Ms. Carole Gabay
Market Analytics Expert, Volunteer Lead Solidarity Covid
Expats in China Shanghai

Exploring the singular dynamics of Covid epidemics Zero Covid strategy China

China in persisting zero Covid strategy is a major fact of the decade with huge implications on the World Economy and the lives of many.

As of today, China is the last territory who can afford to stick to the zero Covid strategy, under tremendous challenge since the BA.2 outbreaks, which are raising the costs in many aspects. However, outside of China, the dynamics of the local clusters, and the restrictions / digital tracking/lockdown/border closure that go with them are largely unknown or misunderstood.

There is the burden of the 2020 wave, but also great complexity in the exercise of retrieving epidemiological data from a huge, largely decentralized country.

Thanks to the daily curation of multiple official public sources from Chinese authorities started at the very beginning of the epidemic in China, some of which are not archived online after 24h, the volunteer project Solidarity Covid – Expats in China has built up the most comprehensive database on China’s Post Wuhan clusters and imported cases delivering unprecedented insights on the dynamics of the pandemic in the context of zero covid strategy.

Mrs Gabay will talk about her project and latest findings on the epidemic situation in China, and the outcome of the latest variants on a totally naive population.

Professor Stéphanie Dagron and Ms. Kayling Marcus
University of Geneva

Universal Health Coverage for Chinese migrant workers: the march to leave no one behind

Since the launch of China’s healthcare reform, its progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has been spectacular. More than 95% of its population now has health coverage, and has been lauded as an exemplary model by the United Nations. Whereas hukou, China’s household registry and rural-urban segregation system, had once been a major factor associated with health disparities, more efforts were undertaken to reduce such health disparities, including the abolishment of the rural-urban class system in 2014 and further healthcare reforms.

Despite China’s efforts to promote health equity, however, studies show health and healthcare access disparities between those with advantaged socioeconomic conditions and one of China’s most marginalised groups, its internal migrant workers, the “floating population” (liudong renkou). Estimated at 285 million, China’s migrant workers represent roughly 30% of the country’s workforce, whose vulnerabilities were exacerbated by their socioeconomic disadvantage, high mobility and the intricacies of China’s legal framework associated with healthcare access.

Professor Stephanie Dagron and Ms. Kailing Marcus will present the transdisciplinary PhD project addressing this issue.