

# From the Prevention and Control of 2019-ncov to the Management of Public Crisis in China

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**Abstract:** From the SARS epidemic in 2003 to the African swine fever epidemic in 2018 and to the present 2019-ncov in the end of 2019, China's ability to prevent and control public crisis events is also gradually strengthening with the passage of time and the enhancement of strength. In the case of the sudden 2019-ncov in late 2019, China's ability and attitude to manage public crises can be seen in the speed with which it moves from identifying the situation to determining its nature and responding accordingly. Based on the impact of the 2019-ncov crisis on China and the measures taken by the relevant parties, this article summarizes the governance path of China's public crisis and puts forward corresponding improvement measures to improve the government's coordinated prevention and control capabilities.

## 1. A basic Overview of the 2019-ncov

### 1.1 Background

On December 31, 2019, there were 27 cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in some medical institutions in Wuhan. Subsequently, the Wuhan Health Commission reported that many cases of pneumonia were viral pneumonia. In a follow up study of the South China Seafood Market in Wuhan, the CDC found that wild animals sold in the market were the source of 2019-ncov [1].

### 1.2 Time Line Sorting

On December 31, 2019, 27 cases of pneumonia of unknown cause were reported in Wuhan;

On January 5, 2020, Wuhan Health Commission reported 59 cases of pneumonia;

On January 20, 2020, new pneumonia cases were confirmed or suspected in Beijing, Shenzhen, Zhejiang and Shanghai, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded to the outbreak, and the central government gave the highest instructions to Wuhan Pneumonia;

On January 21, 2020, the 2019-nCoV was incorporated into the Official infectious, the pneumonia epidemic prevention and control headquarters was set up in Wuhan and personnel access control was implemented. The sequence similarity between the 2019-nCoV gene and SARS coronavirus gene was revealed to be ~ 70%;

On January 23, 2020, the city of Wuhan was closed; the Central Government decided to build a hospital in Wuhan in the form of Xiaotangshan; the Ministry of Finance allocated 1 billion yuan to assist Hubei Province;

On January 24, 2020, Tianjin, Anhui, Beijing, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Sichuan and other provinces launched a first-level response to major public health events;

On January 25, 2020, the Party Central Committee established a working group to deal with the epidemic, and the director of the Health Bureau of Nanhu New District in Yueyang, Hunan Province, was suspended for failing to report prevention and control information in time;

On January 27, 2020, Premier Li Keqiang went to Wuhan to inspect and guide the Epidemic Prevention and control work;

On February 4, 2020, academician Li Lanjuan's team made and released the major anti-virus research results, screening out two kinds of effective anti-virus drugs;

On February 12, 2020, the joint prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council held a press conference to report on the prevention and control of the epidemic situation and other work:

The overall situation of the epidemic situation showed positive changes, and the number of newly confirmed cases dropped for days [2-4].

## **2. The Impact of the 2019-ncov Epidemic on China**

### **2.1 Negative Impact**

The peak of the 2019-ncov crisis came around the Spring Festival, a period of rapid growth in China's consumer market, but this sudden outbreak has undoubtedly dealt a heavy blow to China's economic and social development. The year 2020 is the closing year of the Xiaokang, and the outbreak of the disease will certainly bring great pressure to the country.

Consumption is one of the three driving forces of economic growth, and the Spring Festival is a great opportunity for all the people to consume to promote economic growth. But during the outbreak, all tourist attractions, cinemas, restaurants, entertainment venues and large shopping malls were closed, traffic was partially controlled, companies and enterprises in most cities could not work, and population movements were greatly reduced, primary, secondary and tertiary schools will be postponed. This will cause the negative influence to each profession of China then hinder the steady development of the economy. Data showed that only 150 million people traveled across the country during the Spring Festival holiday, down 63.9 percent from last year, as a result of the 2019-ncov epidemic; the restaurant industry is expected to lose 500 billion yuan in revenue during the holiday Box Office receipts for Chinese New Year's Day were just 1.8 million yuan, or 0.12 percent, compared with the same period last year. Even the Stock Exchange postponed its opening, which plunged 8 percent after opening on Feb. 3.

