

CBBC COVID-19 (coronavirus) Regional Response Update

6 March 2020

Yesterday Hubei Province, where the virus first emerged last year, reported zero new cases for the first time and there are reports that the province-wide lockdown might soon come to an end.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government is clearly focused on ensuring an orderly resumption of business activity. The central government has ordered all provinces except Hubei and Beijing to remove obstacles for returning migrant workers, allowing them to get back to work.

Possible stimulus

Policy makers in Beijing are now debating how to speed up economic recovery and calls are getting louder for a large-scale stimulus package similar to the one following the financial crisis in 2008. Yet Chinese leaders are only too aware of the risks and, so far, central authorities have limited themselves to targeted funds and financial support.

One sector which is set to benefit from government aid is the country's healthcare sector. Some provinces, such as Jiangsu, have already indicated that businesses involved in the fight against COVID-19 will receive extra benefits and subsidies even after the end of the crisis

Recent remarks by President Xi have also made it clear that the leadership wants to use the stimulus to promote advanced technologies such as 5G and data centres. Traditional infrastructure projects, such as high speed rail will be prioritised, too.

More controls on foreign travellers

But growing economic activity does not mean that China will remove temperature checks and preventive measures. With more reported cases now emerging outside of China, airports and border terminals have already introduced mandatory health checks for foreigners coming into the country. Many provinces also require travellers from severely affected countries like Italy or Iran to self-quarantine for 14 days. It therefore seems that international travel restrictions will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

Disclaimer

Given the fluidity of the situation on the ground and difficult work situation for colleagues in China, these regional reports can only provide a snapshot of the current situation. Nonetheless, we are striving to continue to improve our reporting during this unfolding crisis and aim to provide members with an accurate picture of the situation on the ground.

Data

The data of confirmed, recovered, and deceased persons refers to the province as of 28 February 2020.

Content	Beijing (Beijing)		Shanghai (Shanghai)		Tianjin (Tianjin)		Shenyang (Liaoning)		Xi'an (Sha'anxi)	
Status	Confirmed:	422	Confirmed:	342	Confirmed:	136	Confirmed:	125	Confirmed:	245
	Recovered:	299	Recovered:	306	Recovered:	128	Recovered:	106	Recovered:	226
	Deaths:	8	Deaths:	3	Deaths:	3	Deaths:	1	Deaths:	1
Opening Dates/ Return to Work	Since 10th Feb 2020		Since 10 th Feb 2020 Schools: 2 nd March 2020 (Online Teaching)		Since 6 th Feb 2020		Since 10 th Feb 2020 Schools: 2 nd March 2020 (Online Teaching)		Since 10 th Feb 2020 Schools: 2 nd March 2020 (Online Teaching)	
General Information	<p>No collective gathering and dining activities during epidemic.</p> <p>Hot Line for companies facing difficulties relaunching operations (Tel.: 12345)</p> <p>More controls of foreign arrivals and overseas personnel</p> <p>Intensified disinfection efforts of shopping malls, restaurants, and commercial buildings</p>		<p>1) As of 29 February, work resumption rates for enterprises above designated size reached 94.5%; big conglomerates work resumption rates reached 97.4%; SMEs 53%.</p> <p>2) Prevention and economic recovery are both top priorities; gradually relax restrictions on business activity</p> <p>3) People travelling to Shanghai from South Korea, Japan, Italy and Iran must self- quarantine for 14 days.</p>		<p>1) Ensure funding for prevention and control projects</p> <p>2) Green channel approval process (use online applications, avoid direct contact)</p> <p>3) Secure food supply</p> <p>4) Support enterprises in critical sectors to return to work</p> <p>5) Special Fund of RMB 12.4 million for protection of high risk groups</p> <p>6) Implement ban on wildlife trade</p>		<p>1) Return rate for top 100 industrial tax payers is 97%.</p> <p>2) 690,000 students in Shenyang started online courses from 2nd March</p>		<p>1) From 28th Feb 2020, it is no longer necessary to test all employees who return to work</p> <p>2) Xi'an government strives to business back 100% operations by the end of February</p> <p>3) Public venues and restaurants are to fully reopen by end of March</p> <p>4) 14 day quarantine for all persons arriving from affected regions and countries</p> <p>5) All communities are required to use the health QR code to monitor local population</p>	

