



How SCMP reports Covid 19

Josephine Ma
24th November, 2020



www.scmp.com

South China Morning Post

Hong Kong takes emergency measures as mystery 'pneumonia' infects dozens in China's Wuhan city

- Most patients worked at a seafood market and health workers are still trying to identify virus responsible
- City authorities tell hospitals to report any more cases of the illness, which is described as being 'of unknown origin'



Mandy Zuo, Lilian Cheng, Alice Yan and
Cannix Yau

Published: 2:35pm, 31 Dec, 2019

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Day 1: 31 December 2019

Chaos and sentiment on the ground



Feb 2 - Coronavirus: Wuhan family struggles to get confirmation of infections and receive treatment

China / Society

China coronavirus: Wuhan medical staff being infected at much faster pace than reported as national death toll hits 26

- Fifteen cases of the coronavirus have been officially reported among medical staff in the city, but doctors say the true number is far higher
- One says that 'even now we don't have enough protective gear' but hospital workers have 'no option' but to carry on



Josephine Ma, William Zheng and Mini Liu
Published: 7:58pm, 24 Jan, 2020

Why you can trust SCMP



Jan 23 - Our reporter had to escape from Wuhan before the lockdown

Chaos and sentiment on the ground

China / Society

China coronavirus: Wuhan residents describe 'doomsday' scenes as patients overwhelm hospitals

- One woman said her husband had been feverish and coughing blood but was turned away by several hospitals that said they had no room
- Desperate scenes come as death toll rises to 41 and more than 1,000 cases of infection confirmed nationwide



Idoni Lau
Published: 7:08am, 29 Jan, 2020

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Jan 25 - Exclusive report about the medical system breakdown by talking to an eyewitness in the hospital

China / Society

Coronavirus: China Red Cross under fire over poor distribution of masks, medical supplies

- The government is under growing pressure to relax restrictions on donations of masks and other items
- Beijing has ordered donations to be funnelled to five government-backed charity organisations while Hubei province remains under lockdown



Josephine Ma
Published: 12:52pm, 1 Feb, 2020

Why you can trust SCMP



Feb 1 - A story looking at the Chinese government's control over civil society and the severe shortage of PPEs among local doctors

Investigations - combining science, knowledge and expertise

China / Society

Exclusive | China coronavirus: at least three suspected cases found in Shenzhen, Shanghai, sources say

- Two people said to be in quarantine at a specialist hospital in Shenzhen and a third being monitored in Shanghai, but authorities decline to comment
- Wuhan health commission confirms 17 new cases in city where outbreak thought to have started



Josephine Ma and Elizabeth Chung
Published: 8:20pm, 18 Jan, 2020

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At least three suspected cases are being investigated in Shenzhen and Shanghai, sources say. Photo: EPA-EFE

Jan 18 - When the government said there was no mainland case outside Wuhan and no human to human transmissions

China / Society

China coronavirus: Beijing breaks its silence, but only to 'deny rumours'

- National disease control centre says new virus 'is not Sars', dismisses claims there has been a cover-up in the reporting of cases outside Wuhan
- But doctor in Shanghai, where a suspected case is believed to have been reported, says his hospital is preparing staff to deal with a possible pneumonia outbreak



Zhuang Pinghui, Alice Yan and Zoe Low
Published: 6:01pm, 19 Jan, 2020

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China denied our report the next day

China / Society

China says infections spreading as it reports third death from Wuhan virus; WHO indicates human transmission likely

- Authorities find 136 new infections in Wuhan, confirm first cases in other cities – one in Shenzhen and two in Beijing
- World Health Organisation says there could be some limited human-to-human infection



SCMP Reporters
Published: 8:58am, 20 Jan, 2020

Why you can trust SCMP

Then on the third day, our report was acknowledged by the Chinese government



Investigations - combining science, knowledge and expertise

China / Society

At least 500 Wuhan medical staff infected with coronavirus

- Medical sources in the city confirm rate of infection, but say they have been told not to release the full picture to the public
- So far three deaths among medical workers have been confirmed, including that of Li Wenliang, but higher rate of infection risks hampering fight to curb disease



Josephine Ma, William Zhong and Zhuang Pinghui
Published: 9:49pm, 11 Feb, 2020

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Doctors said the rate of infection among colleagues had hit moros. Photo: Xinhua

Feb 11 - It took us weeks to find out the number and the government disclosed the number a couple of days after our report

China / Society

China coronavirus: Wuhan medical staff being infected at much faster pace than reported as national death toll hits 26

- Fifteen cases of the coronavirus have been officially reported among medical staff in the city, but doctors say the true number is far higher
- One says that 'even now we don't have enough protective gear' but hospital workers have 'no option' but to carry on



Josephine Ma, William Zhong and Mimi Lee
Published: 7:55am, 24 Jan, 2020

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As early as Jan 24, we were already chasing the number of medical staff being infected

China / Society

Chinese medical staff paying 'too high a price' in battle to curb coronavirus

- Authorities confirm that 1,716 health care workers have been infected with Covid-19
- Numbers affected are greater than those recorded during the 2003 Sars outbreak; one specialist warns this increases the risk of cross-transmission in hospitals



Josephine Ma and Zhuang Pinghui in Beijing
Published: 10:00pm, 14 Feb, 2020

[View more on this story](#)

Feb 14 - Government's confirmation



Investigations - combining science, knowledge and expertise

China / Society

Exclusive | A third of coronavirus cases may be 'silent carriers', classified Chinese data suggests

- More than 43,000 people in China had tested positive without immediate symptoms by the end of February and were quarantined
- It is still unclear what role asymptomatic transmission is playing in the global pandemic



Josephine Ma, Linda Law and Lee Jeong-ho
Published: 8:00pm, 22 Mar 2020

If you can't read SCMP



Scientists have been unable to agree on what role asymptomatic transmission plays in spreading Covid-19. Illustration: Perry Tai

March 22 - On China's asymptomatic patients

China / Society

China to include symptom-free coronavirus carriers in national figures

- The National Health Commission says it will start to include asymptomatic cases in its Covid-19 statistics in move to address public concern
- Classified government data has suggested that silent carriers could make up around a third of cases



Ma Ze
Published: 5:14pm, 31 Mar 2020

If you can't read SCMP



Some carriers who show no symptoms can still infect others. Photo: AFP

March 31 - Asymptomatic cases started to be included in China's daily reports



Debunking myths and misinformation with new formats



February 27 - An early explainer using the World Health Organisation's prediction in 2018 about 'Disease X's' arrival to provide insights on how Covid-19 descended on Wuhan



September 12 - A comprehensive look into the risks involving labs handling dangerous viruses

Summary

- **Newsroom collaborations to produce the best stories to inform and educate readers:** bureaus, editorial teams, use of multimedia formats
- **Researching for the story:** monitor science journals daily, contacting scientists and infectious disease experts to get first-hand information and verify information
- **Tapping on experience and expertise:** reporting on SARS helped inform the depth and intelligence of our Covid-19 coverage
- **Putting public interest first:** prioritise factual and objective reporting, be vigilant on fake news and rumours



South China Morning Post