



**Trust the Plan** 

### China Knew Virus Was Contagious But Kept Silent for Days: Leaked Documents

FROM THE EPOCH TIMES



China Knew Virus Was Contagious But Kept Silent for Days: Leaked Documents

BY FRANK FANG

Chinese health officials were drawing up plans to combat the <u>CCP virus</u>, which they knew to be infectious, days before they informed the public about its potential to spread, according to internal government documents obtained by The Epoch Times.

The <u>CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus</u>, commonly known as the <u>novel</u> <u>coronavirus</u>, originated in the central Chinese city of <u>Wuhan</u> in late 2019. The virus has since spread to more than 200 countries and territories, causing more than 61,000 deaths in the United States alone.

China officially confirmed that the virus <u>could be transmitted</u> between humans on Jan. 20, when top respiratory expert Zhong Nanshan made the announcement.

Now, <u>internal documents</u> provided to The Epoch Times show that Beijing covered up what it knew, as central authorities were secretly providing directives to regional governments on how to cope with the outbreak.

On Jan. 15, the regional health commission in northern China's Inner Mongolia issued a "super urgent" emergency notice to its municipal counterparts, explaining how medical facilities should respond to a new form of pneumonia. The notice said that China's National Health Commission had implemented treatment and prevention measures for local health agencies to deal with the new disease (now known as COVID-19).

CCP VIRUS SPECIAL COVERAGE

# 内蒙古自治区卫生健康委员会

特急

内卫医字 (2020) 19号

## 内蒙古自治区卫生健康委关于做好新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎病例医疗救治相关工作的紧急通知

#### 各盟市卫生健康委:

为指导各地做好新型冠状病毒感染肺炎防控工作,国家卫生健康委组织制定了新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎诊疗和防控等方案,现将诊疗方案、预检分诊和发热门诊工作要求、首例病例确认程序、院感防控和医务人员个人防护要求等转发各地,供内部工作使用,不得在互联网传播。同时,就做好我区新型冠状病毒感染肺炎医疗救治工作通知如下。

#### 一、组建医疗救治专家组

Notice from the Inner Mongolian Health Commission, instructing local health agencies on how to respond to the virus. (Provided to The Epoch Times)

Three measures stated in the notice clearly indicated that Chinese officials knew the disease was infectious.

First, it asked hospitals to take measures to prevent the disease from spreading

inside their facilities and train staff on such actions. Second, it asked hospitals to set up fever clinics and to "pre-screen and triage" anyone experiencing a fever, to determine levels of urgency for treating patients.

Hospitals also were directed to ask those patients if they had been to markets in <u>Wuhan</u> in the previous two weeks. While Wuhan authorities initially claimed that the virus likely originated from a local fresh food market, <u>studies have since</u> <u>shown</u> that some of Wuhan's first patients had no link to that market.

Finally, hospitals were instructed to set up special treatment teams that included infectious disease experts, the notice stated.

The Inner Mongolian health commission had no intention of informing the public about these plans, stating that the notice was "for internal use only, and cannot be distributed on the internet."

In another internal document, issued Jan. 15 by the local health commission in Xilingol League—one of 12 administrative divisions within Inner Mongolia—authorities also emphasized fever as a key symptom.

The league's health commission stated that local health agencies must "strengthen their management of screening and triage patients with fever," adding that it called for such management based on teleconferences held by officials in Central and Inner Mongolia about the virus.

On Jan. 19, a top Wuhan health official <u>took questions</u> from reporters, saying that he couldn't "rule out" human-to-human transmission, "but its risk was rather low."

On Jan. 23, three days after Zhong's public statement, China's National Health Commission publicly <u>released</u> the third edition of a document, titled "Diagnosis and Treatment Plan for the New Coronavirus."

The document stated that cases reported in Wuhan hospitals beginning in December 2019 were confirmed to be caused by "an acute respiratory infectious disease caused by a new coronavirus." That statement was also included in the second edition of the document, issued on Jan. 18—two days before Zhong's announcement.

The second edition, which was leaked to The Epoch Times, was previously kept secret. The notice is marked with the words: "not to be disclosed."

附件: 1. 新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎诊疗方案(试行第二版)

2. 全国各省(区市)首例新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎

病例确认程序



(信息公开形式:不予公开)

A copy of the second edition of China's National Health Commission guidelines on virus response, with the words, "not to be disclosed" at the bottom. (Provided to The Epoch Times)

The second edition contains a section explaining that medical personnel in hospital departments that treat patients with fever, respiratory problems, and infectious diseases should wear a surgical mask, goggles, and one-time-use protective clothing.

Despite instructions that showing central authorities knew the virus could be spread among medical staff, they kept silent until Jan. 20.

The Inner Mongolian documents showed that local health commissions were already warned about virus prevention measures by Jan. 15. But that day, the Wuhan Health Commission wrote on its website that the "risk of human-to-human infection is low."

<u>The World Health Organization</u> (WHO) also initially repeated China's claims that the virus wasn't contagious.

"Preliminary investigations conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the novel #coronavirus (2019-nCoV) identified in #Wuhan," the WHO tweeted on Jan. 14.

A recent report by The <u>Associated Press</u>, also citing a series of internal memos, similarly found that Beijing knew of the virus's transmissibility for six days before publicly conceding that on Jan. 20.

It took another two days before the WHO's mission to China issued a <u>statement</u> confirming that "human-to-human transmission is taking place in Wuhan.

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