Content	Beijing (Beijing)	Shanghai (Shanghai)	Tianjin (Tianjin)	Shenyang (Liaoning)	Xi'an (Sha'anxi)
HR & Tax	<p>1) Flexible work arrangements</p> <p>2) Paid leave for one parent during school and kindergarten closure period</p> <p>3) Deferral of tax and social insurance filing deadline for February extended until 28 February</p> <p>4) Self-quarantine of 14 days for non-local employees after return to Beijing</p> <p>5) Companies treat remote work as normal work but might adjust salaries</p> <p>6) Employment support for critical enterprises</p>	<p>1) Preferential tax arrangements for imported supplies for epidemic prevention</p> <p>2) Tax and social insurance filing deferred for up to 3 months</p> <p>3) Carry-forward period of annual losses in 2020 from a maximum of 5 years to 8 years (some companies)</p> <p>4) 50% of the total actual unemployment insurance premium paid by employers and their employees in the previous year (conditional)</p> <p>5) Start and end dates that mark the year of the employee's social security contribution is adjusted to 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021</p> <p>6) Medical insurance is to be temporarily reduced by 0.5% in 2020.</p> <p>7) Salary and work adjustments are encouraged to avoid layoffs</p>	<p>1. Green channel for work injury claims for infected employees</p> <p>2) Online platform and WeChat mini programmes for tax declarations</p> <p>3) Special allowance for healthcare employees and frontline medical workers</p> <p>4) Tax deferrals for affected businesses</p> <p>5) Rent reductions</p> <p>6) 15% CIT for emergency related R&D expenditures</p> <p>7) Donations can be deducted from CIT</p> <p>8) Employment support for key industries</p>	<p>1) Guaranteed 24-hour employment support mechanism established for critical enterprises</p> <p>2) Small-scale taxpayers enjoy 1% tax relief policy for VAT between 1st March 2020 and 31st May 2020</p>	<p>1) Social Benefit Payments can be delayed for up to six months</p> <p>2) Application for tax deadline extension of up to 3 months</p> <p>3) Tax exemptions for heavily affected businesses (e.g. disabled employee insurance fee and water conservancy fee)</p> <p>4) Enterprises in critical sectors shall benefit from preferential tax policies</p> <p>5) Subsidies for employment training programmes</p>

Content	Beijing (Beijing)	Shanghai (Shanghai)	Tianjin (Tianjin)	Shenyang (Liaoning)	Xi'an (Sha'anxi)
Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Suspension of administrative fee collection 2) Rent reduction 3) Preferential tax and Social Security policies 4) Subsidize R&D expenses of SMEs (esp. in Zhongguancun). 5) Preferential Loan and Financing Policy for SME 6) Subsidise utility costs 7) Work and employment Support for Affected Personal 8) Support for companies to relaunch operations 9) Provide 'liability insurance' for companies following preventive measures guidelines 10) Support for financial services to help business recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Intensified fiscal support 2. Strengthened special financial and credit support 3) More direct financing channels 4) R&D support 5) Diversified channels to offer financial support for enterprises. 6) More support to enterprises that have cash-flow problems 7) Financial support for creative industries; priority for performing arts, tour operators, cultural exhibitions, and cinemas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rent reduction for Businesses 2) Maintain and ensure urban management and prevention measures 3) Work and Employment Support for Affected Personal 4) Encourage enterprises to stabilize the workforce 5) Preferential Loan and Financing Policy (RMB 6 billion emergency fund) 6) Technical Support in Hygiene and Preventive Measures 7) R&D support for healthcare related businesses 8) Preferential tax policies 9) Support port logistics 10) Support insurance and leasing sector in support of businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) RMB 212 million to support for unemployment insurance and compensation 2) RMB 260 million support from utilities for electricity consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Subsidies for emergency related industries (50% of technical procurement) 2) Support heavily affected industries (Wholesale and retail, accommodation and catering, logistics and transportation, cultural tourism, exhibition and other industries) 3) Cash in the supporting policies for advanced manufacturing 4) Rent exemption for February and 50% reduction for March/April (government property) 5) R&D support 6) Special support for cultural and tourism companies 7) RMB 300 million fund for support of tourism industry 8) 50% reimbursement for losses due to cancelled trade shows and 80% subsidies for trade show participation in 2020
Customs and Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Green Channel for Imports and emergency-related goods 2)'Zero Delay'-Policy 3) Financial and Administrative Support for affected businesses 4) Special COVID-19 Customs declaration and duty-free policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Green Channel for emergency-related goods 2) Special counters with 24/7 service guaranteed at major import ports. 3) Priority will be given to imported supplies that warrant examination at inspection check points, ensuring timely and rapid inspection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Green Channel for emergency-related goods 2) Support reduced loading and unloading time within 24 hours of arrival 3) Required presence of customs consignee during inspection has been scrapped 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Green channel clearance mechanism for emergency-related products 2) No tariffs on emergency-related donations

