

**Support for U.S. Citizens**

~~(SBU)~~ There are no known COVID-19 cases of American citizens in Guangdong, Fujian, Guangxi, or Hainan.

**Post Operations**

~~(SBU)~~ No changes to staffing numbers or post security posture.

~~(SBU)~~ Supermarkets, public transportation, hospital services, bank, and ride hailing services in Guangzhou are all operating without indications of significant disruption. Local grocery stores are continuously stocked, including with fresh produce, meat, and eggs. Residential water delivery is currently not available for standard delivery, but Post has made arrangements with the vendor to ensure availability. Dine-in restaurant service has been suspended throughout the city since February 13. Delivery and take-out options are abundant. DPO disruptions have been resolved through alternate routing. Automobile traffic in the vicinity of the Consulate was noticeably up compared to the prior week, with Guangzhou residents opting to drive in order to avoid public transportation.

**Media/Social Media Roundup: Guangzhou Edition**

~~(SBU)~~ South China PAS media contacts discussed the rumors circulating on social media that a graduate of the Wuhan Institute of Virology is patient zero of COVID-19, which has been denied by the Institute. Other contacts continued to express concern that people returning to work will exacerbate the spread of the virus throughout offices and residential neighborhoods, following the news of confirmed cases at the IGC (天汇广场) office tower in Zhujiang New Town, Guangzhou.

(U) Guangzhou netizens agreed with comments made by China's Ambassador to the U.S. Cui Tiankai in his interview with NPR, noting that China is prepared to welcome experts from the United States to combat COVID-19. Other topics local netizens discussed: 1) The Director of the Chinese CDC, Gao Fu, might end up being blamed for the central government's missteps in handling the epidemic. Articles about Director Gao Fu have since been censored on social media; and, 2) An announcement by the Chinese Ministry of Justice that the production or sale of illegal medical masks could be punishable by a lifetime prison sentence garnered widespread support from netizens.

Drafted: (b)(6) (with inputs from: ATO, FCS, PTO, PAS, E/P, GSO, ISC staff)

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