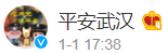




David Paulk @davidpaulk Thu Jan 02 12:49:36 +0000 2020

THREAD on the viral pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan that bears striking similarities to SARS, and as such has the Chinese public on the verge of panic despite there being just 27 confirmed infections. 1/

According to a police notice Wednesday, authorities in the central Chinese city have taken 8 people into custody on suspicion of "spreading rumors." 2/ <https://t.co/05akR81yMP>



平安武汉
1-1 17:38

【8名散布谣言者被依法查处】近期，我市部分医疗机构发现接诊了多例肺炎病例，市卫健委就此发布了情况通报。但一些网民在不经核实的情况下，在网络上发布、转发不实信息，造成不良社会影响。公安机关经调查核实，已传唤8名违法人员，并依法进行了处理。警方提示，网络不是法外之地，在网上发布信息、言论应遵守法律法规，对于编造、传播、散布谣言，扰乱社会秩序的违法行为，警方将依法查处，绝不姑息。希望广大网民遵守相关法律法规，不造谣、不信谣、不传谣，共建和谐清朗的网络空间。@武汉发布

The notice says the suspects will be "handled according to the law" and reminds the public that "the internet is not outside the law." 3/

In China, spreading rumors about disasters, emergencies, or disease outbreaks is punishable by up to 3 years in prison for routine cases or up to 7 years for serious cases. 4/

While the timeline of the infections remains unclear, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission issued a statement Tuesday saying a preliminary investigation had determined the illness to be pneumonia caused by an unknown virus. 5/ <https://t.co/IAb3IKvKx7>

武汉市卫健委关于当前我市肺炎疫情的情况通报

发布机构：武汉市卫生健康委员会 | 发布时间：2019-12-31 13:38:05 | 点赞数：60359 | 字号：大 中 小

近期部分医疗机构发现接诊的多例肺炎病例与华南海鲜城有关联，市卫健委接到报告后，立即在全市医疗卫生机构开展与华南海鲜城有关联的病例搜索和回顾性调查，目前已发现27例病例，其中7例病情严重，其余病例病情稳定可控，有2例病情好转拟于近期出院。病例临床表现主要为发热，少数病人呼吸困难，胸片呈双肺浸润性病灶。目前，所有病例均已隔离治疗，密切接触者追踪调查和医学观察正在进行中，对华南海鲜城的卫生学调查和环境卫生处置正在进行中。

武汉市组织同济医院、省疾控中心、中科院武汉病毒所、武汉市传染病医院及武汉市疾控中心等单位的临床医学、流行病学、病毒学专家进行会诊，专家从病情、治疗转归、流行病学调查、实验室初步检测等方面情况分析认为上述病例系病毒性肺炎。到目前为止调查未发现明显人传人现象，未发现医务人员感染。目前对病原的检测及感染原因的调查正在进行中。

病毒性肺炎多见于冬春季，可散发或暴发流行，临床主要表现为发热、浑身酸痛、少部分有呼吸困难，肺部浸润影。病毒性肺炎与病毒的毒力、感染途径以及宿主的年龄、免疫状态有关。引起病毒性肺炎的病毒以流行性感冒病毒为常见，其他为副流感病毒、巨细胞病毒、腺病毒、鼻病毒、冠状病毒等。确诊则有赖于病原学检查，包括病毒分离、血清学检查以及病毒抗原及核酸检测。该病可防可控，预防上保持室内空气流通，避免到封闭、空气不流通的公众场合和人多集中地方，外出可佩戴口罩。临床以对症治疗为主，需卧床休息。如有上述症状，特别是持续发热不退，要及时到医疗机构就诊。

2019年12月31日

The main symptom exhibited by those affected was fever, followed by difficulty breathing. The health authorities' statement said that of the 27 patients, 7 were in critical condition, 2 were nearly ready to be discharged, and the rest were stable but still receiving treatment. 6/

When @SixthTone called the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission on Thursday, a staff member said she did not know when the first infections were reported. Staff at the provincial and municipal disease control centers said it was

“inconvenient” to comment. 7/

@SixthTone Several users on microblogging platform Weibo responded angrily in the comments section under the police notice. 8/ <https://t.co/R054AaWuCd>

@SixthTone “People spread rumors precisely because the authorities didn’t respond in a timely manner — so how can we be blamed?” wrote one user. “Don’t I have the right to know the truth, be afraid, and try to save myself?” 9/ <https://t.co/aPkScHaXhs>