Content	Beijing (Beijing)	Shanghai (Shanghai)	Tianjin (Tianjin)	Shenyang (Liaoning)	Xi'an (Sha'anxi)
Public Transport	<p>Disinfection and control measures (temperature checks, mandatory masks) on all public transport</p> <p>Flight 1) Partly suspended 2) WeChat/App-based online application for travel permit</p> <p>Railways Set-up separate isolation zones and transfer to hospitals</p> <p>Busses Disinfection twice a day; Drivers required to wear masks</p> <p>Metro All personnel are required to wear masks; all lines in service</p>	<p>Highways Temperature Checks and Registration. Access denied to people without proof of residency and work.</p> <p>Flights Partly suspended; increasing number of controls of foreigners coming into China</p> <p>Trains Trains to and from Shanghai mostly operate as usual with some cancellations</p> <p>Busses Partly suspended</p> <p>Metro In service</p>	<p>Buses Bus lines in Binhai New Area partly suspended</p> <p>Metro Since 3 February 2020, Tianjin Metro entrances and exits partly suspended, otherwise normal operation</p>	<p>1) Disinfection and control measures (temperature checks, mandatory masks) on all public transport 2) ID check before boarding</p> <p>Flight In service but frequent checks and testing; shuttle buses back in service</p> <p>Railways Partly suspended</p> <p>Long Distant Busses In service with longer intervals</p> <p>Metro In service</p> <p>Some delays due to heavy snow</p>	<p>Transport resumed on 20 February</p> <p>Air Some services still suspended</p> <p>Metro Normal operation with frequent ID checks</p>

Content	Qingdao (Shangdong)		Nanjing (Jiangsu)		Hangzhou (Zhejiang)		Wuhan (Hubei)		Chongqing (Chongqing)	
Status	Confirmed:	758	Confirmed:	631	Confirmed:	1,215	Confirmed:	67,592	Confirmed:	576
	Recovered:	618	Recovered:	594	Recovered:	1,147	Recovered:	41,988	Recovered:	513
	Deaths:	6	Deaths:	0	Deaths:	1	Deaths:	2,931	Deaths:	6
Opening Dates/ Return to Work	Since 10th Feb 2020 Schools: 1 March 2020		Since 10th Feb 2020 Schools: Online education; schools closed until further notice		Since 10th Feb 2020 Schools: Closed until further notice		Scheduled for 11 March 2020 Schools: Closed until further notice		Since 10th Feb 2020 Schools: after 27 March 2019	
General Information	1) Approval needed for resumption of business operation 2) Health Care and Prevention Plan needed 3) Main urban areas adopted real-name registration system for public transport (since 18 February 2020)		1) Streamlined testing of people returning from the countries severely affected by COVID-19 2) Mandatory health declaration and 14 days self-quarantine for travellers from affected countries and regions 3) Mandatory implement epidemic prevention measures for all businesses		1) Most businesses have resumed operations 2) Main urban areas are re-opened. Public areas like parks and shopping malls are re-opened. Citizens are able to move freely in/out against Green 'Health Code' + ID card + 'Temperature Check'. Restaurants in Hangzhou are gradually allowed to restart on-site eating service. 3) No trade fairs in February or March 5) Requirements for businesses: https://www.sohu.com/a/370428479_100019894 (e.g. District level requirements on 15 th February http://ori.hangzhou.com.cn/ornews/content/2020-02/15/content_7677001.htm)		Currently under Lock-Down All businesses and residents are required to stay at home or work remotely		Approval and Healthcare Plan needed for resumptions of operations (exemptions for emergency-related industries) Seven districts have reduced the risk level to LOW	

