanxi, Hebei and Liaoning." The paper further states: "Li Junjie, deputy chief of the city's Haidian district, said on Monday that 10 residential estates around Yuquandong market, which had COVID-19 cases linked to Xinfadi, would be locked down."
- **June 15** – China [reported on Monday](#) that there were 49 newly diagnosed cases in the past 24 hours. This includes 39 local cases (36 cases in Beijing, 3 cases in Hebei) and [10 imported cases](#) (4 cases in Sichuan imported from Egypt; 2 cases in Chongqing involving travelers from India; 2 cases in Shaanxi involving travelers from Russia and Pakistan; 1 case in Shanghai involving travel from the

US; and a case in Fujian involving travel from Ghana). There were no new COVID-19 fatalities.

- **June 14** – As more test results came in and contact tracing efforts zeroed in on the impact of the Beijing outbreak, China witnessed a significant rise in its local confirmed cases on Saturday. In its Sunday update, the National Health Commission [stated](#) that there were: 57 newly diagnosed cases, out of which there were 38 local cases (36 in Beijing and 2 in Liaoning) and 19 imported cases (17 cases in Guangdong, 1 case each in Shanghai and Chongqing). No new deaths were recorded. 9 new cases of asymptomatic infections (6 imported from abroad) were recorded out of which 2 local cases were confirmed on the same day. There were 103 asymptomatic cases under observation.
- Beijing has now imposed lockdown measures in parts of the city. Southern Fengtai district, where the Xinfadi market is located, has more than 2 million residents – 11 residential compounds as well as schools in the district have been closed by authorities, according to media reports. There are new restrictions on movement, sports events have been suspended, and tourism from outside the area has been barred. Chu Junwei, a district official, is on the record saying the district is in “wartime emergency mode”.
- **June 13** – China confirmed a fresh cluster at Xinfadi, a major wholesale food market in Beijing and makes up about 80 percent of the city’s entire farm produce supply.

Altogether, 11 newly confirmed cases were [reported](#), including 5 imported cases (1 case each in Tianjin, Shanghai, Guangdong, Hainan, and Sichuan) and 6 local cases (all in Beijing). Among the local cases in Beijing, 3 cases were of workers in the Xinfadi food market, 2 cases involved visitors to the market, and 1 person was a work colleague of one of the visitors. 139 close contacts of the people infected have been placed in quarantine. Beijing is expected to test more than 10,000 people who work at the market and anyone who has been to the market since the end of May.

No new deaths were reported Saturday. 7 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded in the last 24 hours; there were 98 cases of asymptomatic infections under medical observation.

- The Singapore-China fast lane has been established only for essential business and official travel between the two countries. Both countries have implemented strict international [travel curbs due to COVID-19](#). The fast lane came into

operation June 8, 2020 and enables travel between six provinces (Chongqing, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Zhejiang) in China and Singapore. We briefly cover the details on how the travel arrangement works here: **The Singapore-China Fast Lane to Facilitate Business Travel: Key Features.**

- **June 12** – China today reported 7 newly diagnosed cases over the last 24 hours, including 6 imported cases (5 cases in Shanghai and 1 case in Fujian) and 1 case in Beijing; no new deaths. 1 new (imported) case of asymptomatic infection was reported yesterday; there are 104 asymptomatic cases currently under medical observation.
- Beijing has just reported its first locally transmitted case of COVID-19 after 55 days (no new case had been reported since April 15). According to the *South China Morning Post*, the patient is a 52-year-old man from Xicheng district, who reported intermittent fever, symptoms of chills and fatigue but no cough, sore throat, or chest pain; the details were confirmed by Miao Jianhong, the deputy district chief. The patient has 2 family members who are now in isolation and under medical observation. Authorities are now conducting an epidemiological investigation to trace the source of infection and have closed the residential compound where he lives.
- **June 11** – China witnessed an uptick in imported cases in the last 24 hours. The National Health Commission today reported 11 newly confirmed cases, all of which were imported (6 cases in Shanghai, 3 cases in Guangdong, and 1 case each in Tianjin and Fujian). There have been no new deaths. 4 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded, 3 of which were imported. There are 129 cases of asymptomatic infection still under medical observation.
- **June 10** – China reported 3 newly confirmed cases, all of which were imported (2 cases in Inner Mongolia and 1 case in Tianjin); no new deaths. Yesterday, the country recorded 5 new cases of asymptomatic infections; there are 155 cases of asymptomatic infection in medical observation.
- **June 9** – China's National Health Commission reported 3 newly confirmed cases in the last 24 hours, all of which were imported (2 cases in Guangdong and 1 case in Sichuan); no new deaths. 21 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded yesterday; currently, there are 174 cases of asymptomatic infection under medical observation.
- Companies are facing significant operational, financial, and strategic challenges due to the COVID-19 outbreak, although the spread of the virus has slowed

down and the situation appears to be stabilizing in different regions around the world. Such times of economic turmoil, however, is when most businesses become vulnerable to acts of fraud. In the era of COVID-19, where employees are troubled by travel restrictions and when working-from-home (WFH) is the new normal, multinational companies (MNCs) in China are finding themselves particularly exposed to the risk of fraud. It is thus more critical than ever for them to assess possible fraudulent risks within the organization and see through fraudsters' schemes in advance. Read more here: [**Business Risk Management in China in the Era of COVID-19.**](#)