### **2.2 Positive Impact**

Although the outbreak of the epidemic has brought many negative effects, but also to see its positive role. First of all, the epidemic will force the government to improve the public crisis prevention and Control and governance capacity to promote the reform of the national administrative system. And historically, SARS in 2003 provided an opportunity for the development and application of the Internet in China, but now 5g is just starting, perhaps this epidemic may also drive the rapid popularization of 5G development. At the same time, China's Internet technology has become increasingly mature, and major e-commerce platforms have also occupied a place in the consumer market. It is not convenient to travel during the epidemic, but residents' living needs can be met through e-commerce platforms, stay at home and enjoy services without having to worry about basic necessities. It is also more important to speed up the process of replacing human labor with machines, to make enterprise production more intelligent and to make unmanned production workshops more widely used, accelerate the transformation of science and technology into real productive forces to promote the development of high-intelligence economy. In addition, the teaching tasks of primary and secondary schools and universities will not be stalled due to the delay in the start of the school year. The role of online teaching can be better played, and the shortage of offline teaching can be remedied through unified online teaching and independent additional online tutoring, it will greatly reduce the negative impact of the epidemic on education and teaching, which will promote the reform of our educational system and the rational distribution of educational resources.

## **3. China's Response**

The government's management of this epidemic crisis is in fact a multi-central coordinated management, in which the relevant governing bodies work together to promote the alleviation of the public crisis rather than solving it by the government alone, this is more in line with the modern concept of governance and the development of practical issues.

### **3.1 The Government Playing a Leading Role in Prevention and Control**

After a public crisis, the government is the first to suffer. This pneumonia epidemic is no

exception, the government as a public crisis prevention and control of the main event, its efficient implementation must be in place. Immediately after the discovery of the 2019-ncov epidemic, the central government made decision-making instructions and organized experts and leaders to go to Wuhan to guide the work. At the same time, it organized a team of experts, scholars and scientific and technological personnel to step up scientific and technological research, rapid screening of controlled viral agents in a short period of time and acceleration of vaccine development to respond to outbreaks. As the number of new pneumonia cases continued to increase and spread to many provinces and cities in China, the central government made two important decisions: The closure of the city of Foshan and the establishment of the Xiaotangshan Model Hospital in Wuhan. Sealing off the city was a big and difficult decision, but it was also a well-thought-out decision. As the transportation hub in the central region of Wuhan, the flow of people during the Spring Festival was extremely large. Sealing off the city meant that all traffic was blocked, and there was no way out, no way in or out, wuhan will have to bear the cost is also very big. The construction of Wuhan Huoshenshan Hospital in 10 days is a huge project in a race against time, but it can alleviate the shortage of medical resources and provide security for the prevention and treatment of illness.

Information Exchange and policy implementation between the upper and lower levels of the government is another important guarantee for the prevention and control of the epidemic. The 2019-ncov was established to strengthen reporting of information between superiors and subordinates, and to hold accountable those cadres who failed to report in time or failed to do so. Local governments at the grassroots level implement policies through various means, such as loudspeakers, drone surveillance and road checkpoint checks, so as to effectively control the spread of 2019-ncov. Faced with the problem of material mismatch across Hubei, the central government took the approach of one province covering one city, and through 16 provinces providing counterpart support to all cities in Hubei except Wuhan to alleviate the shortage of resources, other provinces have responded to the implementation of this policy and achieved good results.

### **3.2 Making Full use of the Role of the Media in Supervision and Information Transmission**

Effective communication and information dissemination is also the government in the epidemic prevention and control of a very important part. The government communicates with the public through the real-time daily notification of the epidemic through the official media, so that the public can clearly understand the relevant trend of the epidemic, so that they can have a good idea of the situation and have confidence in the government, so as not to cause panic among them, it could also encourage the government and the public to work together to combat the epidemic. Transparent information disclosure is the basis of crisis governance, whether government decision-making or the implementation of the People's right to know need information as a support, so the importance of the media as an information media is reflected. Furthermore, the implementation of government policies can also be monitored through the media and the Internet. The construction of the Lei Shen Shan Hospital in Wuhan, watched by millions of people online, is not only a way to relieve people's boredom at home but also a way to supervise the government. This not only improves the efficiency of government governance, but also makes the government no loopholes to drill.