Content	Qingdao (Shangdong)	Nanjing (Jiangsu)	Hangzhou (Zhejiang)	Wuhan (Hubei)	Chongqing (Chongqing)
HR & Tax	Reduced or exempted social insurance fee until June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Preferential tax and social security policies 2) Employment and recruitment support 3) 50% unemployment insurance subsidies 4) Special support for workers from Hubei province 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preferential tax and social security policies for SMEs with tax and social security deferrals up to 3 months. 2. Special HR provisions concerning work contracts of infected employees 	Tax and social security payment deadline has been postponed until 6 March 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Flexible work arrangements are encouraged 2) Preferential tax and social security policies + suspension and postponement of filling deadlines 3) Employment support
Business Support	<p>18 policies aiming at helping SMEs, including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Deferral of tax and social insurance for up to 3 months; 2) Special legal aid mechanism for trade dispute; 3) Preferential loan and financing policy <p>http://www.qingdao.gov.cn/n172/n24624151/n24672217/n24673564/n24676498/200204091903726640.html</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Financial support for purchasing and R&D investment. 2) Increase credit and cash support 3) Rent reduction 4) Legal aid and administrative support 5) Special regional fund for emergency-related businesses 6) Special support fund for businesses contributing to the fight against COVID-19 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Preferential tax and social security policies 2) Flexible work arrangements 3) Rent free policy for state-owned property operated tenements 4) Preferential Loan and Financing Policies 5) Legal and Administrative Aid for SMEs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Legal and administrative aid for foreign businesses 2) Preferential tax and social security policies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Preferential loan and financing policies 2) Rent reduction 3) Reduced utility costs
Customs and Logistics	Green Channel for emergency related goods and imports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Green Channel for emergency related goods and imports 2) Jinling Customs have relaxed restrictions on personal hygiene product 4) Zero Delay Policy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Online approval platform 2) Green channel for emergency-related goods 3) Continuing delays 4) More port operation charges are to be exempted at Ningbo/ Zhoushan Port until end of the epidemic. <p>https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1659589609797076454&wfr=spider&for=pc</p>	Not in service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Green channel for emergency-related goods 2) Tax exemptions for donated goods

Content	Qingdao (Shandong)	Nanjing (Jiangsu)	Hangzhou (Zhejiang)	Wuhan (Hubei)	Chongqing (Chongqing)
Public Transport	<p>Real-name registration required in all major public transports</p> <p>Trains Partly suspended with many cancelations until end of February</p> <p>Long-Distance Bus Partly operational with restrictions in some areas (e.g. Jimo district)</p> <p>Metro Normal service</p>	<p>Busses Normal operations from 7am to 7pm</p> <p>Metro Main line operation time between 6am and 10pm; S-lines finish at the different times, but no later than 9:30pm</p>	<p>Flights & Trains Gradually recovered in Yangtze Delta River area, including some trains to/from Wenzhou.</p> <p>Busses & Metro In service</p>	<p>Not in service</p>	<p>Normal service</p> <p>Approved tourism spots in low risk district re-opened.</p> <p>Other tourism related services are still suspended until further notice.</p>