- **June 8** – According to China's National Health Commission, 4 newly confirmed (all imported) cases were [reported](#) in Sichuan (3) and Shanghai (1). There are 201 cases of asymptomatic infection in medical observation with 2 new such cases reported on Monday.
- **June 7** – The National Health Commission [reported on Sunday](#) that 6 new cases had been recorded in the last 24 hours, including 5 imported cases (2 cases in Shaanxi and 1 case each in Tianjin, Fujian, and Guangdong). The local case was reported in Hainan. No new deaths were recorded. With the addition of 5 new cases, there were 236 cases of asymptomatic infection under medical observation.
- **June 6** – China [reported](#) 3 newly confirmed cases, all of which were imported cases (in Guangdong); no new deaths. 2 new cases of asymptomatic infections were reported; there were 257 cases of asymptomatic infection under medical observation.
- Meanwhile, we have continued reports on *China Briefing* on Beijing's policy measures to support businesses impacted by COVID-19 induced economic stress. This includes the extension of preferential policies relaxing tax and fees and social insurance payments to the end of 2020. Read our roundups from the Two Sessions here: [**Tax and Fee Cuts Announced in China's 2020 Work Report: Two Sessions Roundup**](#) and [**Tracking China's Preferential Policies Released Since the 2020 Two Sessions.**](#)
- In response to China's relaxation of travel restrictions, [the US Transport Department said](#) that it would allow Chinese carriers to operate "the same number of scheduled passenger flights as the Chinese government allows ours... to restore a competitive balance and fair and equal opportunity among U.S. and Chinese air carriers."

As [reported](#) in state newspaper *Global Times*, China had launched its 'Five One' policy at the end of March as the global COVID-19 outbreak worsened, "allowing one airline to serve one country, from one Chinese city to one foreign city, with no more than one flight a week."

- More information of China's international flight restrictions:
 - a) According to the Civil Aviation Administration of China's (CAAC) [Thursday announcement](#) (posted on its website), foreign carriers barred from China due to the earlier restriction will be allowed to resume operating 1 flight per week into China starting June 8. Airlines will be limited to flying routes they are already licensed to fly and can choose from a list of Chinese cities provided by the CAAC.
 - b) If a flight has 5 passengers testing positive for COVID-19, the airline must suspend the flight for a week. If 10 passengers in a flight have tested positive, the airline must suspend the flight for 4 weeks. If there are zero passengers testing positive for three consecutive weeks, then the airline can add one more flight for a week.
 - c) The suspended flights cannot operate on other air routes. Airlines cannot resume weekly flight plans before the end of their suspension period.
 - d) The announcement came a day after the US said it would be banning all Chinese airlines from June 16 due to their unwillingness to allow the resumption of US airlines flying into China.
- **June 5** – China's National Health Commission [reported](#) 5 newly confirmed case over the last 24 hours, all of which were imported (4 cases in Shanghai and 1 case in Sichuan); no new deaths. The country recorded 3 new cases of asymptomatic infections; there are now 297 cases of asymptomatic infections under medical observation.
- China's Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has said that qualifying foreign air carriers that are currently barred from operating flights to the country will be allowed once-per-week flights "into a city of their choosing," from June 8.
- As we reported earlier, China has been in talks with some countries to establish [fast track procedures](#) to allow limited travel by business and technical personnel. China has now set rules for [essential business travel between Singapore and China](#), with effect from June 8. Thus, China has now established fast track agreements with Germany, France, South Korea, UK, Japan, and Singapore. (We wrote about the special visa applications to travel to China [here](#).)

- **June 4** – China’s National Health Commission [reported](#) 1 newly confirmed case over the last 24 hours, (imported case in Guangdong); no new deaths. The country recorded 4 new cases of asymptomatic infections; there are 326 cases of asymptomatic infections (43 cases were imported) under medical observation.
- According to a [US Department of Transportation order](#), dated June 3, the Trump administration [will bar Chinese passenger airlines from flights to the country starting June 16](#) due to Beijing’s failure to allow US airlines resuming service to China. Meanwhile, Air China, China Eastern, and China Southern have been able to operate direct passenger flights to the US (at reduced frequencies) during this time. If the US ban goes into effect, the Chinese carriers affected include Air China, China Eastern, China Southern Airlines, and Hainan Airlines Holding as well as their subsidiaries.
- **June 3** – China’s National Health Commission [reported](#) 1 newly confirmed (imported) case in the last 24 hours, (in Guangdong); no new deaths. 4 new asymptomatic infections have been recorded and 357 cases of asymptomatic infection (40 cases were imported) are under medical observation currently.
- Wuhan, where the COVID-19 outbreak first emerged, has found no new cases after testing nearly 11 million residents. However, 300 asymptomatic carriers have been identified, according to city officials as [reported by Reuters](#). “...the asymptomatic carriers had been found not to be infectious, with no traces of virus detected on items used by the 300 people, such as masks, toothbrushes and phones, or on door handles and elevator buttons they touched. The cost of the city-wide testing effort was about 900 million yuan (\$126 million)”. Testing in Wuhan began after a cluster of fresh cases emerged in early May leaving local authorities fearful of a second wave; the campaign ended June 1. The epicenter of the outbreak, Wuhan, has so far accounted for a majority of coronavirus infections and COVID-19 related fatalities in China.
- Some foreign employees who have been unable to return to China due to the ongoing international travel restrictions may wish to receive their Chinese salary in their overseas bank accounts in foreign currency. We explain some of the key HR, tax, and legal considerations here: [COVID-19 Travel Ban Series: How to Pay Your Foreign Employees Out of China](#).
- **June 2** – China’s National Health Commission [reported](#) 5 newly confirmed cases today, all of which were imported from abroad (2 cases in Sichuan, 1 in Shanghai, 1 in Guangdong, and 1 in Shaanxi); no new deaths. With the addition

of 10 cases of asymptomatic infection, there are now 371 cases of asymptomatic infection (39 imported cases) under medical observation.

