

# 薪火

民主 | 自由 | 人權 | 法制

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English version

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## **An Optimized Epidemic Prevention Policy that Cost Tens of Millions of Lives**

The zero-COVID policy of blocking and controlling the epidemic and dynamic clearing, which was personally planned and commanded by Xi Jinping, has been implemented for nearly three years, causing countless humanitarian disasters and public outrages. In mid-November last year, nearly a dozen people were burned alive because of zero-COVID lockdown of buildings, which further aroused public anger. Then a white paper protest movement broke out and spread across the country, blatantly chanting slogans such as “Down with the Communist Party”, “Down with Xi Jinping”, which greatly shocked those in power.

On the other hand, the zero-COVID policy has hit a wall everywhere, and they refused to refer to the experience of western countries, insisting on using class struggle methods to fight the virus to the death. Dr. Zhang Wenhong, who holds different opinions and is more practical, was accused of surrendering to the virus. In fact, before the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) loosened the restrictions, the zero-COVID policy has completely failed already. Xinjiang had been locked down for more than 100 days, and there were still a large number of cases every day. In late November, the number of local infections in the country exceeded 30,000, and Beijing recorded over 1,000 cases in three days. The CCP issued red-headed documents calling the medical teams for severe cases to Beijing, as the pandemic has been completely out of control in Beijing. Guangzhou’s closure of the city has been ineffective, and half of the areas has been unblocked. Facing the loss of control and failures, the CCP could do nothing more, and could only give up and push the problem to the public letting them fend for themselves. This sudden policy reversal was given the euphemism of optimizing the epidemic prevention policy by the CCP.

## **A Tally of Deaths**

From strict control to complete loosening is going from one extreme to the other. During the implementation of zero-COVID policy, entire cities were locked down, even to the extent of moving entire micro-districts. As soon as the policy was relaxed, the government washed its hands of all responsibility, allowing a huge outbreak of the epidemic. The world has never seen

a government so irresponsible. Before the relaxation, there was no detailed and careful plan, no corresponding preparations, no orderly steps, and not even an early warning. Relaxation came as soon as it was announced, and people were caught off guard. Hospitals were short of personnel and medicines, leading to a real mess and a skyrocketing of severe cases as well as deaths.

Exactly how many people have been infected, and how many people have died? The CCP does not release any data for the sake of saving face, underreports the number of fatalities, narrows the definition of COVID death, relaxes various epidemic preventative restrictions, and implements Class B and B Management (that means letting go of all control). Patients who does not fall under the diagnosis of COVID infection are left to convalesce on their own. The difference between the official figures of infected cases and the true figures is one between thousands and tens of millions.

After three years of strict control, the virus certainly does not answer to the word of the party, and would hit back as soon as controls were relaxed, seemingly right in the face of Xi Jinping. After the fall of Beijing and Shanghai, every province and every city in the country have toppled one after another without exception. According to an internal meeting record of the National Health Commission, the accumulative number of infections from December 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> was 248 million people. Another survey revealed that Beijing's infection rate had exceeded 80%, with the national average exceeding 50%. Therefore 20 days after the loosening of restrictions on December 7<sup>th</sup>, the number of infected had exceeded 600 million.

Chinese experts believe this onslaught of the virus must go through three peaks before stabilizing. The first peak would occur from mid-December to mid-January, the second during the Lunar New Year when people return to their hometowns, and the third would occur when workers return to the cities to work. At the beginning of the first peak, a large number of people were infected and died. The number of deaths in December was several times higher than that of the same period in previous years. These included 20 nationally renowned academics. They were all leading figures who made great contributions to the nation's modernization. Among them, those who were related to network, aerospace, nuclear reactor, fibre optics and laser research were between the age of 60 to 80 or 90. If they were placed under adequate medical care, they would have no problem living another decade or so. Many experts in the medical field have also died one after another. The youngest is Xu Zhiqiang, associate professor of the School of Medicine, Sun Yat-sen University, who was only 40 years old. In addition, there were many faculty members of Tsinghua University and Peking University who died of the illness. As for the fatalities of ordinary citizens, there were too many to be counted. Because there were too many dead too suddenly, the crematoriums could not keep up with demands, and the waiting list extended to a month, with large number of bodies being temporarily stored in the unair-conditioned underground parking lots.