### **3.3 Mobilizing the Consciousness of the Public**

The public is another important subject in the public crisis governance, the government must give them enough right to know and participate in, fully arouse their enthusiasm. The Mass Work of this epidemic is still relatively in place, timely information to the public, the establishment of the government and the public up-and-down linkage mechanism to form a joint effort to promote crisis management. Governments at all levels, especially at the grass-roots level, have tried in a variety of simple and clear ways to persuade and admonish the people to isolate themselves from their homes and to meet less frequently, and the people have been more cooperative, and have responded positively to the national call and taken care of their own protection, no trouble for the government.

## **4. Improvement Measures and Suggestions**

### **4.1 Establishing and Improving an Efficient Advance Warning Mechanism**

The Chinese government can be said to be very strong in dealing with and dealing with public crises, but the government's ability to prevent them in advance is lacking. The outbreak of this epidemic fully reflects China's pre-warning mechanism is not sound, leading to missed the control of large-scale spread of the virus an important opportunity. The crisis is often foreboding, which requires the government to establish a sound and efficient advance warning mechanism, use the national big database, GPS and other technologies to monitor and update the crisis in real time, and through the professional evaluation and measurement of the information data obtained, and then according to the evaluation opinions to do a good job in crisis prevention and control policies and measures, and truly achieve the goal of preventing and eliminating the symptoms, nip a dangerous seedling in the bud before it spreads to a major public crisis of national importance.

### **4.2 Promoting Transparency and Effective Disclosure of Information**

In the Internet Age, information exchange is the bridge to build the relationship of trust between the government and the public. Only by realizing information exchange within the government and the government's information disclosure to the public can we prevent, control and manage the public crisis. According to Alport, a well-known American psychologist, the more closely a rumor spreads, the more ambiguous the information and the more anxious the public, the faster and wider the rumor spreads. Therefore, in a major public crisis, especially in today's mature and developed Internet, the public has information anxiety, and the emergence of a large number of rumors is also a normal phenomenon in the networked era, but this requires the government to face it calmly and calmly. The best way to deal with rumors is to be open and transparent. Therefore, the government must constantly open information to stabilize the public, and use facts to suppress rumors. After that, the rumors will naturally break down, the public will also become more trusting and supportive of the government's governance actions.

### **4.3 Strengthening the Sense of Crisis of Every Subject Concerned**

Wuhan Municipal Government Still Organized Baibu Pavilion banquet after the outbreak is the embodiment of the lack of crisis awareness of government personnel. Therefore, if we want to strengthen the government's ability and level of public crisis management, we should start from the thought, strengthen the public crisis awareness of government personnel and the public. Not only do government personnel need to be trained, strengthened in their posts, and regularly assessed, but also the people's sense of crisis can not be ignored, and grassroots governments need to widen the channels of publicity through Wechat, micro blogs, major media, etc., so that everyone can establish a correct understanding of the crisis and understand the relevant protective measures, so as not to panic when the crisis comes.

## **5. Conclusion**

Although the epidemic is not yet over, but I believe the government has enough experience and capacity to deal with and control. After the outbreak, the government needs to re-examine its own exposure of some problems and lessons learned to improve. Public Crisis Management is also a basic work of the government, the government should not take it lightly, but should establish a set of perfect prevention and control mechanism in advance, in the event and after the event to deal with the unexpected situation that may occur. After all, we don't know when the crisis will come, but it is always lurking around us. The government should make all preparations and establish a multi-subject public crisis co-governance system, constantly improve their ability and level of public crisis management to face all kinds of potential crises.

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