- *Caixin Global* is reporting that Li Jian, deputy chief of China's Civil Aviation Administration (CAAC) told state media last week that China will not triple the number of regular international flights to 407 a week, starting June 1, as previously planned due to the global outbreak situation. However, the CAAC will shorten the process for approving international chartered flights to 3 working days from up to 7.

Meanwhile, China has reached agreement with Singapore, Japan, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland to establish "green channel" movement to [facilitate the return to work / travel](#) of businesspeople, experts, and skilled workers in foreign companies or foreign invested firms. *China Briefing* has covered the new relaxations in international travel here: **China's Travel Restrictions – Special Visa Applications**.

China [closed its borders to international travel](#), including those with valid work permits, on March 28. Since then, "the maximum number of flights allowed have been capped at 134 a week", Li told China News, [according to Caixin](#).

- **June 1** – China reported 16 newly diagnosed cases, all imported (11 cases in Sichuan, 3 cases in Inner Mongolia, and 2 cases in Guangdong); no new deaths. 16 new cases of asymptomatic infections (13 cases imported overseas) were recorded; there are 397 cases of asymptomatic infection (34 cases were imported) under medical observation.
- **May 31** – China [reported](#) 2 newly confirmed cases on Saturday, both imported cases (in Shandong); no new deaths. 3 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded; 389 cases of asymptomatic infections were under medical observation.
- The National Development and Reform Commission, National Health Commission, and State Administration of TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) jointly released the *Plan to develop public health prevention, control and treatment abilities* on May 20, 2020. The Plan aims to develop the country's lab testing capacity, treatment facilities in county-level hospitals, improve the infectious disease treatment network in urban areas, transform and upgrade epidemic treatment bases in each province in case of future outbreaks, among other goals. These policy goals and investment plans are similar to those

promoted after the 2002-03 SARS epidemic. However, the stakes will be much higher for China to follow through this time round.

- More than 9 million residents in Wuhan were tested between May 15 and May 24 (about 90% of its total population). The city's health commission asked the rest of its residents to get tested by May 26 at one of the city's [231 remaining testing sites](#). According to Bloomberg, Wuhan was able to test its residents in such a short span of time by [adopting](#) "a batch testing method that enabled health workers to assess as many as 10 samples simultaneously." A negative combined sample result clears all members of the sampled group. And while you won't know who in the batch is positive if you get a positive in the sample, it will immediately trigger individual testing and overall enables the rapid screening of different areas, according to Raina MacIntyre, professor of global biosecurity at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. However, as explained by Peng Zhiyong, director of intensive care unit at Wuhan Zhongnan Hospital, the method is only efficient when the infection rate is below 1 percent.
- **May 30** – China [reported](#) 4 newly confirmed cases in the last 24 hours, all of which were imported cases (2 cases in Shandong, 1 case in Shanghai, and 1 case in Guangdong); no new death cases. 4 additional cases of asymptomatic infections were reported; 396 cases of asymptomatic infection were under medical observation.
- **May 29** – China [reported](#) no new confirmed cases, no new deaths, and no new suspected cases. A total of 82,995 confirmed cases have been reported so far. 5 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded and there 409 asymptomatic infections currently under medical observation.
- **May 28** – China [reported](#) 2 newly confirmed cases, both of which were imported cases (1 case in Shanghai and 1 case in Fujian); no new deaths. The National Health Commission reported the addition of 23 cases of asymptomatic infections; there are still 413 cases of asymptomatic infections (24 cases imported from abroad) under medical observation.
- As the Two Sessions comes to a close this week, here is a brief recap from Monday when National People's Congress (NPC) Chairman Li Zhanshu delivered the NPC's annual work report.
The NPC will prioritize the drafting of 10 new laws – Yangtze River Protection Law, Rural Revitalization Promotion Law, Futures Law, Hainan Free Trade Port Law, Social Assistance Law, Veterans Protection Law, Biosecurity Law, Personal

Information Protection Law, Data Security Law, and the Export Control Law. In addition, the NPC will seek to amend 15 laws – Patent Law, Wildlife Protection Law, Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, Frontier Health and Quarantine Law, Emergency Response Law, Vocational Education Law, Administrative Penalties Law, People’s Armed Police Law, Anti-Money Laundering Law, People’s Bank of China Law, Commercial Bank Law, Insurance Law, Organic Law of National People’s Congress and Rules of Procedure, Electoral Law, and the National Flag Law.

To give some perspective – the NPC only sought to draft or amend 14 laws last year. They are aiming for 25 this year.