In the past three years, China's medical resources have been dedicated towards lockdown, mobile hospitals, and nucleic acid testing. Now, with nowhere to go in its zero-COVID policy, the government suddenly relaxed all restrictions, without forewarning the public to properly

vaccinate, or building adequate public health infrastructure. Medical supplies are inadequate and the government does not attempt to provision them. Intensive care beds are also not enough but there is no attempt to increase them. The public is only asked to self-test, and those with ordinary respiratory illness and not COVID are asked not to go to the hospitals, in order to minimize the burden to the medical system. According to the government's official statement, the virus does not kill now, and one would recover after bearing for a while.

### **CCP is Unwilling to Spend on the Lives of Chinese People**

The China-manufactured *Sinovac* and *Sinopharm* vaccines only have an effectiveness of 60% against the COVID virus, while the American-manufactured *Pfizer* and *Moderna* vaccines have an effectiveness of over 95%. For the sake of saving face, the CCP refused the free vaccines assistance from Germany, the United States and the European Union. CCP insisted that half of the world's vaccine supplies comes from its own production so it is more than adequate for its own use. But China's vaccines are ineffective, and what it wanted is the technology behind these life-saving vaccines. It refused aid and the import of vaccines, but only wanted a transfer of technology that would work in its favour. Of course the other side would refuse.

Earlier, the CCP negotiated with *Pfizer* to incorporate the drug *Paxlovid* in the scope of Chinese medical insurance. The public thought there would be a life-saving drug from now on, but the CCP bargained to an absurd extent, demanding *Pfizer* sell its medication below cost. *Pfizer* refused and the negotiation broke down. Because of the outbreak of the epidemic in China, *Pfizer* was already offering CCP its medicine at prices lower than that in Hong Kong, Taiwan, or the United States. China is the world's second largest economy, but would not spend money to buy life-saving medicines for its own people, because (1) the CCP has always been unwilling to spend money for the lives of Chinese people, and has devoted little resources towards medical insurance; (2) medical resources had already been completely spent on its three-year zero-COVID policy. If in a democratic nation, such a leader who spends state resources mindlessly and repeatedly torments the people would have already taken the blame and stepped down long ago.

Today's leaders, although self-proclaimed to be governing for the people and putting the people's lives and health above all else, do not care about or mourn the lives of countless people swept away by the tsunami-like epidemic. On the contrary, they wish most people will soon get sick for reaching a peak in the infection rate.

### **Let Them Test Positive, Let Them Die, Let's Get Pass the Peak**

After Xi Jinping assumed power, he gathers all authorities onto himself and makes decisions on every aspect of the nation. However, he does not have the intelligence to govern the country, nor the compassion for the people. Zero-COVID policy caused numerous man-made disasters. Lockdowns led to a severe lack of supplies, starvation to death, death due to prolonged confinement, and as a result of lack of medical care, as well as suicides through jumping off the buildings. Once the reins were loosened, there was a complete absence of planning and

preparation. With the onslaught of the virus and inadequate personnel and medication, there are countless fatalities, with sounds of mourning rising all over the country, and the government being helpless.

In order to regain social normalcy before the annual Two Sessions of the People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in March for a smooth transfer of power, authorities have carried out a policy of "let them test positive, let them die, let's get pass the peak". This kind of ruthless and inhumane policy could only have been conceived by the CCP. Whether or not such a policy could be carried out is still unknown, but the approach to promote a rapid ascent to peak infection rates has led to many fatalities. The CCP does not treat people as human beings, but as lab rats. To reach a peak infection rate is to allow many more to be infected, and die.

Wuxi's had a low infection rate, and so the Jiangsu authorities felt that "the rise of positive test results were too slow". They tried to speed up infections among people, aiming to have everyone tested positive at least once before March in order to meet the directives from higher authorities. But what are these directives exactly? Before it was "zero-COVID", and now it is "test positive".

According to a research team from Peking University, the national COVID infection rate has reached 64%, and the cumulative number of people infected is about 900 million. But epidemiologist Zeng Guang believes that the peak of the epidemic has not yet been reached, and may be delayed until the end of April. With the impending Lunar New Year, the infection brought to the rural areas by family reunion is about to begin. The rural areas are the most vulnerable part of China's medical system, with a lack of doctors, medicines, medical equipment and resources, and those left behind in the rural areas are the elderly, weak, sick, disabled and children. It is foreseeable that a widespread infection throughout the rural areas would lead to higher rates of serious illness and fatalities than those in cities. Therefore, some estimate once the virus invades rural communities, the cumulative number of infected people in the country would reach as high as 1.2 billion. With even a 0.1% fatality, the number of deaths would total 12 million. This so-called "optimized epidemic prevention policy" so casually ordered by Xi Jinping is indeed so frightening, leading to possibly tens of millions of deaths.