

# CBBC COVID-19 (coronavirus) Regional Response Update 23 March 2020

Providing a strong sign that China is continuing to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, Wuhan's government announced yesterday that people who did not show any symptoms could go back to work. The city, where in mid-November 2019, the first known case of coronavirus was recorded, is thus the last Chinese municipality to lift the strict lockdown measures.

And there are other signs of a return to normality, too.

## Back to School

Several provinces have allowed students in the final year of junior and senior high schools to return to class. And even though there is no definite resumption date for other grades and elementary schools, education institutions have nonetheless been ordered to draw up plans for reopening, by the end of this month.

Universities, so far, remain closed and continue to teach online.

## Support Businesses

Most local governments have issued new measures to provide businesses with the financial and material support to resume operations. Green Channels and simplified duty collection procedures, which were initially applied to urgently needed medical supplies, have been extended to raw materials and spare parts to get factories back on stream.

Employer's contributions to social insurance funds have also been reduced or exempted across the country, until the end of June.

## International travel restriction remain in place

Despite the positive economic news, travel restrictions remain in place, especially for arrivals or returnees from abroad. Beijing, for example, requires all arrivals to stay, at one's own expense, in a centralised quarantine centre for 14 days.

Travellers also face criminal charges if they lie or refuse to provide information on their health status before boarding a plane to China.

## 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:	537	Confirmed:	404	Confirmed:	141	Confirmed:	127	Confirmed:	248
	Recovered:	401	Recovered:	329	Recovered:	133	Recovered:	124	Recovered:	239
	Deaths:	8	Deaths:	4	Deaths:	3	Deaths:	2	Deaths:	3
Opening Dates/ Return to Work	Since 10 Feb 2020		Since 10 Feb 2020 Schools: 2 March 2020 (Online Teaching)		Since 6 Feb 2020		Since 10 Feb 2020 Schools: 2 March 2020 (Online Teaching)		Since 10 Feb 2020 Schools: 2 March 2020 (Online Teaching)	
General Information	<p>New measures to ensure the orderly resumption of production of enterprises  <a href="http://www.beijing.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengcefagui/202003/t20200315_1706857.html">http://www.beijing.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengcefagui/202003/t20200315_1706857.html</a></p> <p>Hot Line for companies facing difficulties relaunching operations (Tel.: 12345)</p> <p>All overseas travellers entering Beijing shall be subject to 14 days of centralised medical observation at their own expense</p>		<p>Priorities have shifted toward work resumption and economic recovery.</p> <p>As of 16 March, 90% of major projects have resumed; almost all large industrial enterprises and 81% of SMEs have resumed operations.</p> <p>Travellers arriving in Shanghai and having a travel history which includes 24 countries (including Italy, UK, U.S.) need to isolate for 14 days.</p> <p>Schools remain closed until further notice.</p> <p>Large events are still banned for now</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) Reinforcement of restrictions for travellers from abroad, with requirement to isolate for 14 days</p> <p>2) Shenyang has started to use a Health QR code to collect info similar to the e-pass during the lockdown period</p> <p>3) As of 16 March, 4998 foreign-owned companies have resumed operations (96% for key foreign companies).</p> <p>Overall rate of resumption is 86% and 92.9% for industrial firms.</p>		<p>Third grade classes in high schools in Shaanxi will re-open on 30 March 2020</p> <p>Third grade classes of middle schools and secondary vocational schools in Shaanxi will re-open on 7th April 2020</p> <p>Other grades of high schools, primary schools, and kindergartens will re-open after 7th April</p> <p>Universities remain closed until further notice</p>	

Content	Beijing (Beijing)	Shanghai (Shanghai)	Tianjin (Tianjin)	Shenyang (Liaoning)	Xi'an (Sha'anxi)
<b>HR &amp; Tax</b>	<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>7) Labour support for firms resuming operations</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&amp;D expenditures</p> <p>7) Donations can be deducted from CIT</p> <p>8) Employment support for key industries</p> <p>9) From February to June 2020, the employer's contribution to medical insurance will be halved</p> <p>10) Temporary reduction and exemption of social insurance premiums for certain enterprises</p>	<p>1) 5-month reduction or exemption of social insurance contributions for certain companies</p> <p>2) Regional coordination mechanism and vocational online platform to help migrant workers return to work</p> <p>3) Further rental support to incubators</p> <p>4) Normal salary should be paid to employees who are quarantined. After quarantine, sick leave payment should be paid to employees who need further medical treatment</p>	<p>Between February and June 2020, basic medical insurance contributions will be halved for all enterprises in Xi'an</p>