- If in previous years China was using its national power to drive the realization of 5G, and the private sector worried about the commercial use and profit model of 5G – the outbreak of COVID-19 has dramatically changed prospects in a matter of months. Besides driving a major chunk of the workforce online, the outbreak has witnessed the mass adoption of 5G applications, particularly in the public health sector, as well as accelerated the integration of 5G with existing and emerging technologies. Read our latest coverage here: **COVID-19 Catalyzes Commercial Use of 5G in China**.
- **May 27** – China reported 1 newly confirmed case, involving a person who traveled from overseas (in Shanghai) and no new deaths on Wednesday. 28 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded and 404 cases of asymptomatic infections are under medical observation now.
- **May 26** – China reported 7 newly diagnosed cases today – all imported cases (5 cases in Inner Mongolia, 1 case in Shanghai, and 1 case in Fujian); no new deaths. A total of 82,992 confirmed cases have been reported so far. There were 29 new cases of asymptomatic infections and 403 cases of asymptomatic infections are currently under medical observation.
- China’s top leaders have convened for the annual Two Sessions meetings since Thursday, following over two months of delays due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This year the Two Sessions takes on added importance, as investors wait to see what the government will announce to revitalize China’s economy out of a coronavirus-induced crisis. *China Briefing* briefly summarizes the key announcements unveiled by China’s leaders at the ongoing Two Sessions meetings here: **China’s Two Sessions 2020: What Have We Learnt So Far**.

- **May 25** – On [Monday](#), China’s National Health Commission reported a fresh cluster of imported cases. Over the last 24 hours, the country recorded: 11 newly confirmed cases, imported from abroad (10 cases in Inner Mongolia and 1 case in Sichuan); no new deaths; 40 new cases of asymptomatic infections (2 cases imported overseas) and 396 cases of asymptomatic infection under medical observation.
- **May 24** – On [Sunday](#), China reported 3 newly confirmed cases over the last 24 hours, including 2 imported cases (1 in Shanghai and 1 in Guangdong) and 1 local case (in Jilin); no new deaths. There were 36 new cases of asymptomatic infections and 371 cases of asymptomatic infections are under medical observation.
- **May 23** – China reported no new cases or deaths in the last 24 hours in its [Saturday update](#). There were 28 new cases of asymptomatic infections and 370 cases of asymptomatic infections are under medical observation.
- China will [not be setting an annual GDP target this year](#), according to Premier Li Keqiang at the National People’s Congress (NPC), which began today. This will be the first time China is not putting out the economic goal since 1990. China will “give priority to stabilizing employment and ensuring living standards,” Li said during his opening address. Beijing has set a target of “creating 9 million new urban jobs, compared to 11 million last year, and a surveyed urban unemployment rate of around 6 percent, compared to 5.5 percent last year”, as reported by *SCMP*.
Li told the NPC: China’s fiscal deficit is expected to go over 3.6 percent of the GDP this year, showing a deficit increase of RMB 1 trillion (US\$140 billion) over last year. RMB 1 trillion of government bonds will be issued for the purpose of COVID-19 control. Corporate fees/ taxes will be cut by RMB 2.5 trillion. *Bloomberg* is reporting that small and medium-sized businesses will be able to “delay their interest and principal payments to the end of March 2021, from an original deadline of June 30”. Further, local governments are expected to rein in expenditure and channel their ‘surplus, idle, and carryover funds’ to proper use. Beijing will work with the US to implement [phase one of the trade deal](#) and will work to advance free trade agreement talks with Japan and South Korea.
- **May 22** – China [reported](#) 4 newly diagnosed cases, including 2 imported cases (in Sichuan) and 2 local cases (both in Jilin) over the last 24 hours. A total of 82,971 confirmed cases have been reported so far. 35 new cases of

asymptomatic infections were recorded and 365 cases of asymptomatic infections are currently under medical observation.

- China's most important political gathering, the [Two Sessions](#) (Lianghui), begins today after a 2-month delay. Top policy advisers to the Communist Party, the CPPCC or **Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, will meet today** (about 2,200 representatives from social groups, economic, political, professional, business, and other organizations), following which, the annual gathering of the parliamentary body, the **National People's Congress** (2,957 deputies, majority of whom are elected from the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly controlled by the central government, and the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao), **starts tomorrow**. This year's Two Sessions has been shortened to 7 days (May 21-27). Premier Li Keqiang will present his economic goals for the year. China is facing its worst economic challenge in decades due to the pandemic besides the ongoing global slowdown and deteriorating relations with the US.
- Yesterday, the central city of Wuhan – epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak – announced new rules prohibiting the consumption, hunting, and breeding of wild animals, including protected species of terrestrial animals, those that exist in the wild or are bred, and rare and endangered aquatic animals. The new rules will be in effect for 5 years. See [here](#) for the official announcement (in Chinese). The development follows a temporary ban introduced in January on the wildlife trade in China. On February 24, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature body, issued a decision to totally ban the illegal trade and consumption of wildlife as food, which would fast-track legal efforts on implementing a permanent ban on the trade. Subsequently, different regional governments, like the province of Guangdong, have proposed their own regulation on wildlife protection.
China's wildlife industry has a lot of [regulatory grey areas](#), and is key to its traditional medicine industry besides food for consumption. Given the nature of the pandemic, and its role in the global economy, China will be keen to project itself in a positive light in terms of how it has handled [post-outbreak management](#) and what it will do to mitigate future risks.
- **May 21** – China [reported](#) 2 newly confirmed cases, including 1 imported case (in Guangdong) and 1 local case (in Shanghai); there were no new deaths. A total of 82,967 confirmed cases have so far been recorded, according to the National

Health Commission. The commission also reported 31 new cases of asymptomatic infections in the last 24 hours; 375 cases of asymptomatic infections are currently under medical observation.

