



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong



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COVID-19 in Mainland China and Hong Kong – Normalcy, abnormality, and the new normalcy

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Outline

- The current “normalcy” of COVID-19 in mainland China and Hong Kong
- The “abnormalities” of the “normalcy” of COVID-19 in mainland China and Hong Kong
- How to deal with the “abnormalities”?
- The new normalcy?



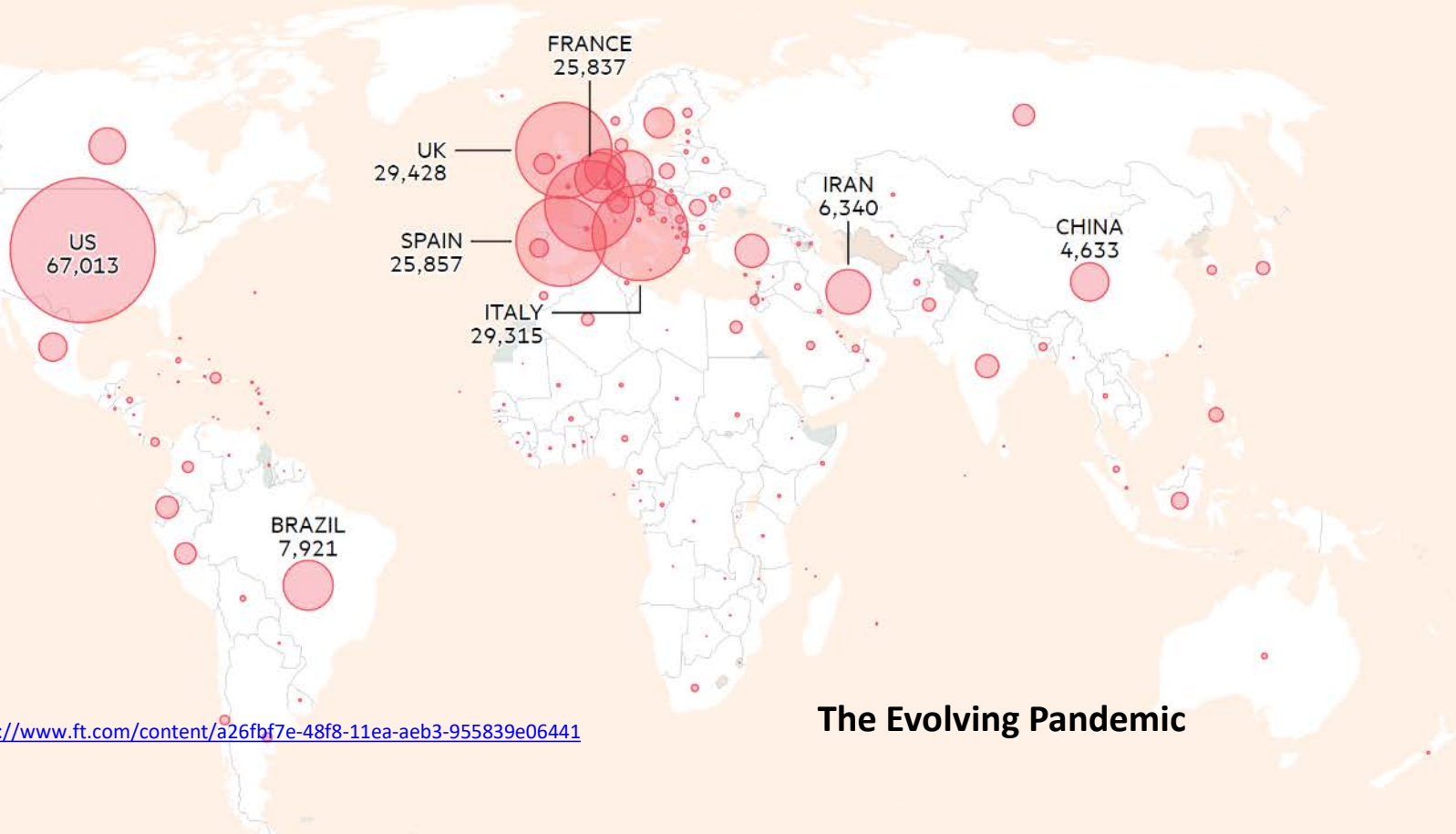


The current Normalcy

As of 11:03pm May 6 BST

Confirmed cases
3,639,277

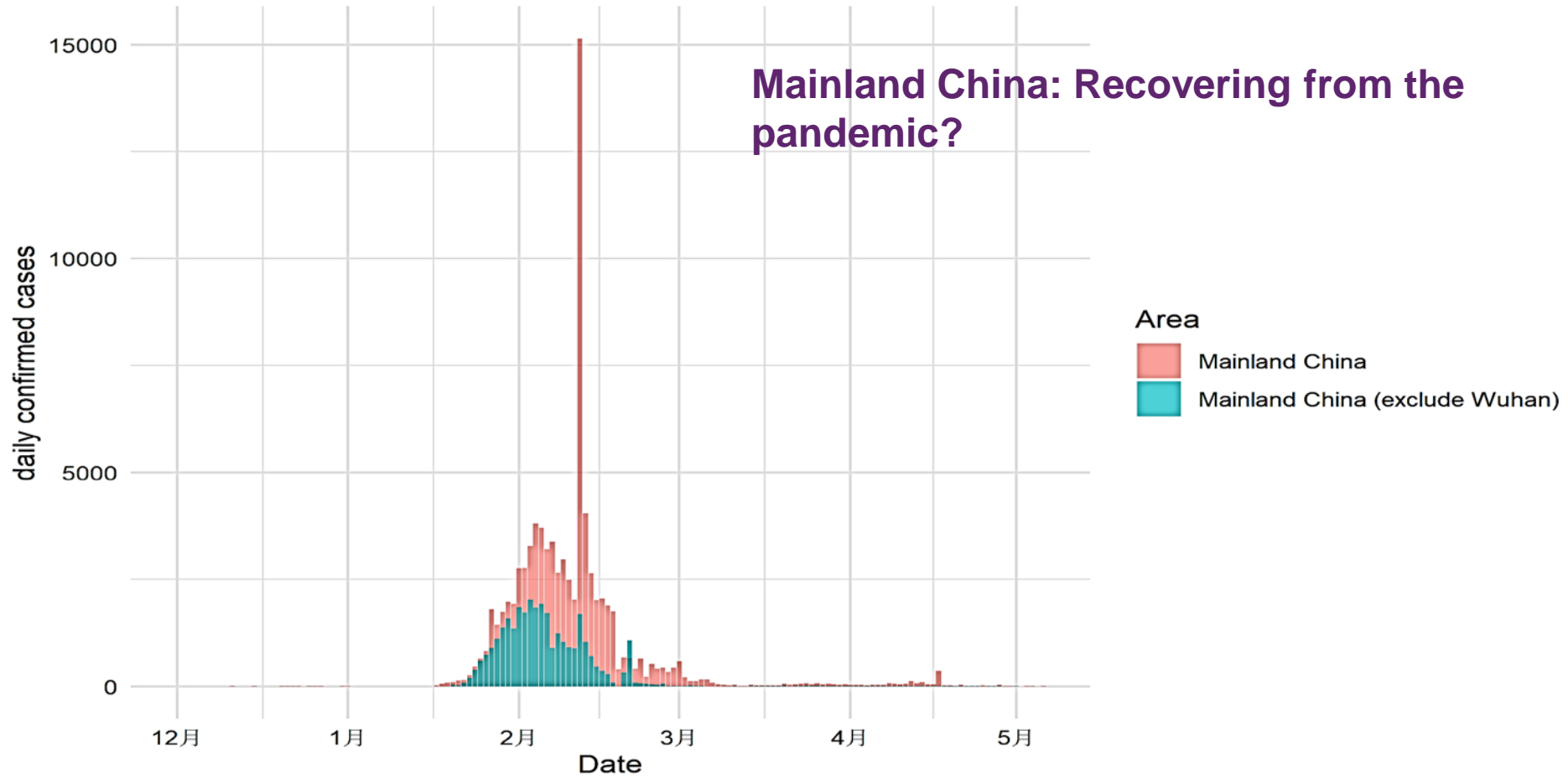
Deaths
253,485



Financial Times: <https://www.ft.com/content/a26bf7e-48f8-11ea-aeb3-955839e06441>

