



COVID-19 WUHAN GUIDANCE PAPERS

EMERGING EXPERIENCES ON
RESPONDING TO COVID - 19
IN CHINESE CITIES
AND TOWNSHIPS

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Wuhan Land Use And Urban Spatial
Planning Research Center



WUHAN
UNIVERSITY



CITIC General Institute of Architectural Design and Research Co.,Ltd



IPE
Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs
公众环境研究中心



China Women's Development Foundation

COVID-19 Wuhan Guidance Papers

Emerging Experiences on Responding to COVID-19 in Chinese Cities and Townships

UN-Habitat China

in collaboration with

**Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Center
Wuhan University**

as well as

**CITIC General Institute of Architectural Design and Research Co., Ltd.,
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Writers:

UN-Habitat China

Zhang Zhenshan Ying Sheng
Zhang Muxi

Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Center

Zheng Zhenhua Song Jie
Zhang Yifeng Ning Ling
Zhou Weisi Li Qian
Zhao Tianru

CITIC General Institute of Architectural Design and Research Co., Ltd.

Xiao Wei Tang Qun
Wen Siqing Li Chuanzhi
Chen Yanhua Li Wei
Han Bing Xie Wencheng

Wuhan University

Peng Zhenghong Liu Lingbo
Wu Hao

Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs

Ma Jun Wang Jingjing
Zhang Nan

Reviewers:

UN-Habitat

Bruno Dercon Laura Petrella
Pamela Carbajal Zhang Zhenshan

Translators:

Zhang Muxi Wang Han
Xiao Xiao Zhao Xinran
Zhou Chenxi Zhang Runan
Chong Qian

Editor

Ying Sheng Zhang Muxi
Xiao Xiao

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Foreword

We are currently passing through the most critical global health and socio-economic crisis of the century, which has transformed the way we live, work, travel and socialize. The world's cities are generally taking measurements to contain the virus and its adverse effects reacting quickly to this urban humanitarian crisis to protect their population. Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic is also presenting us with an opportunity to learn from the different measures taken, share experiences and together build more resilient societies.

UN-Habitat is supporting both national and local governments to help them prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. A response plan, key messages and guidelines had been developed to support regional and country-level action in regard, cities, housing, informal settlements, public spaces, urban transport and mobility, water, sanitation, hygiene, gender and social inclusion. Moreover, UN-Habitat is leveraging networks of partners on the ground, bringing together mayors, governors, transport and utilities providers, urban NGOs, women's and youth groups, and slum-dweller community organizations.

COVID-19 is a wake-up call to apply what we had learned over the years about urban and territorial planning, which has developed into a multisectoral discipline. It is now commonplace to consider environmental, social, health and well-being as key determinants when planning cities. UN-Habitat in partnership with the World Health organization is taking upon one of the main challenges today; to ensure that urban and regional leaders have the knowledge and guidance to integrate health and well-being into their planning processes. Integrating health in urban and territorial planning, sourcebook is the latest joint publication that provides the health dimension in the practice and implementation of urban and territorial planning. It is designed as a tool to assist national governments, local authorities, planning professionals, civil society organizations and health professionals, by helping to improve planning frameworks and practice through the incorporation of health.

China has good and efficient systems in place to fight against epidemics. China has set in place strict containment measurements which have been proved to reduce the spread of the disease, managed to reduce the public health crisis and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presented working papers summarize specific measures for infection prevention and control of the disease from Wuhan experience. The working papers for COVID-19 control provide evidence-based strategies that could be replicated in other countries.

UN-Habitat and Wuhan city have a longstanding collaboration in 2018 UN-Habitat and Wuhan Municipal People's Government hosted the Wuhan Placemaking Week "Remaking Places-Transforming Cities: Shaping Better Public Space", convened by the Wuhan Land Resources and Planning Bureau, and implemented by the Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Centre (WLSP) and the Wuhan Planning and Design Institute (WPDI) and place makers of all backgrounds to re-imagine the future of Chinese cities.

These working papers are the latest result of the close and longstanding collaboration between UN-Habitat and Wuhan. We encourage you to make use of this papers, learn from the experiences so that together we can fight and control the health and economic crisis and, in the end, improve our urban environment, our health and well-being through the realization New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, so that we can build back better and leave no one and no place behind.

Introduction - Quickly Understanding COVID-19 and its impact on cities and communities

COVID-19 and essential precautions

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (referred to as the COVID-19) is named COVID-19 by the World Health Organization (WHO). It is the same as the pathogen that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (commonly known as "SARS"). SARS and COVID-19 are both caused by the coronavirus, but the two are not identical. At present, COVID-19 has spread over 210 countries and regions and is already causing close to 700,000 deaths (early August 2020).