- **May 20** – China [reported](#) 5 newly confirmed cases in the last 24 hours, including 1 imported case (Inner Mongolia) and 4 local cases (all in Jilin); no new deaths. 16 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded and 368 cases of asymptomatic infection are currently under medical observation.
- The state news media *China Daily* reported yesterday that the northeastern city of Shulan, Jilin province was “the latest pandemic hotspot in the country”. It is now under a ‘[Wuhan-style lockdown](#)’ and hundreds have reportedly been placed in medical quarantine.

Today, the neighboring city of Jiaohe also introduced protective measures given its proximity to such a high-risk area.

Provinces along northeast China that border Russia and North Korea are now battling fresh outbreaks of COVID-19 and Beijing is keen to contain and eliminate the spread of infection before it leads to fresh local transmission.

Moreover, the Two Sessions meeting, the annual general assembly session of the National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s parliament, will begin this week, on May 22 and Beijing is highly motivated to ensure there is no cause for concern. Over 5,000 delegates are expected to gather in the capital. Meanwhile, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, the country’s top policy advisory body, will start its annual session on May 21.

- **May 19** – China’s National Health Commission [reported](#) 6 newly confirmed cases, including 3 imported cases in Inner Mongolia and 3 local cases (2 cases in Jilin and 1 case in Hubei) in the last 24 hours; no new deaths. 17 new cases of asymptomatic infections were reported and 389 cases of asymptomatic infection (29 cases imported from abroad) are still under medical observation.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, countries worldwide, including China, have implemented [travel restriction policies](#) that have prevented the return of foreign nationals to the workforce. As a result, there will be significant changes to the residence days for the tax year 2020 for many expats who work in China. We discuss the new individual income tax (IIT) liabilities here: [How to Determine Your Foreign Employees’ IIT Liability in China: COVID-19 Travel Ban Series](#).

- **May 18** – Tracking the [data from 00.00 to 24:00 on May 17](#), China’s National Health Commission reported 7 newly confirmed cases, including 4 imported cases (4 cases in the province of Inner Mongolia) and 3 local cases (2 cases in Jilin province and 1 case in Shanghai); no new deaths. 18 cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded and 448 cases of asymptomatic infection are under medical observation.
- **May 17** – On Sunday, China reported 5 newly confirmed cases, including 2 imported cases (1 in Tianjin and 1 in Guangdong) and 3 local cases (in Jilin); no new deaths. 12 new cases of asymptomatic infection were recorded and 515 asymptomatic infections were under medical observation. See [here](#) for official bulletin.
- As of May 16, Wuhan, the central Chinese city also known as the original epicenter of COVID-19, announced that its local health authorities had conducted 222,675 nucleic acid tests, double the number from the previous day, according to reporting from *The Guardian*. Wuhan had recorded a fresh cluster of cases last weekend and is determined to track any asymptomatic infections; the city had lifted its months-long lockdown on April 8.
- **May 16** – On Saturday, China reported 8 newly diagnosed cases, including 6 imported cases (5 cases in Shanghai and 1 in Hainan) and 2 local cases (both in Jilin); no new deaths. 13 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded; 561 cases of asymptomatic infection were still under medical observation. Official bulletin in Chinese [here](#).
- China is adopting multiple strategies to rebound from its economic pause due to the COVID-19 lockdowns earlier in the year. New infrastructure investments and retail growth are key goals in this regard, both to boost economic activity and facilitate consumption in a changed world. In our latest article on *China Briefing*, we cover China’s announcement of 46 new cross-border e-commerce zones and explain why that may interest foreign investors and traders, online retailers, and logistics firms. Read it here: **46 New Cross-Border E-Commerce Zones Unveiled by China**.
- The National Health Commission [reported](#) 4 newly confirmed cases, all of which were local cases in the northeastern province Jilin where a cluster broke out this past weekend. 11 new cases of asymptomatic infections (2 imported cases) were recorded in the last 24 hours; 619 cases of asymptomatic infections are under medical observation. China has reported a total of 82,933 confirmed cases

and 4,633 deaths since the first infections were recorded late last year in the central city of Wuhan.

- **May 15** – China marks one month with no COVID-19 fatalities; the last reported death by the National Health Commission was on April 14.
- [Local media in Hong Kong](#) are reporting that authorities will conduct testing of hundreds of families after a 66-year-old with no recent travel history tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, followed by her five-year-old granddaughter on Wednesday. The 1,051st confirmed case is the old woman's husband, aged 62 years, who was previous asymptomatic and had initially been sent to a quarantine center. Prior to this new cluster, Hong Kong had not reported any local transmission for 23 days.
- Testing has begun in Wuhan. The capital of Hubei province, the city is known to have recorded the first cases of COVID-19. After a clear stretch with no new cases since early April, Wuhan reported a small outbreak (cluster of 6 cases) over the last weekend. Consequently, local authorities aim to test all 11 million residents.
- **May 14** – China reported 3 newly confirmed cases in [today's official bulletin](#), all of which were local cases (2 cases in Liaoning and 1 case in Jilin); no new deaths. 12 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded (1 case imported overseas); 712 cases of asymptomatic infection are under medical observation (36 cases were imported from abroad).
- **May 13** – China reported cases of local transmission today with 7 newly diagnosed cases, of which 6 were local cases (all in [Jilin](#)) and 1 was imported (official bulletin [here](#)). 8 new cases of asymptomatic infections were reported and 750 asymptomatic cases are under medical observation. A total of 82,926 confirmed cases have been reported thus far.
Meanwhile, local media is reporting that all 11 million residents will be tested in Wuhan, which reported a fresh new cluster of cases this past weekend, and is the original epicenter of the pandemic.
- More Hong Kong enterprises with cross-border operations in mainland China are now eligible to apply for an exemption from the usual compulsory quarantine requirements. Previously, this was restricted to essential industries, such as medical and food supply. There are clear qualification criteria set by the Hong Kong Trade and Industry Department, responsible for the application process. The expanded quarantine exemption will expire June 7, 2020. To learn more,