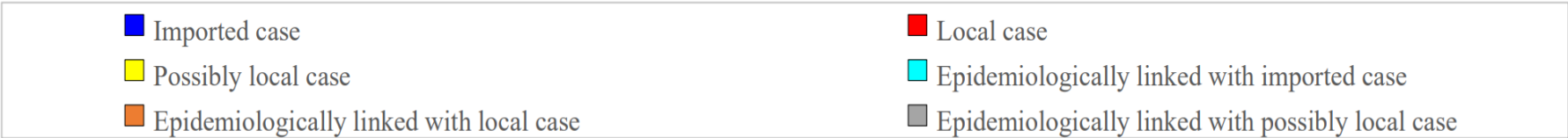
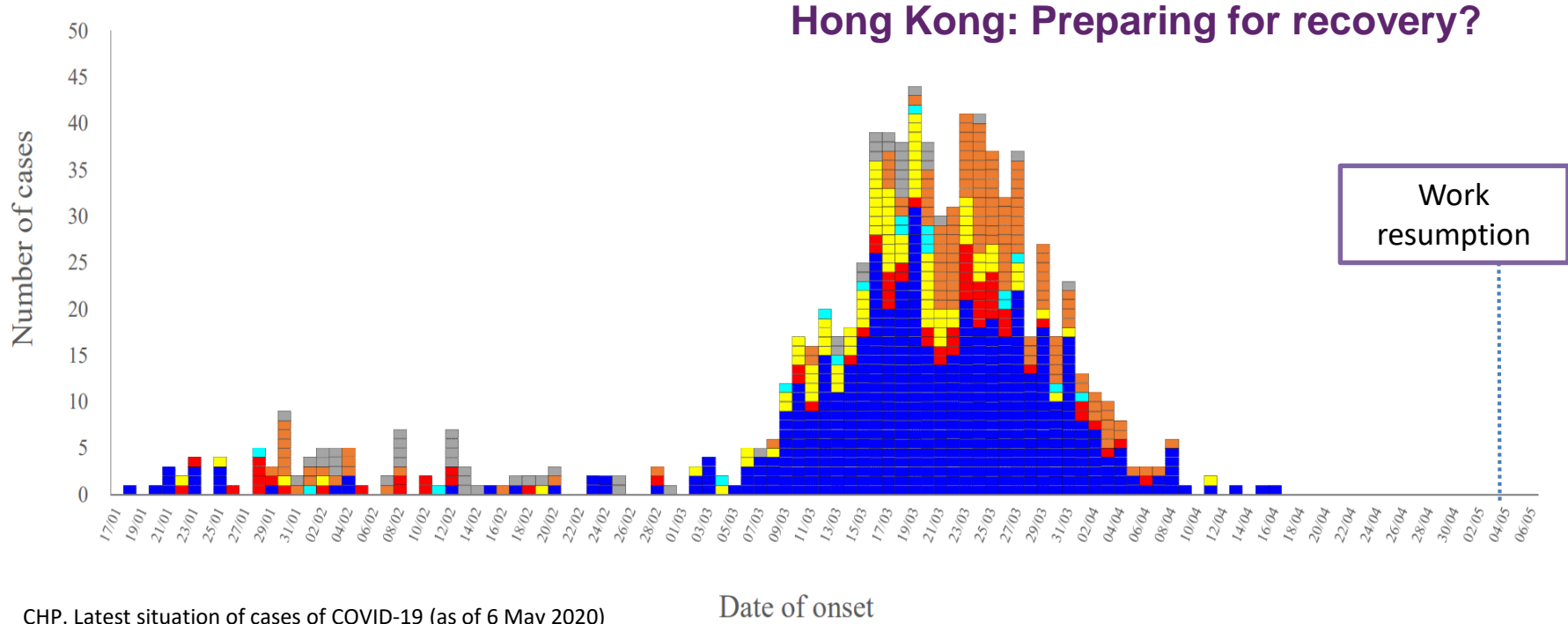
The Evolving Pandemic

Mainland China: Recovering from the pandemic?



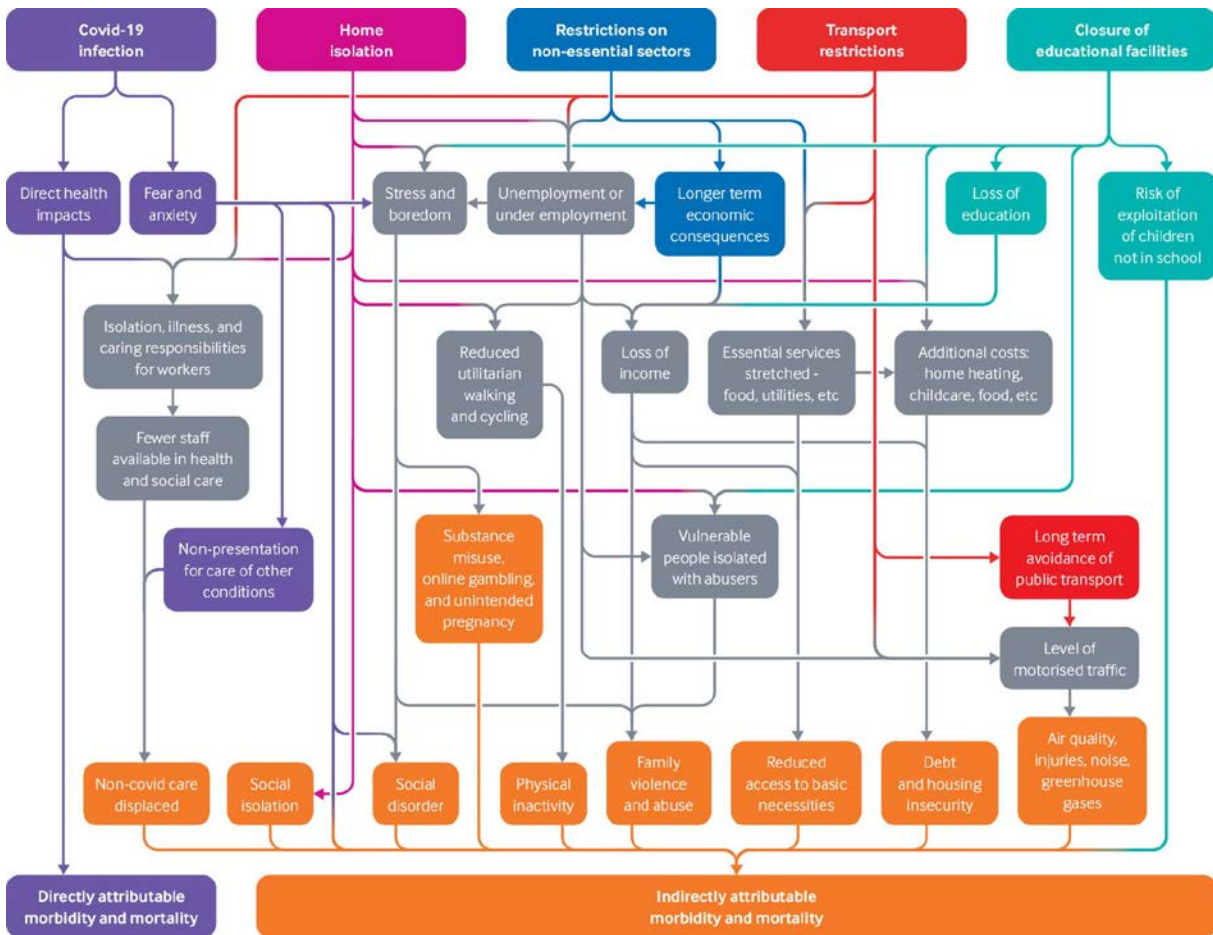
Epidemic curve of confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in Hong Kong (as of 6 May 2020)