The main sources of infection of the COVID-19 are patients with coronavirus infection and patients carrying the coronavirus. The zoonotic origins of coronavirus disease in 2019 has not yet been identified.

The main route of transmission is through respiratory droplets and close contact. In a relatively closed environment, there is a possibility of spreading through aerosols when exposed to high-concentration aerosols for a long time. Since novel coronavirus can be isolated in faeces and urine, it should be noted that faeces and urine can cause aerosol or contact transmission for environmental pollution. (Diagnosis and treatment plan for the novel coronavirus pneumonia, the National Health Commission of People's Republic of China (Trial version 7))

The population is generally susceptible, but the elderly and those with underlying conditions (such as high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, lung disease, cancer, and diabetes) are at higher risk of developing severe illness.

The incubation period refers to the time between the infection of the virus and the onset of symptoms. Most estimates of the incubation period of COVID-19 are 1-14 days, usually around 5 days. Rare existing cases in the incubation period exceed 14 days.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, fatigue, and dry cough. Some patients may experience pain, stuffy nose, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhoea. These symptoms are often mild and appears gradually. Some infected people have no symptoms and no discomfort. Most infected people (about 80%) can recover without special treatment. About one-sixth of those infected are seriously ill and have difficulty in breathing.

There are currently no specific drugs for COVID-19, vaccines are in development. The currently effective protective and prevention measures recommended by the World Health Organization mainly include:

- Wash hands frequently
- Maintain social distance
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Maintain good respiratory hygiene habits
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty in breathing, please seek medical attention as soon as possible
- Stay informed and follow the medical staff's recommendations

General impact on cities and communities in China and globally

City Economy

In order to prevent and control COVID-19 pandemic, various countries have adopted "locking down cities" measures to increase restrictions on population movements, which has caused heavy damage to the service industry, especially retail, leisure, hotels, entertainment and transportation industries that require physical interaction. As these industries account for more than a quarter of total employment, as corporate revenues decrease, the unemployment rate may increase substantially, thereby further transforming the supply-side shock of the economy into a larger demand-side shock. At the same time, workers returned to the city, factory

resumption was delayed, enterprises stopped production and reduced production, and short-term investment in manufacturing, real estate, and infrastructure construction basically stalled.

Reduced Urban Transportation

Urban rail transit is the backbone of public transport in large cities and the main mode of transportation for people to travel daily. It can easily become a channel for epidemic transmission if it is inadvertently, leading to serious consequences of large-scale, multi-regional and group cross-infection. During the “lock-down period” in Wuhan and other cities in Hubei Province, public transportation in the city was suspended, so as to effectively curb viral infections. The operation of urban buses, subways, ferries and long-distance buses in Wuhan is suspended. Except for anti-epidemic vehicles, vehicles for transporting daily necessities, and special vehicles such as firefighting, emergency rescue, sanitation, and police vehicles, all vehicles are prohibited from passing. Other areas of Hubei have also achieved epidemic prevention and control and take into account the overall consideration of traffic security, greatly reduce the flow of people in the city and the possible spread of viruses.

At present, urban traffic in many countries in Europe, Asia, and North America is declining significantly, especially public transportation.

Urban Communities: Staying at home and challenges for slum residents

The COVID-19 pandemic has now become a truly global phenomenon, with 2.6 billion people (one-third of the world's population) currently living in some kind of blockade. Cities and towns have taken measures to control the new pneumonia epidemic. Residents are restricted to go out, which may have an adverse effect on the mental and physical health of residents. A tense stay at home environment, especially small and crowded housing in informal settlements, social and protection networks have been damaged or under tremendous pressure, and access to services has also decreased. These have exacerbated the risk of violence on women and children and the vulnerable.

In order to reduce the burden on tenants and landlords in certain situations, countries around the world have changed their real estate policies. In Europe, several countries including Britain, Germany and France have suspended evictions. Countries such as the United Kingdom and Italy are providing temporary mortgage relief. The government urged European banks not to cancel arrears. In some parts of Asia, some landlords provide temporary rental rebates and rental discounts. At the same time, some countries (such as Singapore) are considering passing legislation to protect commercial tenants who cannot pay rent within six months.

The COVID-19 pandemic will hit the world's most vulnerable people. It is estimated that 1.8 billion people, that is, more than 20% of the world's population, lack adequate housing. This includes the one billion people living in informal settlements and slums worldwide. These areas are densely populated with inadequate household water and sanitation, little or no waste management, overcrowded public transport and limited access to formal health care facilities. In addition, they suffer from a lack of basic services, secure tenure and adequate housing

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