read our article here: [Quarantine Exemptions Expanded, Extended for Hong Kong Enterprises with Cross-Border Operations](#).

- In its [official bulletin for May 12](#), the National Health Commission reported that there was 1 newly confirmed case recorded in the last 24 hours (imported) and no new deaths. There are 15 new cases of asymptomatic infections and 760 asymptomatic infections are under medical observation.
- China reported no new cases of local transmission on Tuesday, after a double-digit spike over 2 consecutive days.
- **May 12** – *Reuters* is reporting that Wuhan (Hubei province), the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, will be arranging for city-wide nucleic acid testing over a period of 10 days. The city recorded its highest number of new infections since March 11 with 5 new cases confirmed over the past weekend. Every district in the city must submit their area's testing plan by Tuesday, according to an [internal document seen by Reuters](#).

Wuhan has a population of about 11 million people and its 76-day lockdown was lifted on April 8. 6 cases had been reported on Sunday and Monday at a [residential compound in Dongxihu district](#).

- We provide the most updated coverage detailing China's provincial quarantine policies for inbound travelers and other travel restrictions and monitoring here – [China's Travel Restrictions due to COVID-19: An Explainer](#).
- Fearing a new portent wave of coronavirus cases in China's northeast, one city in Jilin province – the city of Shulan – has been reclassified as high-risk. The total newly confirmed cases in Jilin (since May 8) is now reached 15. *Reuters* has reported that a cluster of new cases were confirmed in Shulan on Saturday (all of them family members of one person who tested positive as well as people they came into contact with). The city of Shulan has now implemented a lockdown of residential compounds, banned non-essential transport, and closed its schools, according to the Jilin government.
- International media have observed that Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province and epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak, has recorded its highest number of infections since March 11 with its 5 new cases over the weekend. Also problematic are the new confirmed and/or asymptomatic cases being recorded in China's border provinces of Jilin, Liaoning, Heilongjiang, and Inner Mongolia.
- Chinese state media is reporting that Disneyland Shanghai, the biggest of Disney's three resorts in Asia, has reopened today. It is the first of the Disney

theme parks to reopen after COVID-19 forced shutdowns worldwide. There will be restrictions on the footfall in the Shanghai theme park, and the children's playgrounds and indoor theaters will remain shut.

Monday's tickets for Shanghai Disneyland was restricted to one-third of its normal daily capacity of 80,000 visitors and was sold out Friday for RMB 399 (US\$56) each, as per the company.

- On Monday, May 11, China reported reported 14 newly diagnosed cases, of which 12 were local cases (11 in Jilin and 1 in Hubei), and 2 were overseas Imported cases (in Shanghai); no new deaths. Additionally, China recorded 20 cases of asymptomatic infections (1 case imported from overseas). A total of 82,901 confirmed cases have so far been reported in the country. See the official update in Chinese [here](#).
- In its Sunday briefing, the health commission reported a sudden spike in new cases. 17 newly diagnosed cases were recorded over Saturday, of which 10 were local cases (5 cases in Hubei, 3 cases in Jilin, and 1 case each in Liaoning and Heilongjiang) and 7 cases were imported from abroad (both in Inner Mongolia). In addition, there were 12 cases of asymptomatic infections. No new deaths were reported during the weekend. See the official update in Chinese [here](#).
- **May 9-11** – China's National Health Commission reported 1 newly confirmed case and 15 new local cases of asymptomatic infections on Saturday morning (May 9). See daily bulletin in Chinese [here](#).
- No locally transmitted infections have been recorded for over 18 days in Hong Kong. *South China Morning Post* is [reporting](#) that 4 new infections were detected in Hong Kong this week, "all involving residents returning from Pakistan. They are now in 14 days' compulsory quarantine at an isolation center on Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan."

Social distancing rules have been [eased](#) starting Friday:

- 1) Fitness centers, gaming arcades, mahjong parlors, amusement and massage centers, beauty salons, and cinemas can reopen if they follow the government's mandatory instructions and observe health and safety precautions.
- 2) Hong Kong will not allow nightclubs, saunas, party rooms, and karaoke lounges to reopen just yet, opting for a cautious staggered opening of public entertainment venues and preventing large or crowded gatherings.
- 3) A plan for schools reopening has also been announced.