Content	Beijing (Beijing)	Shanghai (Shanghai)	Tianjin (Tianjin)	Shenyang (Liaoning)	Xi'an (Sha'anxi)
<b>Business Support</b>	<p>1) Suspension of administrative fee collection</p> <p>2) Rent reduction</p> <p>3) Preferential tax and Social Security policies</p> <p>4) Subsidize R&amp;D expenses of SMEs (esp. in Zhongguancun).</p> <p>5) Preferential Loan and Financing Policy for SME</p> <p>6) Subsidise utility costs</p> <p>7) Work and employment Support for Affected Personal</p> <p>8) Support for companies to relaunch operations</p> <p>9) Provide 'liability insurance' for companies following preventive measures guidelines</p> <p>10) Support for financial services to help business recovery</p>	<p>In addition to the "28 Support Measures" announced on 10 February, Shanghai Municipal Financial Regulatory Bureau published new <b>26 financial support measures</b> to help SMEs resume work on 9 March 2020.</p>	<p>New Measures to overcome impact of COVID-19 and maintain healthy development</p> <p><a href="http://qk.tj.gov.cn/qkml/000125022/202003/t20200315_87157.shtml">http://qk.tj.gov.cn/qkml/000125022/202003/t20200315_87157.shtml</a></p>	<p>1) Shenhe District: 3 Rules for Reopening Your Business</p> <p><a href="https://3q.163.com/3q/article_cambrian/F7UUNA9H05346936.html?isFromOtherWeb=true">https://3q.163.com/3q/article_cambrian/F7UUNA9H05346936.html?isFromOtherWeb=true</a></p> <p>2) Further rent, tax, and fee subsidies for individual enterprises</p> <p><a href="http://kuaibao.qq.com/s/20200313A0GTNP00?refer=spider">http://kuaibao.qq.com/s/20200313A0GTNP00?refer=spider</a></p>	<p>1) Special financing fund of RMB 10 billion and special credit of RMB 300 billion to support enterprises in resuming production</p> <p>2) For affected businesses, loan payments due from 25 January to 30 June shall be extended and renewed until 30 June the latest.</p>
<b>Customs and Logistics</b>	<p>1) Green Channel for Imports and emergency-related goods</p> <p>2)'Zero Delay'-Policy</p> <p>3) Financial and Administrative Support for affected businesses</p> <p>4) Special COVID-19 Customs declaration and duty-free policy</p>	<p>Support measures have been announced to facilitate foreign trade which has been heavily hit as Covid-19 spreads around the world.</p>	<p>1) Green Channel for emergency-related goods</p> <p>2) Support reduced loading and unloading time within 24 hours of arrival</p> <p>3) Required presence of customs consignee during inspection has been scrapped</p>	<p>1) CT machines are used for inspection on international parcels (90% clearance rate)</p> <p>2) Green channel clearance mechanism will expand to cover raw materials, spare parts, machinery equipment and agricultural products which are urgently required for resumption of production</p>	<p>1.) Green channel clearance mechanism for emergency-related products</p> <p>2) No tariffs on emergency-related donations</p>

Content	Beijing (Beijing)	Shanghai (Shanghai)	Tianjin (Tianjin)	Shenyang (Liaoning)	Xi'an (Sha'anxi)
<b>Public Transport</b>	<p>Disinfection and control measures (temperature checks, mandatory masks) on all public transport</p> <p><b>Flights</b> 1) Partly suspended 2) WeChat/App-based online application for travel permit 3) <b>Mandatory health declaration</b></p> <p><b>Railways</b> Set-up separate isolation zones and transfer to hospitals</p> <p><b>Busses</b> Disinfection twice a day; Drivers required to wear masks</p> <p><b>Metro</b> All personnel are required to wear masks; all lines in service</p>	<p><b>Highways</b> Temperature Checks and Registration. Access denied to people without proof of residency and work.</p> <p><b>Flights</b> Partly suspended; <b>Strict controls of overseas travellers coming into China</b></p> <p><b>Trains</b> Trains to and from Shanghai mostly operate as usual with some cancellations</p> <p><b>Busses</b> <b>Interprovincial coaches between Shanghai, Zhejiang and Jiangsu have resumed operation.</b></p> <p><b>Metro</b> In service (around 50% of normal levels)</p>	<p><b>Buses</b> Bus lines in Binhai New Area partly suspended</p> <p><b>Metro</b> 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 3) <b>Restrictions for overseas travellers on all public transport</b></p> <p><b>Flights</b> <b>Overseas travellers will be required to undertake a health test and spend 14-days in self-quarantine</b></p> <p><b>Railways</b> In service</p> <p><b>Long Distant Busses</b> In service with longer intervals</p> <p><b>Metro</b> In service</p>	<p>Transport resumed on 20 February</p> <p><b>Air</b> Some services still suspended</p> <p><b>Metro</b> Normal operation with frequent ID checks</p>

