

What is happening in East Turkestan (Xinjiang) during the COVID 19 pandemic?

After 148 days of the first wave of COVID 19 pandemic, Chinese government official reported first new COVID 19 case in East Turkestan (Xinjiang) on July 15, 2020. It was formally become the start of the second wave of the COVID 19 pandemic in the region. I believe 3 different things may going on during the second wave of COVID 19 pandemic in East Turkestan (Xinjiang).

1. Most likely the Chinese government has been testing the COVID 19 vaccine in Urumqi. We know China made a deal with several countries, including Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Bahrain to conduct Phase 3 trial of their COVID 19 vaccine; but the trial that China is conducting in Urumqi is totally different. I believe they might have been doing “animal test” in Human.

According Chinese official media report, medically observed cases reached 20325 on August 7, 2020. I believe these are total testing objects. The medically observed cases started from 135 on July 16, 2020, then gradually increased to 20325 on August 7, 2020. As of August 27, the medically observed cases declined to 1984. From July 15 to August 27, 2020, total of 826 persons have been confirmed to be COVID 19 (确诊病例); total of 238 persons have been categorized as asympathetic infection (无症状感染者) and put them under medical observation. So far 733 confirmed cases (确诊病例) and 203 asympathetic infected persons (无症状感染者) have been fully recovered, and no one died. Now has 93 confirmed cases (确诊病例) and 35 asympathetic infected persons (无症状感染者) and all of them in Urumqi [1].

According to some information I got from people who contacted their family members back home, the government took one young healthy person from many of each family for coronavirus checkup and kept them in separate room, hold them for several weeks with multiple tests.

2. Chinese government has been testing different unknown medicine, most likely traditional Chinese medicine in entire East Turkestan.

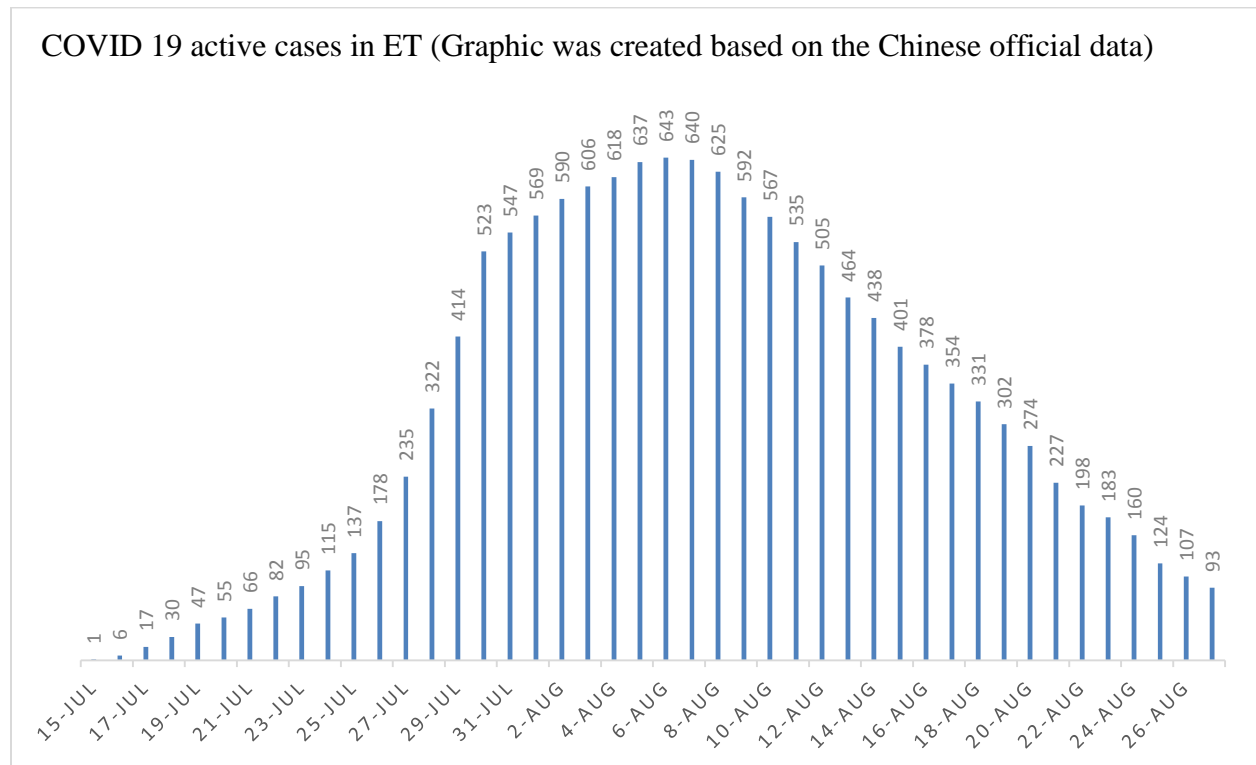
National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine website [2] stated, “Since the emergence of the COVID 19 epidemic in Urumqi, the autonomous region's COVID 19 epidemic medical treatment expert team has been took advantages of traditional Chinese medicine and used the traditional Chinese medicine in the treatment and prevention work as soon as possible. The participation rate has reached 100%.”

