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4 February

Dear All

Please find below the update 5 from HOPE.

Some useful information about international travel to and from China by National Immigration Administration.

Kind regards

Daniel

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China Daily editorial



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Q&A: Immigration, entry/exit amid epidemic control

Updated: Feb 3, 2020 National Immigration Administration [Print](#)

Questions and Answers by National Immigration Administration

Concerning Immigration and Exit-Entry Administration during the Period of Prevention and Control on Pneumonia caused by Novel Coronavirus

I. Question: Are foreigners allowed to entry or exit as usual during the period of epidemic prevention and control?

Answer: The Chinese government has taken a series of strong measures since the outbreak of pneumonia caused by novel coronavirus. As President Xi Jinping stated, China has full confidence and capability to win the battle against the novel coronavirus outbreak. At present, except for the lockdown of the exit channel of Wuhan ports, all port visa agencies are operating as usual. Visa-free transit policy for foreigners is still effective. All land, sea and air ports of China are functioning. Foreigners can enter or exit as usual with their valid international travel documents.

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At present, it is helpful to the epidemic prevention and control by reducing cross border movements. Foreigners could make reasonable travel arrangements to China and stay or reside in China as usual. Due to entry restrictions adopted by some countries and regions, it is advised that foreigners who need to exit from China, should learn in advance entry requirements of destination countries or regions to avoid financial and time losses in case of any entry refusals. Those who travel to countries or regions without entry restrictions are advised to arrive at exit ports well ahead of departure time for necessary checks. Foreigners having fever with symptoms of acute respiratory infection such as cough or breathing difficulties should avoid international travels and seek immediate medical treatment at the nearest hospitals. Information such as recent activities as well as close contacts should be provided to relevant authorities for any necessary control measures.

II. Question: How do foreigners apply for visas, stay or residence permits during the period of epidemic prevention and control?

Answer: All exit-entry administration authorities (EEA) in China will be in full service for extension and issuance of visa and stay or residence permits

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to ensure foreigners' legitimate stay in China. Urgent services for emergency situations will also be provided. To avoid crowds gathering risks, the EEA authorities will make arrangements for services on appointments. Foreigners could make appointments in advance for any applications. For those institutions which host high numbers of foreigners, such as universities, scientific research institutes and business enterprises, the EEA authorities will allow additional agent service or provide other necessary conveniences depending upon the situation.

III. Question: How to deal with the situation that a foreigner's visa, stay or residence permit expires during the epidemic prevention and control?

Answer: According to Exit and Entry Administration Law of the PRC, foreigners should exit China or apply for extension at the EEA authorities before the visa, stay or residence permit expires. In light of the relevant laws and regulations and current situation, those who are unable to exit as scheduled or extend the visas, stay or residence permits due to the reason of epidemic prevention and control shall be given a lighter or mitigated or be



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exempted from punishment by the EEA authorities depending upon circumstances.

IV. Question: What can foreigners do to cooperate during the epidemic prevention and control?

Answer: It is advised that foreign friends enhance sense of self-protection, avoid crowded public places and take effective preventive measures. It is strongly suggested to actively cooperating with local communities and inviting entities to take preventive measures, abiding by relevant laws and regulations and following instructions of public security organs, NIA authorities, hygiene & health authorities. In case of having a fever with symptoms of acute respiratory infection such as cough or breathing difficulties, foreigners should report to the local communities, NIA authorities or hygiene & health authorities and cooperate actively in medical treatment and epidemic control. NIA authorities at all levels will work closely with relevant departments for the epidemic prevention and control to provide consultancy to foreigners, assist in disease screening and diagnosis with medical departments as well as dealing with other



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difficulties and problems encountered by foreigners during their stay in China.

V. Question: Are Chinese mainland residents allowed to exit or enter as usual?

Answer: At present, except for the lockdown of the exit channel of Wuhan ports, all land, sea and air ports of China are in normal service. Chinese mainland residents could exit or enter with their valid international travel documents. All immigration inspection agencies of NIA will continue to provide services and conveniences for Chinese nationals, and coordinate with relevant hygiene & health authorities to conduct necessary epidemic checks. In view of the epidemic prevention and control situation as well as entry restrictions adopted by some countries and regions, in order to ensure health and safety of travelers and maintain exit and entry order, it is advised that Chinese mainland residents make reasonable travel plans and avoid unnecessary financial and time costs. Based on currently available information, countries including DPRK, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Australia, ROK, Qatar, Japan, Vietnam, India, Britain, Indonesia, France, Myanmar, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka as