Content	Qingdao (Shandong)		Nanjing (Jiangsu)		Hangzhou (Zhejiang)		Wuhan (Hubei)		Chongqing (Chongqing)	
Status	Confirmed:	768	Confirmed:	633	Confirmed:	1,238	Confirmed:	67,800	Confirmed:	577
	Recovered:	752	Recovered:	631	Recovered:	1,221	Recovered:	59,882	Recovered:	570
	Deaths:	7	Deaths:	0	Deaths:	1	Deaths:	3,153	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		Partly allowed since 23 March Schools: Closed until further notice		Since 10th Feb 2020 Schools: after 27 March 2019	
General Information	1) Approval needed for resumption of business operation by filling form via WeChat program 2) Businesses need to ensure that preventative measures are taken 3) Main urban areas have adopted real-name system since 18 February when boarding public transports		1) Strict controls and centralised quarantine for arrivals found to have symptoms 2) Chinese and foreign personnel from severely infected countries (incl. UK) will be subject to centralised or home medical observation 3) Frequent controls and tracking for overseas arrivals		1) All schools must prepare a school re-opening plan by 25 March 2) Nearly 100% of enterprises have resumed work 3) No trade fairs in February or March 5) Requirements for businesses: <a href="https://www.sohu.com/a/370428479_100019894">https://www.sohu.com/a/370428479_100019894</a> (e.g. District level requirements on 15 February <a href="http://ori.hangzhou.com.cn/ornews/content/2020-02/15/content_7677001.htm">http://ori.hangzhou.com.cn/ornews/content/2020-02/15/content_7677001.htm</a> )		<b>Lockdown ended - Gradual resumption of work</b>		1) Chongqing has adjusted the response to public health emergencies from Level one to Level two (10 March 2020). 2) Staff can return to work under certain conditions 3) 14 days quarantine for overseas travellers	

Content	Qingdao (Shangdong)	Nanjing (Jiangsu)	Hangzhou (Zhejiang)	Wuhan (Hubei)	Chongqing (Chongqing)
<b>HR &amp; Tax</b>	5-month reduction or exemption of social insurance contributions for certain companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Preferential tax and social security policies</li> <li>2) Employment and recruitment support</li> <li>3) 50% unemployment insurance subsidies</li> <li>4) Special support for workers from Hubei province</li> </ul>	5-month reduction or exemption of social insurance contributions for certain companies	Tax and social security payment deadline has been postponed until 6 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Flexible work arrangements are encouraged</li> <li>2) Preferential tax and social security policies + suspension and postponement of filing deadlines</li> <li>3) Employment support</li> </ul>
<b>Business Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 18 policies aiming at helping SMEs</li> <li>2) Businesses are encouraged to provide e-services and online approvals</li> <li>3) Online signature for investment projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Financial support for purchasing and R&amp;D investment.</li> <li>2) Increase credit and cash support</li> <li>3) Rent reduction</li> <li>4) Legal aid and administrative support</li> <li>5) Special regional fund for emergency-related businesses</li> <li>6) Special support fund for businesses contributing to the fight against COVID-19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Preferential tax and social security policies</li> <li>2) Flexible work arrangements</li> <li>3) Rent free policy for state-owned property operated tenements</li> <li>4) Preferential Loan and Financing Policies</li> <li>5) Legal and Administrative Aid for SMEs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Legal and administrative aid for foreign businesses</li> <li>2) Preferential tax and social security policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Preferential loan and financing policies</li> <li>2) Rent reduction</li> <li>3) Reduced utility costs</li> </ul>
<b>Customs and Logistics</b>	Green channel clearance mechanism will expand to cover raw materials, spare parts, machinery equipment and agricultural products which are urgently required for resumption of production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Green Channel for emergency related goods and imports</li> <li>2) Jinling Customs have relaxed restrictions on personal hygiene product</li> <li>4) Zero Delay Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Online approval platform</li> <li>2) Green channel for emergency-related goods</li> <li>3) Continuing delays</li> <li>4) More port operation charges are to be exempted at Ningbo/ Zhoushan Port until end of the epidemic.</li> <li>5) Ningbo Port: Forecasted throughput is -8% YoY in February; forecasted container volume is -21% YoY</li> </ul>	Not in service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Green channel for emergency-related goods</li> <li>2) Tax exemptions for donated goods</li> </ul>