Number of confirmed and probable cases = 1041





The “abnormality” of the “normalcy”



Effects of social distancing measures on health

- COVID-19 Infection
- Home isolation
- Restrictions on non-essential sectors
- Transport restrictions
- Closure of educational facilities

Health, Economic, Social, and Psychological Consequences

Margaret Douglas et al. *BMJ* 2020;369:bmj.m1557

Potential impact of COVID-19 on economy

Impact on labor income

- Lost earnings due to illness or the need to attend to sick family members
- Indirect effect of demand and supply disruptions:
 - ↓ in hours of work, employment
 - ↓ in wages
 - ↓ in incomes of self-employed

Impact on non-labor income

- ↓ in remittances (international and domestic)
- ↓ in private transfers due to economic stress
- ↓↑ in public transfers?

Direct impact on consumption

- ↑ in prices and shortages of basic essentials
- ↑ in out-of-pocket cost of healthcare
- But ↓ in prices of oil and other commodities

Service disruptions affecting welfare

- Student retention, learning, nutrition
- Saturation of health system – inadequate care for NCDs
- Mobility disruptions due to reduced transport services

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/657421587133962274/Poverty-distr-impacts-policy-options-COVID19-April-72020.pdf>



Chinese Economy Hit Hard by Coronavirus Outbreak

Year-over-year change in economic activity in China in January and February 2020

Industrial output



-13.5%



Retail sales



-20.5%

Investment in fixed assets



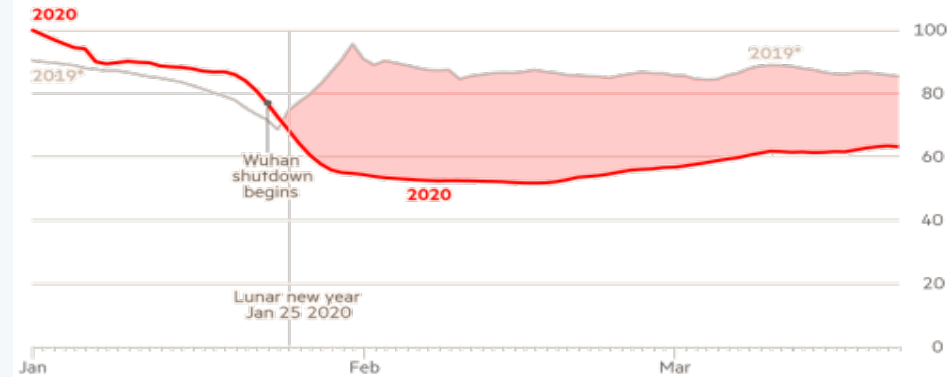
-24.5%

Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China



Covid 19's impact on the Chinese economy

FT China Economic Activity Index (Jan 1 2020 = 100), last updated Mar 22

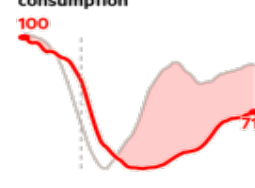


Subindices (Jan 1 2020 = 100)