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well as Hong Kong, Macao SAR and Taiwan region have adopted entry restrictions for travelers from Chinese mainland. If travelers are in urgent need of exit from Chinese mainland, it is advised to make travel arrangements after consulting with relevant diplomatic representative agencies, airlines or the inviting entities of the destination counties or regions

VI. Question: Could Chinese citizens apply for travel documents such as passports at the EEA authorities?

Answer: In order to ensure health and safety of Chinese citizens and foreigners, reduce risks of cross-border movements for the epidemic prevention and control, maintain normal exit and entry order, it is advised that Chinese mainland residents make reasonable travel plans, and postpone applications of travel documents unless in emergency. At present, the EEA of Hubei province has suspended accepting travel documents applications from Chinese citizens. Normal services will be resumed according to the situation of the epidemic prevention and control. Application services are suspended in EEA of other provinces during Chinese Spring Festival holiday. Under normal circumstances, the application centers except for

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Hubei province will be back into service after Chinese Spring Festival holiday.

Applicants could contact local EEA authorities in advance for further information about opening time of application centers and relevant requirements. To avoid crowds gathering and unnecessary travels, applicants in need could confirm the time for submitting applications by online appointment, so that EEA authorities could provide better services and enhance efficiency. Applicants in urgent need for travel documents (including those in Hubei province) could contact local EEA authorities at any time for urgent applications.

VII. Question: Are travelers allowed to exit and enter through ports of Wuhan?

Answer: International travelers can enter China through ports of Wuhan (referring to Wuhan Tianhe International Airport and Hankou ferry terminal). Due to the lockdown of the exit channels of Wuhan ports, exits through any ports of Wuhan can only be permitted with approval.



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VIII. Question: Could Chinese mainland residents go through e-channels as usual?

Answer: Some of immigration inspection agencies may close some e-channels for the moment due to current situation of the epidemic prevention and control. Under such circumstances, travelers should go through manual inspection channels. It is advised for travelers to follow instructions of NIA officers and go through border clearance formalities according to relevant regulations.

During the epidemic prevention and control period, immigration officers at manual inspection channels may work together with relevant authorities and take necessary preventive measures such as taking travelers' temperatures and making inquiries about travel itineraries and close contacts. Cooperation by the travelers will be appreciated. Immigration inspection agencies will make efforts to guarantee border inspection waiting time no more than 30 minutes for Chinese citizens at large ports and smooth border clearance for foreign visitors.



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IX. Question: How to deal with the situation that some travelers have already obtained endorsements to Hong Kong, Macao SAR and Taiwan region but cannot travel due to the epidemic?

Answer: At present, regional authorities of Hong Kong, Macao SAR and Taiwan region have conducted travel restrictions for Chinese mainland residents. For those who have obtained endorsements to Hong Kong, Macao SAR and Taiwan region but fail to enter within the validity of endorsements because of the epidemic, EEA authorities will, after clearance of the epidemic, issue the same type of endorsements with the same validity free of charge according to the holder's wishes.

X. Question: How to deal with the situation that travelers have suspicious symptoms?

Answer: If travelers have symptoms of acute respiratory infection, such as cough and breathing difficulties, they should suspend travels immediately, stay far away from the crowds and seek treatment at the nearest medical institutions. The NIA authorities will provide necessary assistance as well.



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WHO chief says widespread travel bans not needed to beat virus

By AI HEPING in New York | China Daily Global | Updated: 2020-02-04 04:41 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus speaks during a news conference after a meeting of the Emergency Committee on the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Geneva, Switzerland, on Jan 30, 2020.

The head of the World Health Organization said on Monday there was no need for measures that "unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade" in trying to halt the spread of a coronavirus that has killed 361 people in China, and he lauded China's efforts to contain it.

"We call on all countries to implement decisions that are evidence-based and consistent," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the WHO executive board in Geneva, reiterating his message from last week when he declared an international emergency.

Tedros said that China was using the right strategy of focusing its efforts on the hardest-hit places and slowing the spread, which he described as "small."

China is "protecting the Chinese people and protecting the rest of the world," he said. "Because of this strategy and if it weren't for China, the number of cases outside China would have been very much higher."

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"It's no reason to really panic now," he said. "The chances of getting this going to anywhere outside China is very low, and even in China, when you go to other provinces, it's very low."

