Conclusion from COVID-19 Stories

Timelines of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in China and the U.S. reveal detailed stories of how the first few cases gradually developed into a pandemic, and how government officials and health agencies act together to fight the virus.

China and the U.S. exhibit different spatial patterns in the outbreak of coronavirus. In China, most cases are located in Wuhan, Hubei Province. Direct controls of the origin of the virus (such as the shutdown of the city and later the province) helps prevent the virus from spreading further. In the U.S., however, the first few confirmed cases are scattered across states, which makes it thorny to take preventive measures.

Both governments may perform better against the coronavirus. From the beginning they underestimated the severity of the virus. In China, it took three weeks to confirm human-to-human transmission. Although the U.S. government has received warnings about the virus, it didn’t introduce social distancing policy until late and has not been fully prepared for the pandemic (including lack of test kits and necessary medical care equipment).

Healthcare workers, as well as those who fight against the virus on the frontline, are the most adorable people. The stories of China and the U.S. shall never represent the world. This is a battle for all humankind, and we must unite and fight for victory.