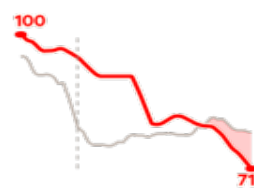
Real estate floor space sales



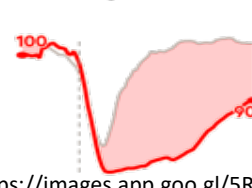
Power plant coal consumption



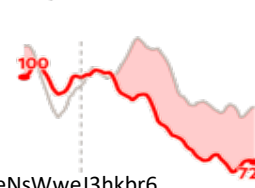
Container freight



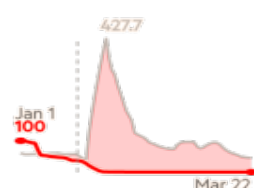
Traffic congestion



Air pollution

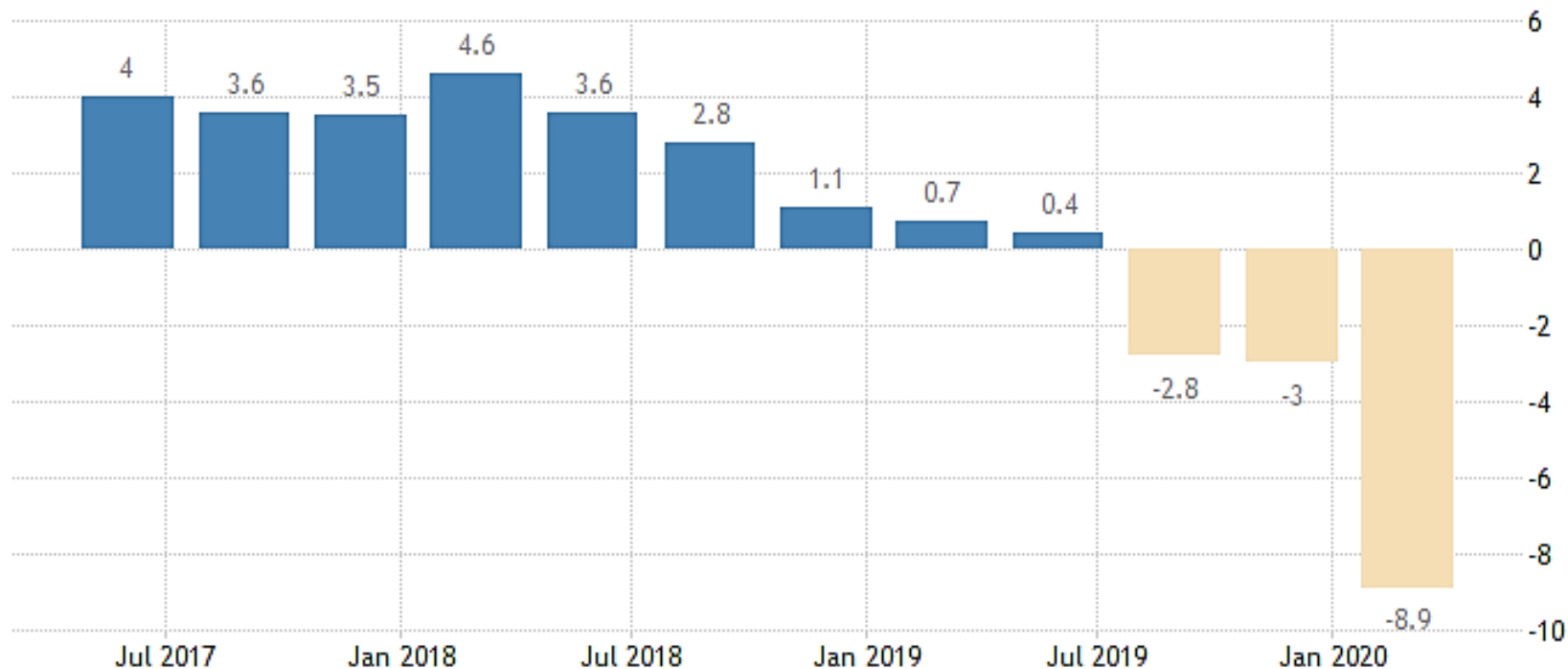


Box office admissions



<https://images.app.goo.gl/5RT7eNsWweI3hkbr6>

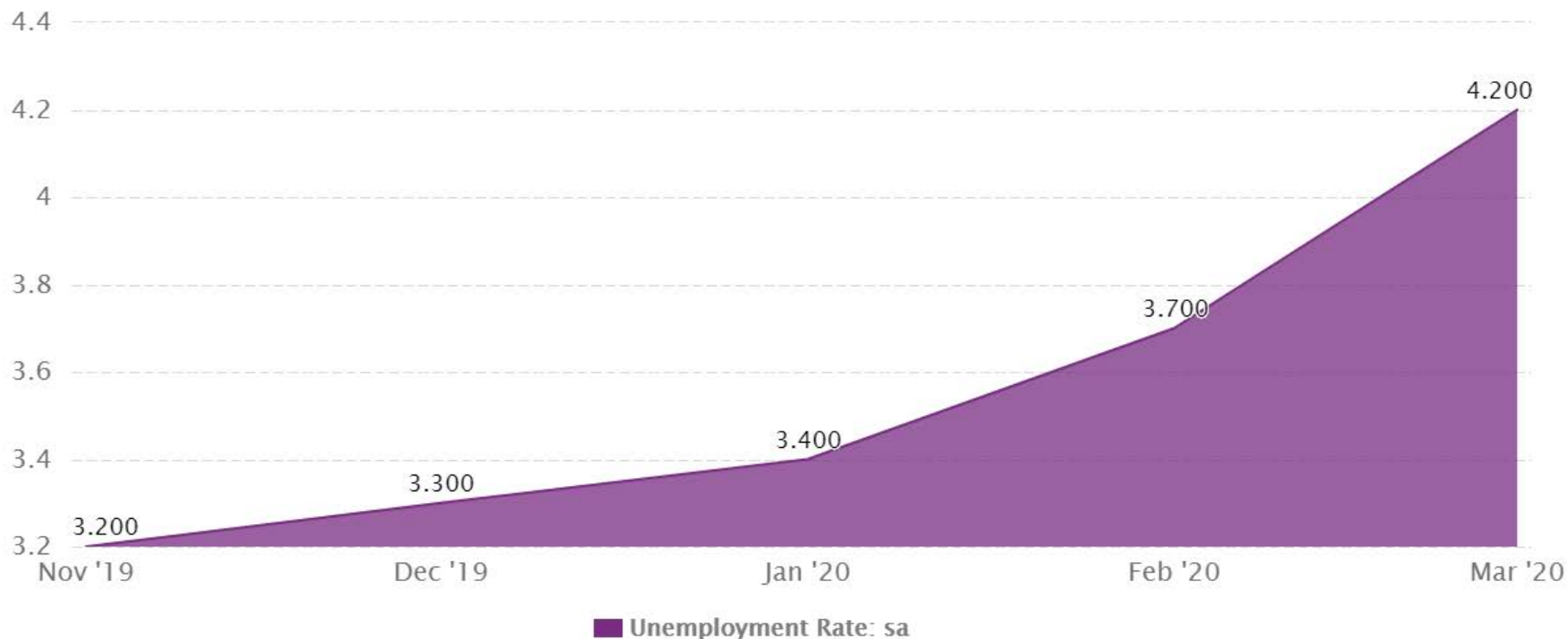
Hong Kong GDP Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, HONG KONG