Content	Chengdu (Sichuan)	Changcha (Hunan)	Guangzhou (Guangdong)	Shenzhen (Guangdong)		
Status	Confirmed:	539	Confirmed:	1,018	Confirmed:	1,352
	Recovered:	442	Recovered:	955	Recovered:	1,216
	Deaths:	3	Deaths:	4	Deaths:	7
Opening Dates/ Return to Work	Since 10 February 2020 Schools: Closed until further notice	Since 10 February 2020 Schools: 1 March 2020	Since 10 February 2020	Since 10 February 2020		
General Information	Emergency response level lowered from first to second level No new confirmed case reported since 21 February..	On 20th Feb, Hunan provincial government issued new 30 policies to help enterprises relaunch operations http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-02/20/content_5481092.htm	1) Approval needed for resumption of work. Applying companies need to provide: a. Internal responsibility mechanism, specifying a dedicated person to be in charge b. Written travel record for the last 14 days. Self-segregation for 14 days is mandatory c. Sufficient preventive equipment (ie. masks) d. Monitoring mechanism 2) Companies must report to Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarters of the district level at least 5 days before working.	1) Approval needed for resumption of work. Companies applying need to provide: a. internal responsibility mechanism, specifying a dedicated person to be in charge b. Written travel record for the last 14 days. Self-segregation for 14 days is mandatory c. Sufficient preventive equipment (ie. masks) d. Monitoring mechanism 2) Companies must report to Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarters of the district level at least 5 days before working.		
HR & Tax	1) Emergency-related logistics companies are exempt from vehicle and vessel tax in 2020 2) Deferral of tax and social security contributions	1) Government-organised transport for workers to return to work 2) Provincial level employee recruiting platform to help with staff shortages	1) Deferral of tax and social security filing deadlines 2) Preferential tax and social security policies	1) Deferral of tax and social security filing deadlines 2) Preferential tax and social security policies		

Content	Chengdu (Sichuan)	Changcha (Hunan)	Guangzhou (Guangdong)	Shenzhen (Guangdong)
Business Support	1) Financial support for emergency-related businesses 2) Rent reductions 3) Preferential loan and financing Policies 4) Preferential insurance policies for affected businesses	1) RMB 5 billion fund for emergency-related businesses 2) Government subsidy and support for IPOs 3) Deferred reporting deadline for listed enterprise until 30th April. 4) HR financing support 5) Reduced utility fees	1) Preferential loan and financing policies 2) Support for insurance sector 3) State grants for SMEs and affected businesses	1) Support for emergency related services 2) Rent reduction or suspension 3) 3-month deferral of social security contributions 4) Reduced housing fund payments 5) Reduced utility fees 6) Tax reductions 7) Preferential loan and short-term financial support
Customs and Logistics	1) 24/7 Green Channel at Chengdu Shuangliu Airport Customs 2) List with 22 priority items for facilitated import procedure 3) Until 31 March: Imported donations are exempted from tariffs http://chengdu.customs.gov.cn/chengdu_customs/519405/519407/519408/2864557/index.html	1) Accelerated custom clearance and support of force majeure claims 2) Accelerate import procedure for agricultural products 3) Simplify the process of import purchase and foreign currency payments for emergency related goods	N/A	N/A
Public Transport	In service	Air Regular disinfection and screening at airport Trains Partly suspended Busses Long-distance lines partly suspended Urban transport Partly suspended with longer intervals between services	Air Partly suspended Trains Partly suspended Other Normal operation	Air Partly suspended Trains Partly suspended Other Normal operation

Content	Hong Kong	Macau		
Status	Confirmed:	106	Confirmed:	10
	Recovered:	46	Recovered:	10
	Deaths:	2	Deaths:	0
Opening Dates/ Return to Work	N/A Schools closed until April	N/A		
General Information	Three Measures: 1) Increased screening at transport nodes 2) Reporting mechanism 3) Healthcare emergency measures 14-days self-quarantine for travellers from Mainland China	1) Establishment of Emergency Response Coordination Centre 2) Casinos are open again		
HR & Tax	N/A	Deferral of tax and social security filing deadline		
Business Support	Business support for major banks (Bank of China (Hong Kong), BOC Life, HSBC, Hang Seng Bank, Bank of East Asia, Standard Chartered, OCBC Wing Hang Bank	1) Rent reduction and suspension for government-owned property 2) Financial support for affected businesses		
Customs and Logistics	Special measures apply	Limited postal service		
Public Transport	Air Partly Suspended Trains High-speed terminal closed until further notice Local transport Normal service Border Port of Entries partly closed	Air Partly suspended Trains Normal service Busses Partly suspended Metro Normal Service		