Content	Qingdao (Shangdong)	Nanjing (Jiangsu)	Hangzhou (Zhejiang)	Wuhan (Hubei)	Chongqing (Chongqing)
<b>Public Transport</b>	<p>Real-name registration required in all major public transports</p> <p><b>Flights</b> 14 day quarantine for all overseas travellers</p> <p><b>Trains</b> Trains departing from Shandong cities are gradually returning operation</p> <p><b>Long-Distance Busses</b> Shandong to re-start operation of all in-province long distance busses, district busses and to rural routes, and will gradually start to run bus routes to other provinces (excluding Beijing and Hubei)</p> <p><b>Metro</b> Normal service</p>	<p><b>Busses</b> Normal operations from 7am to 7pm</p> <p><b>Metro</b> Main line operation time between 6am and 10pm; S-lines finish at the different times, but no later than 9:30pm</p>	<p><b>Flights &amp; Trains</b> Gradually recovered in Yangtze Delta River area, including some trains to/from Wenzhou.</p> <p><b>Busses &amp; Metro</b> In service</p> <p>Between 18 March and 31 March certain routes are free during peak hours</p>	Not in service	<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:	543	Confirmed:	1,018	Confirmed:	1,415		
	Recovered:	536	Recovered:	1,014	Recovered:	1,332		
	Deaths:	3	Deaths:	4	Deaths:	8		
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	<p>1) Priority has shifted to economic recovery</p> <p>2) Public areas including restaurants, parks, museums and scenic areas are gradually opening</p> <p>3) Strict controls of overseas travellers</p>		<p>1) Twelfth-- and Nine-graders are expected to return to school</p> <p>2) Emergency response level lowered from Level One to Level Two</p>		<p>1) Approval needed for resumption of work.</p> <p>2) Companies must report to Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarters of the district level at least 5 days before working.</p> <p>3) Guangdong has set up an online platform to support foreign firms in resuming their operations</p> <p><a href="https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/DaapS7IKLXzupC78KL9YQq">https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/DaapS7IKLXzupC78KL9YQq</a></p>		<p>1) Approval needed for resumption of work.</p> <p>2) Companies must report to Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarters of the district level at least 5 days before working.</p> <p>3) Guangdong has set up an online platform to support foreign firms in resuming their operations</p> <p><a href="https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/DaapS7IKLXzupC78KL9YQq">https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/DaapS7IKLXzupC78KL9YQq</a></p>	
HR & Tax	5-month reduction or exemption of social insurance contributions for certain companies		5-month reduction or exemption of social insurance contributions for certain companies		<p>1) Deferral of tax and social security filing deadlines</p> <p>2) Preferential tax and social security policies</p>		<p>1) Deferral of tax and social security filing deadlines</p> <p>2) Preferential tax and social security policies</p>	

Content	Chengdu (Sichuan)	Changcha (Hunan)	Guangzhou (Guangdong)	Shenzhen (Guangdong)
<b>Business Support</b>	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
<b>Customs and Logistics</b>	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 <a href="http://chengdu.customs.gov.cn/chengdu_customs/519405/519407/519408/2864557/index.html">http://chengdu.customs.gov.cn/chengdu_customs/519405/519407/519408/2864557/index.html</a>	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
<b>Public Transport</b>	In service	<b>Flights</b> 14 day quarantine for all overseas travellers <b>Trains</b> Partly suspended <b>Busses</b> Long-distance lines partly suspended <b>Urban transport</b> Partly suspended with longer intervals between services	<b>Flights</b> Partly suspended <b>Trains</b> Partly suspended <b>Other</b> Normal operation	<b>Flights</b> Partly suspended <b>Trains</b> Partly suspended <b>Other</b> Normal operation

Content	Hong Kong	Macau		
Status	<b>Confirmed:</b>	356	<b>Confirmed:</b>	24
	<b>Recovered:</b>	100	<b>Recovered:</b>	10
	<b>Deaths:</b>	4	<b>Deaths:</b>	0
<b>Opening Dates/ Return to Work</b>	N/A Schools closed until April	N/A		
<b>General Information</b>	<b>Three Measures:</b> 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		
<b>HR &amp; Tax</b>	N/A	Deferral of tax and social security filing deadline		
<b>Business Support</b>	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		
<b>Customs and Logistics</b>	Special measures apply	Limited postal service		
<b>Public Transport</b>	<b>Air</b> Partly Suspended <b>Trains</b> High-speed terminal closed until further notice <b>Local transport</b> Normal service  <b>Border Port of Entries partly closed</b>	<b>Air</b> Partly suspended <b>Trains</b> Normal service <b>Busses</b> Partly suspended <b>Metro</b> Normal Service		