Share Your News Now

If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business news organization events, and school news to us includinig your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com
or contact
John Robbins **832-280-5815**
Jun Gai **281-498-4310**

Southern DAILY
Make Today Different
Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins, Jun Gai
Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Sinovac's coronavirus vaccine candidate approved for emergency use in China - source

Inside C2

Monday August 31, 2020 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

White House suggests $1.3 trillion coronavirus aid bill; Pelosi says not enough

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump is willing to sign a $1.3 trillion coronavirus relief bill, a top aide said on Friday, but Democratic House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the sum was not enough to meet the needs of the American people.

Trump said later that Pelosi was only interested in bailing out states run by Democrats, casting doubt on chances of reviving stalled talks for another round of fiscal stimulus.

The new figure was put forward by White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, marking a $300 billion increase from an initial $1 trillion offer from the White House and Senate Republicans

Three weeks after talks on Capitol Hill broke down without a deal on legislation to help Americans suffering from the coronavirus pandemic, Meadows said the Republican president was "right now willing to sign something at $1.3 trillion."

Hours later, Pelosi in a statement repeated her call for a $2.2 trillion bill and said Meadows' offer would not meet the needs of American workers and families.

Pelosi said, among other things, the Republicans "are rejecting the funding needed for testing and tracing to crush the virus and safely reopen schools and the economy."

She said she hoped the Republicans would accept the Democratic offer and resume negotiations.

Asked about talks between Pelosi and Meadows about another stimulus package, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on a flight to Washington from New Hampshire: "My impression is she wants to give no stimulus, all she wants is bailout for badly run Democrat states."

He said another stimulus package would be good.

The Democratic-led House in May passed a $3.4 trillion coronavirus relief bill, which was not taken up by the Republican-dominated Senate.

Pelosi said on Thursday after a 25-minute phone call with Meadows that Democrats were willing to go down to $2.2 trillion and demanded that the Trump administration accept that figure before negotiations could resume.

The $1.3 trillion has been offered in private, Meadows said. Negotiations have involved Pelosi, Meadows, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

LOCAL NEWS

Sinovac's coronavirus vaccine candidate approved for emergency use in China - source

BEIJING (Reuters) - Sinovac Biotech Ltd's coronavirus vaccine candidate CoronaVac was approved for emergency use as part of a programme in China to vaccinate high-risk groups such as medical staff, a person familiar with the matter said.

China National Biotec Group (CNBG), a unit of state-owned pharmaceutical giant China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm), also said it had obtained emergency use approval for a coronavirus vaccine candidate in social media platform WeChat last Sunday.