- **May 8** – China has reported 1 newly confirmed case today, a local case in Jilin province; no new deaths. 16 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded; 854 asymptomatic cases are under medical observation currently. A total of 82,886 confirmed cases and 6 suspected cases have been reported as per the latest tally. See [here](#) for the daily official bulletin in Chinese.
- See our most updated table detailing China’s provincial quarantine policies for inbound travelers here – **China’s Travel Restrictions due to COVID-19: An explainer**.
- China has reported 2 newly confirmed cases over the last 24 hours, both of which were imported cases (1 in Shanghai and 1 in Guangdong); no new deaths. Also, 6 new cases of asymptomatic infections (no overseas imports) were reported; there are 880 cases of asymptomatic infections (81 cases imported overseas) under medical observation. See official bulletin in Chinese [here](#).
- **May 7** – Starting May 7, all regions across China will be categorized as ‘low’ risk level, according to China’s state broadcaster CCTV. Linkou county in Heilongjiang’s Mudanjiang city, is the last zone to adjust its risk level from ‘medium’ to ‘low.’ China remains focused on “return to work, return to production, return to business and return to market”.
- To counter investor concerns and make doing business in China more competitive, Beijing is focusing on developing its Western Regions – Chongqing Municipality, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Yunnan, Tibet, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Inner Mongolia, and Xinjiang, as well as regions and cities in other provinces, such as Xiangxi, Enshi, Yanbian, and Ganzhou. Starting January 1, 2021, enterprises will pay a lower CIT rate of 15 percent – if they make investments in encouraged industries in China’s western regions from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2030. This includes foreign invested companies. (China’s standard corporate income tax rate is 25 percent. In comparison, CIT in Vietnam is 20 percent.) To learn more, read our latest article here: **China Introduces 15% Profits Tax to Qualifying Investors in its Western Regions**. We have provided a complimentary English language, PDF copy of the Catalogue of Industries Encouraged to Develop in the Western Region here: **Catalogue of Industries Encouraged to Develop in the Western Region**.

- The Chinese government recently introduced measures to support the new energy vehicle (NEV) industry – electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles, and fuel cell vehicles – which was hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak. The measures include the extension of tax exemptions as well as the continuation of subsidies, although the subsidy amounts have reduced. Read more: **Incentives for China's New Energy Vehicles Industry**.
- **May 6** – China reported 2 newly confirmed cases, both of which were imported cases (in Shaanxi); no new deaths. A total of 82,883 confirmed cases have thus far been reported. As of Wednesday morning, 20 new cases of asymptomatic infections (3 cases imported overseas) were reported; there are 903 cases of asymptomatic infection (88 cases imported) under medical observation. See official bulletin in Chinese [here](#).
- The Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of the fifth-generation mobile technology (5G) is open for applications until November 30 on a first come, first served basis.
Under the Scheme, the Hong Kong government will subsidize 50 percent of the actual cost directly relevant to the deployment of 5G technology in an approved project, subject to a cap of HK\$500,000 (approx. US\$64,482). The Scheme is open for application from May 5, 2020 to November 30, 2020 or until the total amount of subsidy under the scheme is exhausted (whichever is earlier). Around 100 qualified projects will be subsidized. See [here for details](#).
- The Hong Kong government has announced a [new scheme](#) that provides a HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,896) one-off subsidy to licensed billiard establishments, public bowling alleys, and skating rinks. This opened for applications today, May 5. Holders of a valid Places of Amusement Licence issued under the Places of Amusement Regulation on March 28, 2020 will be eligible to apply. The last date for applications is May 30, 2020.
Applications for [The Catering Business \(Social Distancing\) Subsidy Scheme](#), under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund, will also start from May 5, according to the Food & Environmental Hygiene Department.
- Hong Kong is easing restrictions on restaurants: up to 8 people can be allowed to a table, up from 4 earlier. 7 types of businesses can reopen, including game parlors and fitness centers but must implement health and safety guidelines, such as provision of hand sanitizers and temperature checks. There will still be restrictions on group gatherings for another 14 days from Thursday, May 7. Lam

also signaled that schools may soon be allowed to reopen.

Hong Kong had closed its borders around a week since detecting its first case and immediately began observing social distancing, the memories of the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak still clear in public minds. In fact, community efforts and people's compliance with health and safety guidelines have been key to Hong Kong's fight to contain the epidemic spread.

Moreover, despite recording zero cases as early as April 20, Hong Kong extended restrictions in fears that any relaxation would set in a complacency that could result in a fresh wave of cases as seen in many countries. This has, however, meant a 3-month period of working from home, business closures, and suspension of services, resulting in the worst economic contraction at 8.9 percent since records began in 1974. Nevertheless, the stable public health situation in Hong Kong today offers a solid foundation upon which it can build a relatively quick economic recovery, unlike the case in many Western economies that continue to observe spikes in infections and deaths. Meanwhile, public health authorities in Hong Kong are keen to complete two incubation periods – 28 days – with zero infections, before declaring an end to local transmission.

- According to Hong Kong's chief executive Carrie Lam, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Hong Kong stood at 1,041 with 4 fatalities; 900 recovered patients were discharged by the end of Monday, May 4. There was no community transmission cases in more than two weeks. Hong Kong recorded only 15 new cases since April 20.
- **May 5** – China has reported 1 newly confirmed case, which was imported overseas (in Shanghai); no new deaths (see official bulletin [in Chinese here](#)). The National Health Commission also reported 15 new cases of asymptomatic infections (no overseas imports).
- **May 4** – In its Monday bulletin (access in Chinese [here](#)), China reported 3 newly confirmed cases, all imported cases (2 cases in Shanghai and 1 case in Shandong); no new deaths.