Referring to the virus' spread abroad, Tedros said it was "minimal and slow", while warning that it could worsen.

China's delegate took the floor at the WHO executive board and denounced measures by "some countries" that have denied entry to people holding passports issued in Hubei province -- at the center of the outbreak -- and to deny visas and cancel flights.

"All these measures are seriously against recommendation by the WHO," said Li Song, who is China's ambassador for disarmament at the United Nations in Geneva.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying accused the US of catalyzing public fear surrounding the coronavirus through its evacuations of US citizens from China and ban on Chinese travelers to the country.

A WHO spokesman said on Monday that the organization could lead a team of experts to China as early as this week to investigate the coronavirus outbreak.

"A multidisciplinary mission of international experts to China will take place, possibly this week. Both China and WHO agreed on this mission," said WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic.

"The mission is an international technical mission led by WHO. As such, CDC could be part of it," he said, referring to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from the US.

The experts would have a range of specializations, including epidemiology, laboratories, research and development, and would work with Chinese counterparts to help guide global response efforts, he said.

Colin McIff, a senior official at the US Department of Health, told Reuters in Geneva on Monday at WHO headquarters, that "conversations are ongoing" about American medical experts joining the WHO-led technical mission.



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There have been 17,238 confirmed infections in China including 361 deaths, as well as 151 confirmed cases in 23 countries and 1 death which was reported from the Philippines on Sunday, Tendros added.

The United States recorded its 11th case of the coronavirus, with a couple from central California falling ill after the husband's trip to China's Hubei province at the epicenter of the outbreak

Coronavirus blow to economy is one-off and for a limited time: China Daily editorial

chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-02-03 20:36 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



Workers make protective masks at the workshop of a company in Jinxian county, East China's Jiangxi province, Feb 1, 2020. To help fight the outbreak of pneumonia caused by novel coronavirus, workers of many medical material companies rushed to work ahead of schedule to make protective equipment. [Photo/Xinhua]

With the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the Chinese economy is facing its most severe challenge in many years. But while the disease and related epidemic control measures are undoubtedly dragging on growth, it is not the first time China has had to cope with such a daunting scenario, and policymakers are taking timely and

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forceful measures to bring the pandemic to an end as soon as possible, inspiring confidence that the economy will be able to rebound quickly.

The impacts of the epidemic on economic activities have been huge with economists estimating that they could potentially rip 2 percentage points off the country's GDP growth in the first quarter. Sectors such as tourism, transportation, hospitality and catering have been particular hard hit during what would normally have been their peak season.

During the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome 17 years ago, which lasted roughly six months, it led to GDP growth slowing by 2 percentage points in the first quarter of 2003. If the novel coronavirus can be put under control quicker than SARS, the impacts may be less severe.

Such hopes are not unrealistic. The authorities have reacted more promptly and proactively this time compared with 2002-03 when SARS erupted, and the country's public health system is more developed since then.

Which is why Lian Weiliang, deputy head of China's National Development and Reform Commission, emphasized at a news conference on Monday that the economic impacts from the outbreak will only be felt in the short term and that China is fully capable of minimizing the blow to the economy.

While the confirmed cases of the potentially deadly novel coronavirus rose to 17,355 as of Monday evening, according to figures by Chinese health authorities, a total of 531 patients have been discharged from hospital after recovery, raising hopes that as doctors are becoming more knowledgeable about how to treat the disease, the pace of recovery will accelerate, easing people's fears.

The government is also ensuring that all available resources are dedicated to the fight against the virus. On Sunday, the People's Bank of China, China's central bank, announced a range of measures to step up monetary and credit support to enterprises which are helping in its fight against the virus pandemic.

Bringing the pandemic to an end will hopefully be done sooner rather than later, but however long it takes, the impacts of the pandemic will just be one-off and for that limited period. After the novel coronavirus is brought under control and the all-clear is sounded, the unleashing of the pent up demand will, at least partially, make up for



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the lost activities during the epidemic and provide the necessary boost to kick the economy into a higher gear.

The top priority now is for policymakers to roll out forceful support measures to ensure the corporate sector, particularly small and medium-sized businesses which are the main job providers, can survive the current crisis. Tax and fee reductions and targeted subsidies, among others, should be implemented so that enterprises, especially the small ones, have the chance to survive.

While negative economic effects of the pandemic are still being felt, the authorities need to ensure they are extending a helping hand as much as possible.