一朵扁丝

哪里是谣言？明明就是有这么个事情。民众传谣还不是官方一天了都没说法。这也怪大家吗？我说话的权利没有，我连知道真相，恐慌自救的权利还没有吗？breaking news 中国是不存在吗？就这也抓人，太过分了。

请叫我万先生201608:病毒检查结果还是没有喷子的嘴快啊，那咋办嘛
Superfzlucky:只能说明你是傻子，你怎么知道是sars，检测结果都没有出来呢
共157条回复>

1-1 18:11

👍 394

@SixthTone Others claimed they had received timelier information on the outbreak from China Central Television — the national broadcaster — than the local government, saying without CCTV’s coverage, “who knows when you (Wuhan authorities) would have reported it?” 10/ <https://t.co/hWf3pde2Yv>



剪支Canonical

没见你政府第一时间发布，央视新闻都比你市政府宣传委快，要不是有几个人说出来，鬼知道你们什么时候报。说重点，你们也渎职了。

穿靴子滴猫猫咪:这种事情武汉市敢先报出来？呵呵呵，这种情况能随便报？说重点，武汉市也没渎职
我心如雷1983:像这种公共大事件，必须要得央媒先报道，地方才能播报。这叫官宣，是做媒体的规矩！
共57条回复>

1-1 18:11

👍 312

@SixthTone The strong reactions in China to the mysterious infection may be because memories of another respiratory pneumonia are still raw: In 2002 and 2003, the SARS virus infected thousands of people in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Chinese mainland, killing hundreds. 11/

At the time, some in the Chinese medical community accused the government of covering up both the number of infections and the severity of the disease. 12/ <https://t.co/rLcjim5Eeu>

On Thursday, a Hong Kong woman was hospitalized and quarantined in the city after returning from Wuhan with an upper respiratory infection. She is reportedly in stable condition. 13/ <https://t.co/V52cDSBqwk>

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 300 people in Hong Kong died during the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic. 14/ <https://t.co/RiWxH6CsgO> <https://t.co/ayfzjFSyoA>

Cumulative Number of Reported Probable Cases of SARS

From: 1 Nov 2002¹ To: 11 July 2003, 17:00 GMT+2

Country	Cumulative number of case(s) ²	Number of new cases since last WHO update ²	Number of deaths	Number recovered ³	Date last probable case reported	Date for which cumulative number of cases is current
Australia	5	0	0	5	12/May/2003	27/Jun/2003
Brazil	1	0	0	1	9/Jun/2003	1/Jul/2003
Canada ⁴	250	0	38	194	9/Jul/2003	10/Jul/2003
China ⁵	5327	0	348	4941	25/Jun/2003	11/Jul/2003
China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ⁶	1755	0	298	1433	11/Jun/2003	11/Jul/2003
China, Macao Special Administrative Region	1	0	0	1	21/May/2003	10/Jul/2003

Chinese authorities have been quick to quell disease-related rumors in recent years. In March, police in Hainan detained a man for 10 days after he allegedly spread rumors on WeChat about an H7N9 bird flu epidemic in Haikou, the provincial capital. 15/ <https://t.co/KoYQqP9Izf>

In April 2018, a Henan man received the same punishment after claiming online that 10,000 people had contracted the same virus from eating contaminated watermelons. (He had apparently started the rumor to drive down the fruit's price.) 16/ <https://t.co/cPEC7YyC6u>

Despite the Wuhan authorities' assurances that there has been no evidence of human-to-human transmission among the recent cases, many on Chinese social media have expressed fears of another SARS outbreak. 17/

As of Thursday evening, a Weibo hashtag translating to "Wuhan found unidentified pneumonia" had been viewed over 830 million times. 18/ <https://t.co/Ftzutql4FU> <https://t.co/gKsAUS2vf0>



#武汉发现不明原因肺炎#

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Wuhan authorities have not elaborated on the rumors that led to the arrests. The seafood market where the infections are believed to have occurred — the exact source is still being investigated — was closed Wednesday. 19/ <https://t.co/Uke1rTwy5i>

The fact that this is a tweet thread rather than a published article should give you some idea of how worried Chinese authorities are, despite the relatively small number of infections. Also key that the virus has not yet been identified. Will post any updates/links below. 20/end

Update from [@lauriechenwords](#):

Wuhan health authorities confirm a dramatic increase in the number of viral pneumonia cases to 44 patients, 11 of whom are in "serious condition."

Cause of the illness "still unknown," which smells super fishy at this point. <https://t.co/pmj4xHuVdh>