13 new cases of asymptomatic infections were recorded; there are 962 asymptomatic infections under medical observation (98 cases imported from abroad).

A total of 82,880 confirmed cases have so far been reported on the mainland. The death toll remains at 4,633, with no new fatality.

No coronavirus cases have been recorded in the epicenter, Wuhan (Hubei

province), for 28 consecutive days since April 4, the local health commission reported on Saturday.

- China's state news agency *Xinhua* is reporting that the country's central province of Hubei, where the first COVID-19 cases were reported, will "lower its emergency response from the highest to the second-highest level – starting May 2, after months of strict lockdown."
- The National Health Commission reported 12 newly diagnosed cases, of which 6 were imported cases (5 in Shanghai and 1 in Fujian) and 6 were locally transmitted (5 cases in Heilongjiang and 1 case in Inner Mongolia). There were 25 cases of asymptomatic infections and no new deaths reported as of midnight, April 30 (see daily official bulletin in Chinese [here](#)). According to [state media](#), the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases on the Chinese mainland stood at 82,874, including 1,670 imported cases and 981 asymptomatic patients under medical observation. China's COVID-19 death toll remains at 4,643 with no new deaths reported for about two weeks now.
- According to the [health commission](#), as of 24:00, April 30, a total of 1,037 cases were confirmed in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (846 cases discharged, 4 deaths) and 45 cases in the Macau Special Administrative Region (35 cases discharged).
- **May 1** – China begins its [five-day Labor Day holiday](#). The Forbidden City in Beijing has been opened to visitors, starting today, although the visitor limit has been reduced to 5,000. Social distancing norms and health precautions will be observed. Visitors will need to wear masks, show their [health codes](#) on their smartphone apps, accept temperature checks, and maintain a one-meter distance from each other.
- For all coronavirus updates in China between January 27 and April 30, 2020 as well as our related business advisory content, [see here](#).

Managing the impact on your China business

Since March 28, 2020, China has suspended the entry of most foreign nationals, citing the temporary measure as a response to the rapid spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) across the world. Due to these new travel restrictions, which so far have presented no expiration date, many foreign nationals who hold a residence permit in China for working purposes are stuck outside of China during this time.

In addition, while most businesses in China have restarted since March – many employers, especially small business owners, remain under big pressure to manage operating costs and maintain cash flow due to the impact of the outbreak.

Meanwhile, the now global spread of COVID-19 has necessitated the world's biggest ever technology experiments in establishing new work arrangements as businesses seek to effectively utilize their employees while also minimizing physical contact and navigating the temporary international travel bans in place.

As companies continue to grapple with the new HR, legal, technology, operational, and tax concerns due to the unprecedented implications of the pandemic, we address how to manage these uncertainties through our rolling coverage of the latest COVID-19 developments and practical advisory on *China Briefing*. Some of our latest resources are mentioned below for your easy reference:

- [China's COVID-19 Travel Ban: How to Handle Your Foreign Employee's Work and Residence Permit](#)
- [How to Legally Reduce Labor Costs in China During the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- [China's Travel Restrictions due to COVID-19: An Explainer](#)
- [Firefighting, Cash Flow Management, and Digitization – Short Term Solutions for CFOs](#)
- [China After COVID-19: How Foreign Companies Can Leverage Key IT Solutions](#)
- [China's Support Policies for Businesses Under COVID-19: A Comprehensive List](#)
- [How to Use China's Preferential Policies Rolled Out amid COVID-19](#)
- [Jinqiao CBZ: Shanghai's Latest Comprehensive Bonded Zone Opened, Key Projects Settled](#)
- [Hong Kong's New SME Financing Guarantee Scheme: An Explainer](#)
- [Hong Kong Unveils Anti-Epidemic Fund 2.0: Support for Businesses, Job Retention](#)
- [China Issues Consumption Coupons to Boost Retail Recovery After Coronavirus Shutdown Ends](#)
- [New Business Opportunities Emerging in China Under COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [COVID-19's Grim Milestones: Impact on Business is Real but Opens Up New Growth Areas](#)

- [China's Social Credit System: COVID-19 Triggers Some Exemptions, Obligations for Businesses](#)
- [Coronavirus in China: Applicability of Force Majeure in Contract Disputes](#)
- [China Business Continuity Issues That Need to Be Addressed Now](#)
- [The Social and Economic Impact of COVID-19 on China and its Recovery Potential](#)

Now is an ideal time to conduct a health check on your business and its exposure to the outbreak both in China and across the world. Businesses in China should be prepared to revisit their 2020 budgets and downgrade their sales forecasts as the scale of the outbreak will impact local consumption behavior as well as production and supply. Global businesses should also check on the viability of receiving shipments on time and make contingency plans if in doubt.

Finally, it may not all be bad news. There are always winners and losers during difficult times. Well prepared and managed businesses will survive and ultimately gain market share in the longer term. A Q3 or Q4 bounce back is also entirely feasible – and it makes sense to bear in mind the need to cater for that eventuality as well.

Since its establishment in 1992, Dezan Shira & Associates has been guiding foreign clients through Asia's complex regulatory environment and assisting them with all aspects of legal, accounting, tax, internal control, HR, payroll, and audit matters. As a full-service consultancy with operational offices across China, Hong Kong, India, and ASEAN, we are your reliable partner for business expansion in this region and beyond.

For inquiries, please email us at china@dezshira.com. Further information about our firm can be found at: www.dezshira.com.