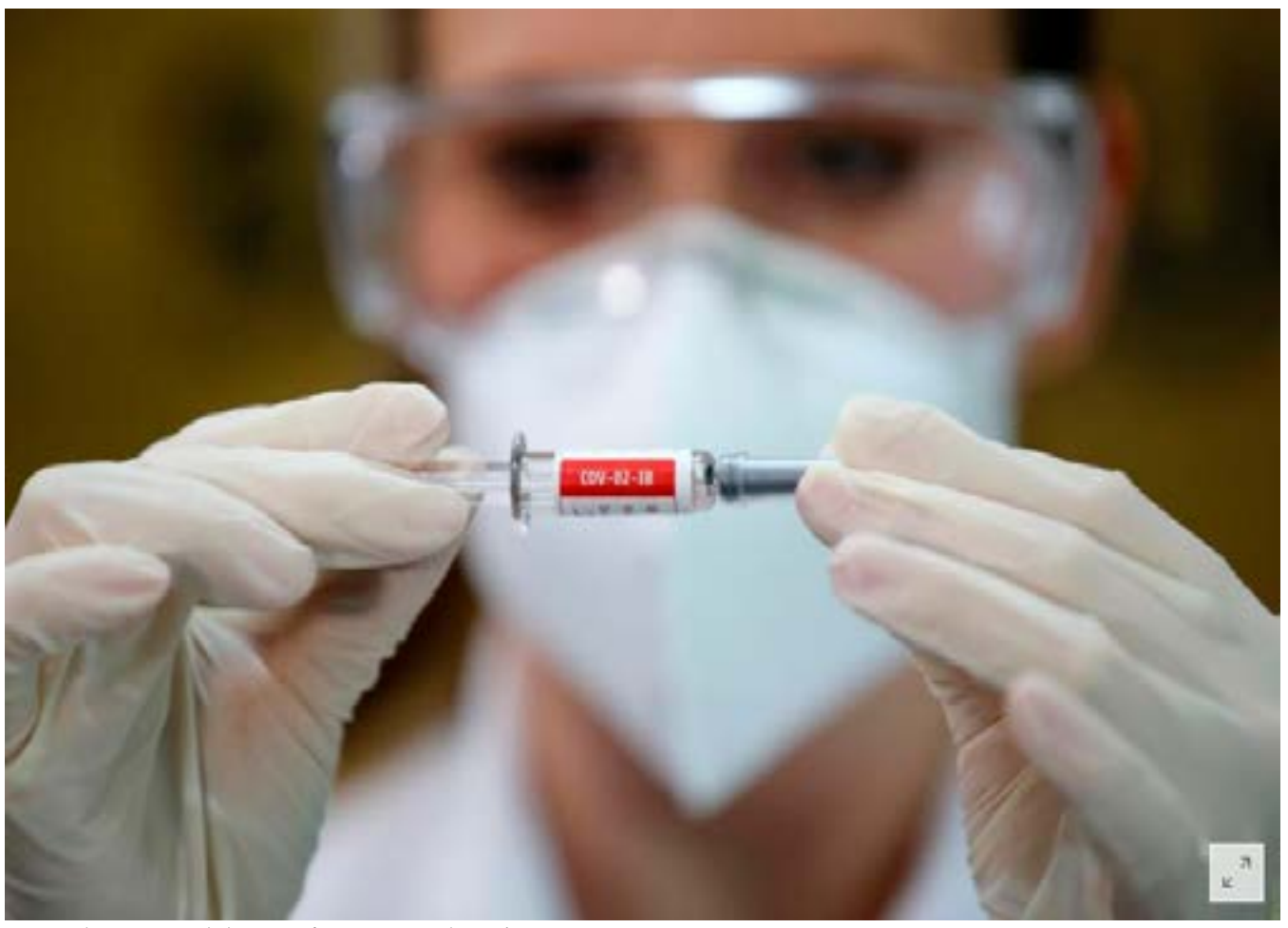
CNBG, which has two vaccine candidates in phase 3 clinical trials, did not say which of its vaccines had been cleared for emergency use.

China has been giving experimental coronavirus vaccines to high-risk groups since July, and a health official told state media in an interview aired last week that authorities could consider modestly expanding the emergency use programme to try to prevent possible outbreaks during the autumn and winter.

State media Xinhua reported late on Friday that two vaccine candidates were approved in June for the emergency use program launched in July, without identifying the specific products.

Officially, China has given little details on which vaccine candidates have been given to high-risk people under the emergency use programme and how many people have been vaccinated.

In June, prior to the emergency use programme, employees at state firms travelling overseas were allowed to take one of the two vaccines being developed by CNBG, state media Global Times reported. China's military had also approved the use of CanSino Biologics' vaccine candidate.



FILE PHOTO: A nurse holds China's Sinovac vaccine, a potential vaccine for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), at the Sao Lucas Hospital of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), in Porto Alegre, Brazil August 8, 2020. REUTERS/Diego Vara

Seven vaccines against the coronavirus are in final trial stages around the world, and four of them are from China.

But no vaccine has yet passed the final stage of trials proving it is safe and effective - conditions usually required to be met to get regulatory approval for mass use. COVID-19 has killed over 800,000 people worldwide.

Stay Home! *Wear Mask!*

BUSINESS

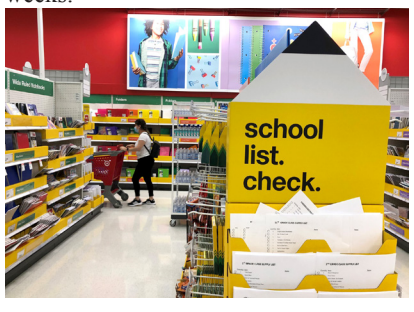
A Confusing Back-To-School Season May Lead To Blockbuster Spending

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Getting her daughter ready for the first day of sixth grade, in a normal year, Lidia Rodriguez would have by now spent a pretty penny on a lunchbox, her charter-school uniform and a special backpack, perhaps embroidered with her name: "Sofia."

But why buy a new uniform if last year's top still works for a Zoom call? And why splurge on a new backpack when the walk to school is a shuffle from the kitchen table to the bedroom desk?

"I don't feel like investing ... until she actually physically starts," says Rodriguez, whose home in Tampa will be her daughter's classroom at least for nine weeks.



A shopper walks past shelves of school supplies at a Target store in San Rafael, Calif. Preparing for both in-person and virtual learning has families budgeting for new school supplies and bigger purchases. (Photo/Justin Sullivan/ Getty Images)

Rodriguez still did buy supplies: notebooks and folders, pens and pencils. Sofia's father got her a laptop. And she'll need more when — and if — she returns to the classroom: three masks a day, bleach wipes, new shoes, the uniform.