- Most likely Chinese government is collecting genetic material for COVID 19 related gene bank [3]. According to this Chinese news, health care workers in East Turkestan have been collected specimen from 2.3 million (2309537) persons in Urumqi alone [4] (Note: Urumqi has 3.5 million population) and 2.7 million persons in 8 Prefectural cities [5] for nucleic acid test.

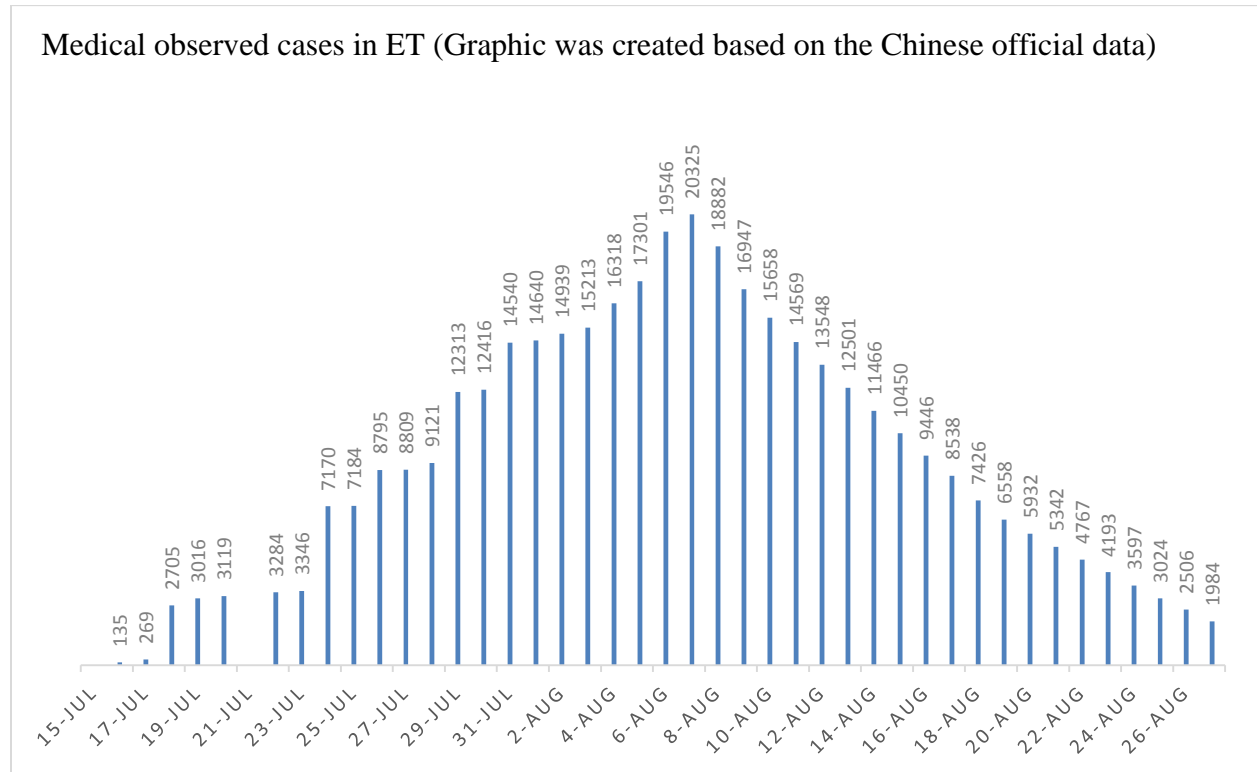
While the COVID 19 pandemic started from Wuhan, Chinese government reported tens of thousands of confirmed cases in China, but in East Turkestan (Xinjiang), Chinese government reported only 76 confirmed cases; and most of them were elderly and 3 persons died in total; the remaining 73 persons were recovered; the death rate was about 4%.

