

Wuhan tests nearly 10 million people, finds only 300 infections

June 2 2020



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China tested almost 10 million people for coronavirus in just over two weeks in Wuhan, the city where the pandemic began, officials said Tuesday, reporting only a few hundred positive cases.

Chinese authorities claim to have largely brought the virus under control but Wuhan officials—wary of a second wave—launched the program after new infections emerged for the first time since the [city](#) re-opened in April following more than two months in lockdown.

More than 9.8 million people were tested in the city of 11 million people between May 14 and June 1, officials said at a press conference.

Officials added that the 300 positive results were among [asymptomatic patients](#).

"These numbers show that Wuhan is now the safest city," said Feng Zijian, deputy director of China's national Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Residents queued up across the city at makeshift sites set up under tents in [parking lots](#), parks and [residential communities](#) to give nucleic acid test samples—with roughly half a million such medical checks conducted every day during the period.

China does not include asymptomatic cases in its tally of confirmed infections.

No asymptomatic people were found to have infected others, said Lu Zuxun, a public health expert from Wuhan's Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

The city found a handful of asymptomatic cases on most days of the testing campaign, which was initially described as a 10-day "decisive battle," but reported zero asymptomatic cases for the first time on Monday.

The virus first emerged in Wuhan late last year, but cases have dwindled

dramatically from the peak in mid-February as China appears to have brought the outbreak largely under control.

The official death toll in the country of 1.4 billion people stands at 4,634—most in Wuhan, and well below the number of fatalities in much smaller countries.

However, doubt has been cast on the reliability of China's numbers and the United States has led the charge in questioning how much information Beijing has shared with the international community.

Wuhan's testing blitz cost the city government around 900 million yuan (\$127 million), vice mayor Hu Yabo said on Tuesday.

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