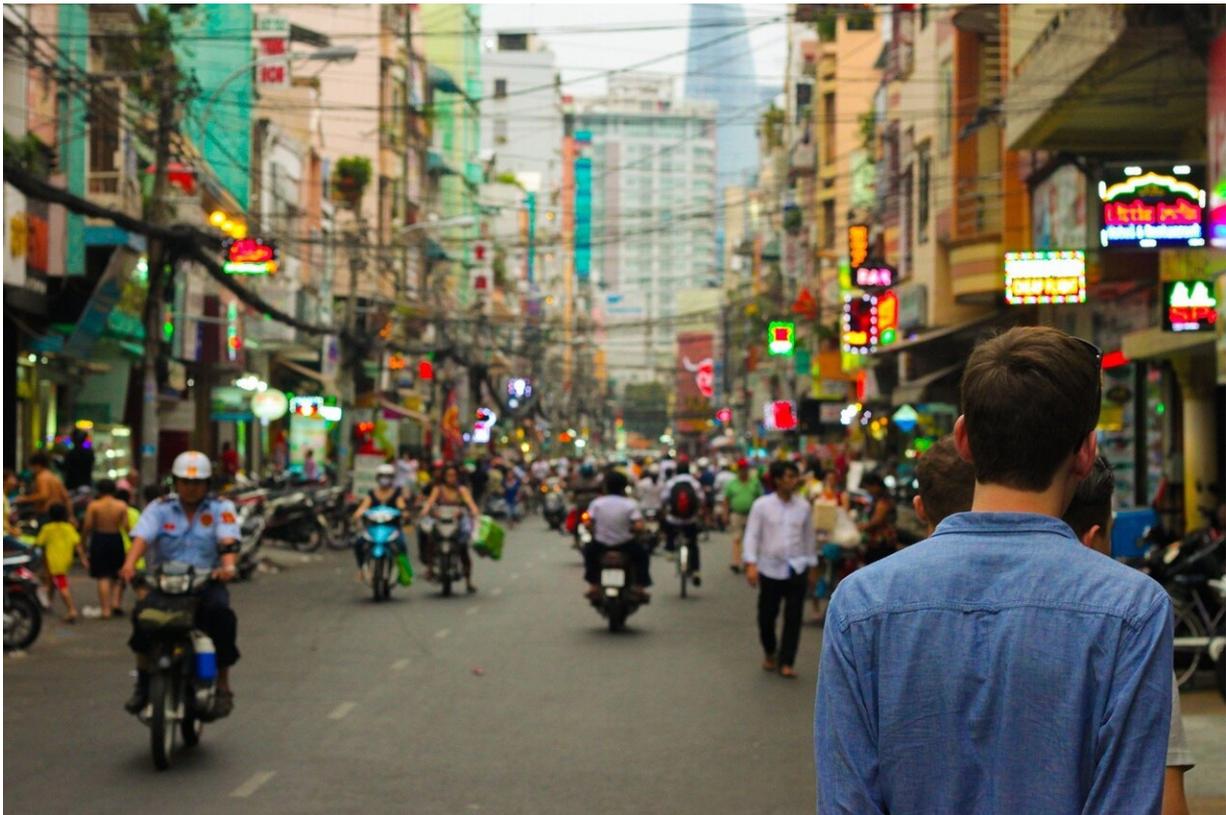


China's imported virus cases spike as fears grow of second wave

March 24 2020



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China reported 78 new cases of the deadly coronavirus on Tuesday, with the vast majority brought in from overseas as fears rise of a second wave of infections.

The first new case in nearly a week was also reported in Wuhan—the epicentre where the virus emerged last year—along with three other local infections elsewhere in the country.

Seven more people died, the National Health Commission said, all in Wuhan.

The 74 imported cases confirmed Tuesday were the highest since officials started reporting the data at the beginning of March, and nearly double those reported Monday.

In recent days almost all new infections in China have been brought in from overseas, and authorities are increasingly anxious about an influx just as it appeared to be bringing the country's outbreak under control.

As nations across the globe battle to contain the pandemic, which has now killed more than 16,500 people worldwide, the tally of imported cases in China has soared to 427.

Many cities have brought in tough rules to quarantine new arrivals, and all Beijing-bound international flights are being diverted to other cities where they will be screened for the virus.

Local authorities in Beijing said Tuesday that anyone who entered China through a different city and then arrived in the capital within the last two weeks would also be tested for the virus and instructed to quarantine.

Both Shanghai and Beijing reported a case of a locally-transmitted [infection](#) from an imported patient Tuesday.

State media warned of a second wave of infections, with the nationalistic Global Times warning on its front page that "inadequate quarantine measures" meant a second wave of infections was "highly likely, even

inevitable".

There have now been over 81,000 cases in China, and the death toll has reached 3,277.

As the country tries to control imported cases, there are signs of normality beginning to return to Wuhan and the surrounding Hubei province, where some 56 million people were placed under lockdown in January.

Travel and work restrictions in the area have been gradually eased and Chinese President Xi Jinping made his first visit to Wuhan earlier this month.

Wuhan residents considered healthy can now move around the [city](#) and take public transport if they show identification, and they can also go back to work if they have a permit from their employer.

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