While pandemic almost controlled most of the China, the second wave of pandemic suddenly took place in East Turkestan on July 15, 2020. From July 17, first Urumqi, then several other cities have been totally locked down. Even though total of 826 confirmed cases have been reported so far and last 12 days no new case has been reported, but the overall situation in East Turkestan has not been changed much. Very interestingly, once China reported to have no new cases, then no more new cases in every single day; no exceptional, no unexpected cases. As of August 27, only 93 active cases remain and all of them in Urumqi. Most likely the Chinese government may complete the experiment they are conducting by August 31, 2020.

As you seen on the graphic below, even though the number of confirmed cases did not increase evenly, but it is declining evenly since August 7; no outliers, no unexpected cases.

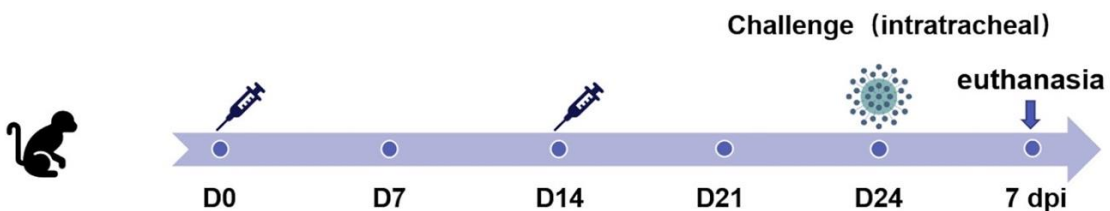


Even the medically observed cases are also declined very evenly, no outliers, no unexpected.



As we know any vaccine needs to get through 3 phases of clinical trials. Actually only the phase 3 trial is about to test actual efficiency of the vaccine. By July, 2020, China had complete animal trial, phase 1 and phase 2 human trial. Even though China said their vaccine had been approved for military use, but in fact they haven't complete the actual phase 3 trial yet.

According to research paper on "Cell [Volume 182, Issue 3](#), 6 August 2020, Pages 713-721" from Chinese researchers, all experimented macaques were immunized twice on days 0 (D0) and 14 (D14). The placebo group was intramuscularly administered physiological saline, and the two experimental groups were intramuscularly injected with low-dose (2 µg/dose) or high-dose (8 µg/dose) BBIBP-CorV (COVID 19 vaccine). At D24 (10 days after the 2nd immunization), all macaques were intratracheally challenged with 10⁶ TCID₅₀ of SARS-CoV-2 per monkey under anesthesia. [6].



Images from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092867420306954>

We know if the area has no heavy epidemic, the phase 3 trial takes very long time. If the ethical regulation and law allowed us to manually infect the vaccinated human for phase 3 trial of the vaccine as we do in animal model, we could shorten the trial time and could get very reliable data in very short period of time; but this is illegal in any country.



A medical worker conducting a coronavirus test in Urumqi, the capital of the Chinese region of Xinjiang, in a photo distributed by state media. China News Service, via Reuters

This is the way getting specimen for COVID 19 test; same method can be applied for infecting a person with SARS-CoV-2 if ethical regulation and law allowed. I believe Chinese government most likely is using this method on those young people to test their vaccine as they did in animal model [6][7].

According to BBC, "A senior Chinese health official revealed the extent of that last weekend when he confirmed that China has been secretly testing vaccines on key public workers since last month." [8]

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