Economic index in HK (Q1 2020)



SOURCE: WWW.CEICDATA.COM | [Census and Statistics Department](#)



LETTERS

HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Socioeconomic gradient in health and the covid-19 outbreak

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At the time of writing [1 April 2020], there have been 859 556 confirmed cases of covid-19 and 42 332 deaths.¹ The epidemic has so far been controlled partially by national mobilisation of healthcare resources, but shortage of resources is of grave concern in other, especially developing, countries affected later by covid-19, underscoring global health inequalities.²

Many countries are currently using a household based prevention model, which usually includes mandatory self-quarantine of people who have travelled to high risk places. This model can be fragile and limited, especially for socially disadvantaged people, who are poor, isolated, and undereducated. The wellbeing of family members can also be compromised indirectly, even if they do not get the disease. In the rural area of Hubei, a 17 year old boy with cerebral palsy, whose single father was placed in a quarantine facility for possible covid-19 infection, was found dead after six days of being left alone at home.³

The socioeconomic gradient in health can also be seen in higher socioeconomic groups. In Hong Kong, in the earlier stage of the outbreak, there was inadequate government support for healthcare professionals. A specialist had to pay out of pocket to rent a hotel room for self-quarantine to protect his family members; healthcare staff of lower ranking, however, might not be able to afford that.⁴ We need to be cautious of similar situations in other countries.

The socioeconomic gradient in health extends beyond people in lower socioeconomic groups to their family members and those in higher socioeconomic positions. Attention should be focused not only on people with the disease but on a whole population health prevention strategy that promotes good public hygiene practices. Disease specific health literacy is also essential.

RY NC is associate director of the CUHK Institute of Health Equity at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Competing interests: None declared.

Full response at: <https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1329>.

- 1 Coronavirus covid-19 global cases by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/5d47481408294c467048454670484546>.
- 2 Abbas K. Health inequalities: death by political means. *BMJ* 2020;368:m75510.1136/bmj.m75510.
- 3 Standen M. Disabled teenager in China dies at home alone after relatives quarantined. *Guardian* 2020. Jan 30. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/30/disabled-teenager-in-china-dies-at-home-alone-after-relatives-quarantined>.
- 4 No quarantine arrangement at the Queen Mary Hospital. After receiving confirmed cases, doctor rented hotel room for self-quarantine. *HK01* 2020. Jan 30. <https://www.hk01.com/article/427950>.

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Coronavirus: Hong Kong's low-income families struggling to afford masks and disinfectant, new study claims

- Society for Community Organisation says results show nearly 70 per cent of families struggling



Chan Ho-him

Published: 5:15pm, 23 Feb, 2020

[Why you can trust SCMP](#)



Lau Choi-yu uses fruit peel to stop the inside of her mask getting wet so she can use it for longer. Photo: Nora Tam

Coronavirus: Hong Kong's homeless 'McRefugees' scramble for places to stay as McDonald's axes dine-in services in evening to help fight pandemic

- McDonald's Hong Kong has announced it will suspend its dine-in services from 6pm to 4am at all of its 244 outlets from Wednesday for two weeks
- For homeless men like Tony, who spend their nights in the firm's restaurants, the change will mean finding a park or underpass to sleep in instead



Zoe Low and Chan Ho-him
Published: 9:00am, 25 Mar, 2020 -

Why you can trust SCMP



<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3076804/coronavirus-hong-kongs-homeless-mcrefugees>
Photo: Edmond So



<https://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/simp/chinese-news-52337890>



coloursinmylife / Shutterstock



Hong Kong / Education

Coronavirus: Hong Kong students without electronic devices could be left on wrong side of 'tsunami-scale' digital learning divide

- Data gathered by HKU last year shows about 10 per cent of city's students had no electronic device at home, while 40 per cent needed to share
- While sharing was not a serious drawback for students in the past school year, the sudden shift to online learning could change that, researcher says



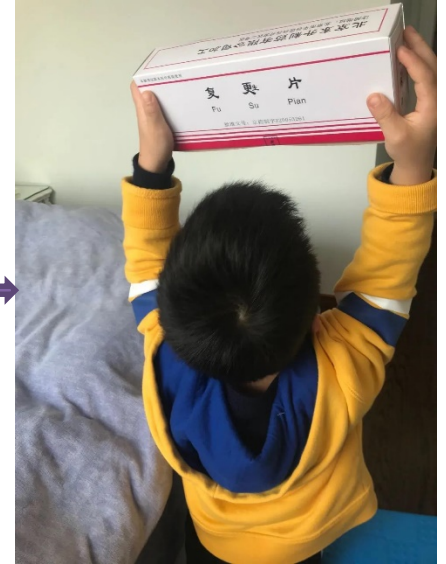
Chan Ho-him

Published: 9:13pm, 21 Apr, 2020 ▾

 Why you can trust SCMP

<https://www.hkcnews.com/article/28056/%E5%81%9C%E8%AA%B2-%E6%AD%A6%E6%BC%A2%E8%82%BA%E7%82%8E-%E7%B6%B2%E4%B8%8A%E5%AD%B8%E7%BF%92-28058v>

Impact on disadvantaged social groups – Rare disease patients in mainland China



Source: The Illness Challenge Foundation

<http://www.chinaicf.org/>



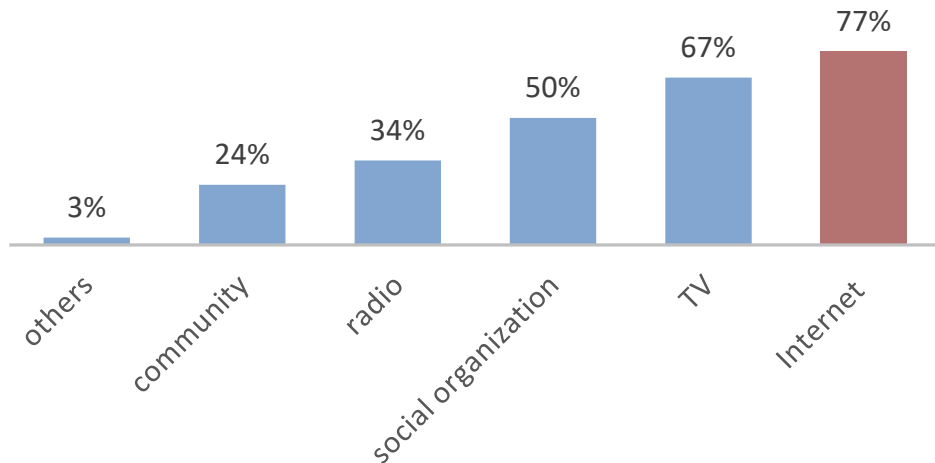
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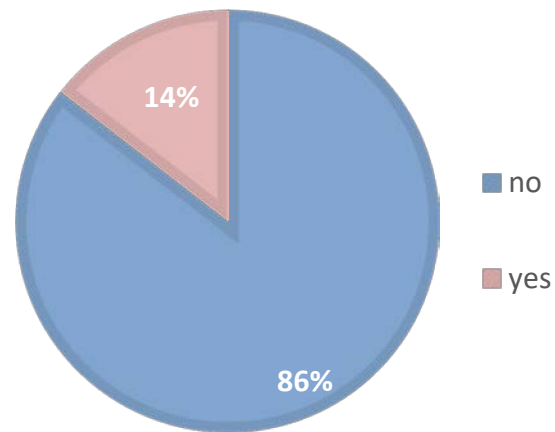
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Impact on disadvantaged social groups – People with disabilities in mainland China

WAYS OF RETRIEVE INFORMATION

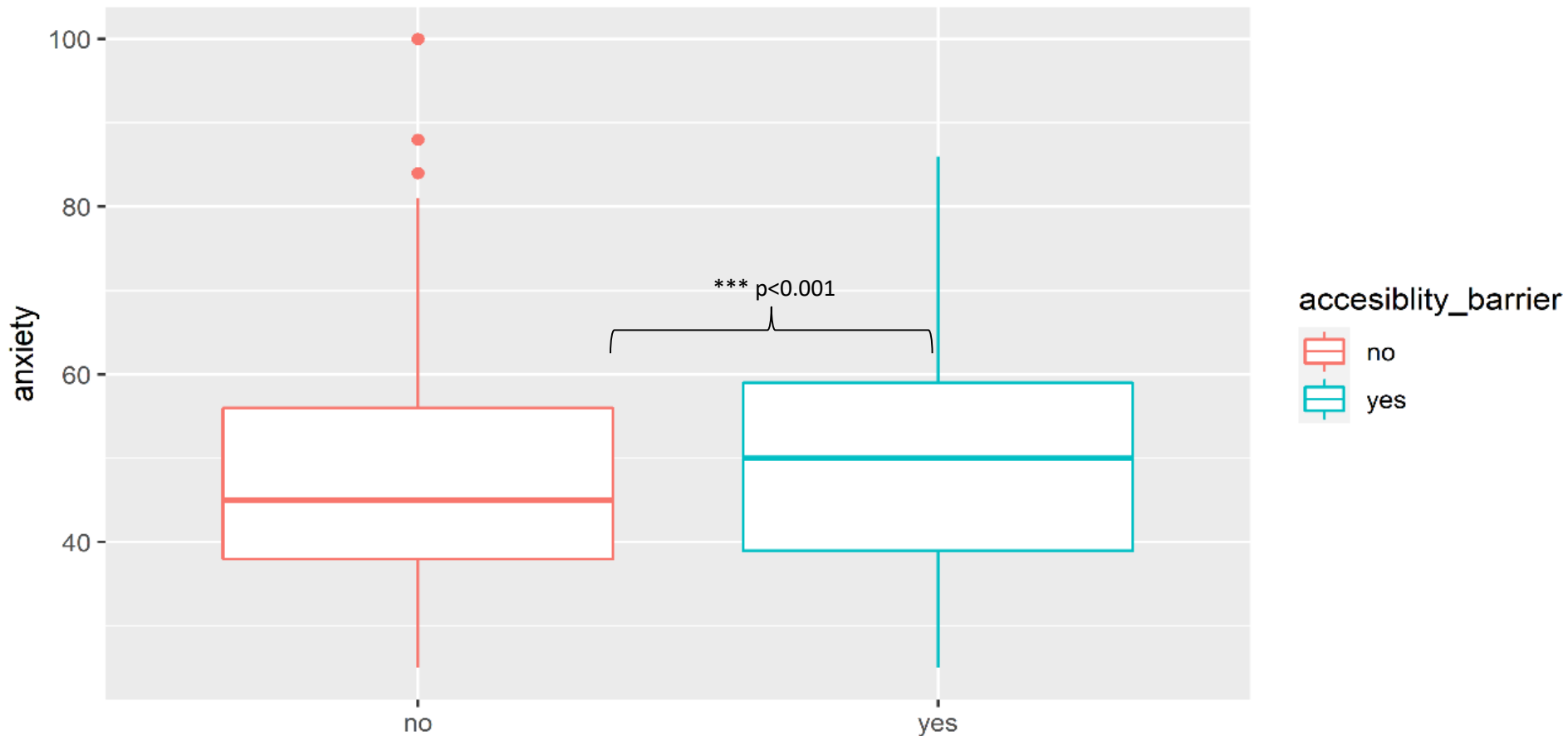


ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS



Source: Unpublished study by Xuehui Li (Zhejiang Normal University), Cong Cai (One Plus One Group for Disability), Dong Dong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong), and Shixin Huang (University of Washington)

Impact on disadvantaged social groups – People with disabilities in mainland China





How to deal with the abnormalities?

HK: Economic measures

\$137.5 BILLION

ANTI-EPIDEMIC FUND MEASURES 2.0



- Help businesses to stay afloat
- Retain workers in employment
- Relieve burdens of individuals and businesses
- Facilitate the economy to recover


Fight the Virus Together Support Hong Kong Together


<https://twitter.com/InvestHK/status/1248201066862112768>

<https://www.budget.gov.hk/2020/eng/budget01.html>

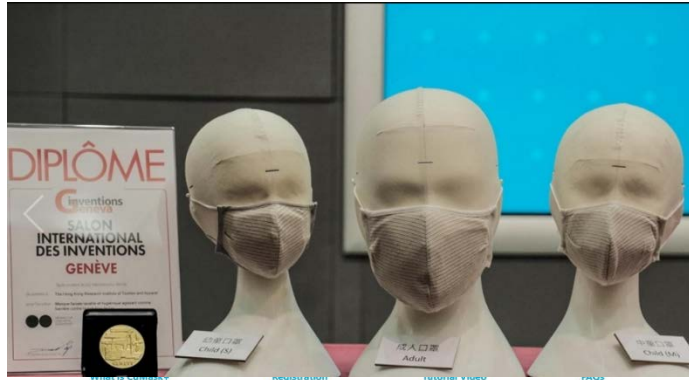
<https://twitter.com/InvestHK/status/1232595195545317376>

<p>Concessionary Low-interest Loan</p> <p>100% Government guarantee</p> <p>6 months of salary and rental expenditure Max. \$2 million</p> <p>Available to all enterprises hit by the epidemic</p> 	<p>Reboot Tourism</p> <p>\$700 million</p> <p>for the Hong Kong Tourism Board to step up promotion</p> 
<p>Profits Tax Cut</p> <p>100%</p> <p>profits tax cut for 2019-20 Max. \$20,000</p> 	<p>Reinvigorate Trade</p> <p>\$150 million additional funding</p> <p>for HKTDC to help enterprises explore opportunities</p> 

 Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

 Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

HK: Free reusable masks



Step 1 Online registration
6 registrants max.
6 May to 6 June

- HKID number(s)
- Date(s) of birth
- Local mobile phone number(s)
- Local delivery address

Step 2 Delivery at door

Delivery within about 2 weeks upon successful registration

Registration

news.gov.hk
政府新聞網



Home > Business & Finance > 1.38m registered for CuMask

1.38m registered for CuMask

May 6, 2020 Like 8

The Innovation & Technology Bureau announced that as of 3pm today, the CuMask online registration system had received over 500,000 registrations, covering close to 1.38 million registrants in total.

The bureau also responded to reports concerning the purpose of information collection and security of the registration system.

It noted that information provided by citizens in obtaining the masks will not be used for other purposes and that the Government will ensure the retention period of the personal data is no longer than the time required for the purposes for which the data is used.

Mainland China: Consumption coupons, reopening schools, and lift of travel ban





The new normalcy?

Back to normal or back to the future?





Thank You

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