If lots of families end up having to stock up for multiple scenarios — both learning in school and virtually — back-to-school and back-to-college spending could actually hit a new record, topping $100 billion, according to the National Retail Federation.

Big-ticket items like electronics and desks are a major reason, says Katherine Cullen, senior director for industry and consumer insights at the retail group.

"Families who last year might have been looking at calculators or maybe a new smartphone ... are now looking at bigger dollar items like laptops, tablets, desktops," Cullen says. "But they're also buying things that you might not expect as much — desks, lamps, headphones — a lot of new items that weren't traditionally on the school shopping list."

Back-to-school is usually the second-biggest shopping season after the winter holidays. And so it's something of a test for retailers, who are in a tailspin from the year's mass shutdowns, layoffs and furloughs.

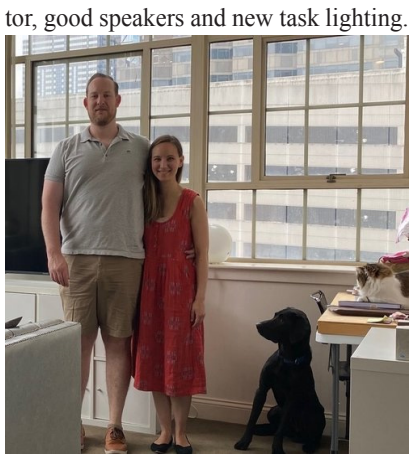
"The back-to-school season is off to a slower start than usual, given the uncertainty around the timing of students physically returning to school," Walmart Chief Financial Officer Brett Biggs said on a call with analysts last week. He pointed out "understandably" low demand for school supplies, backpacks and clothes. "We expect the season to be choppy and come later than normal," Biggs said.

Retail marketers have been getting creative to keep people spending, embracing the oddity and disarray of pandemic schooling, pushing discounts on computers and ideas for faking a dorm room at home.

Macy's showed a montage of children at home learning to build a robot or tend to a garden.

"New school year, whatever that means," sang a women in an Old Navy commercial. Target promoted contactless pickup of online orders. Even Ace Hardware got in on the pitch: Now that face masks and disinfectants are on the list, why not stock up for school at a home improvement store?

"The biggest priority for me this year was setting up the home workspace," says Kisha Washington, who in the spring had to convert her Chicago home into both her office and a classroom for her daughter, now a high school junior. This meant a mounted computer monitor, good speakers and new task lighting.



That "morphed into her wanting task lighting plus tea-light-patio-hanging-from-the-ceiling-random-LED-lighting," Washington says with a laugh. "So she's also taking this opportunity to, you know, redecorate — which has been good for her."

Both Washington and Rodriguez would have to buy more supplies if or when their children actually return to the classroom. By Cullen's estimate, families like theirs still have about 60% of their back-to-school shopping left to do. The question is when or how much of it will actually happen. (Courtesy npr.org)

Related

Zoom investigating tech problems with video tool as kids head back to school

An increasing number of people are reporting issues with Zoom on Monday morning as Americans wake up and start their work shifts and kids start the school year remotely.

According to DownDetector, a platform that monitors app outages, the problems started at around 7:30 ET. A live outage map shows hot spots on most of the East Coast. People are also experiencing glitches in Texas, and around Chicago and Detroit.

An increasing number of people are reporting issues with Zoom on Monday morning as Americans wake up and start their work shifts and kids start the school year remotely.

According to DownDetector, a platform that monitors app outages, the problems started at around 7:30 ET. A live outage map shows hot spots on most of the East Coast. People are also experiencing glitches in Texas, and around Chicago and Detroit.

The primary issue seems to be that people are having a hard time logging in. Zoom said on its service status website that the company is in the "process of deploying a fix across our cloud." Zoom meetings and webinars on the platform's website are experiencing "partial" disruptions.

Of the people reporting problems with the video conferencing platform, 75% reported issues logging in, 12% had problems with the website while 13% are struggling with the server connection.

Zoom let users known on Twitter that it's looking into the problems. (Courtesy https://www.usatoday.com)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice

Chadwick Boseman poses at the premiere of "Black Panther" in Los Angeles, January 2018. Embraced by global audiences, "Black Panther" became the second highest grossing movie at box offices worldwide in 2018

Chadwick Boseman arrives at the Oscars in 2018. Boseman, an actor whose work celebrated African-American pioneers and culture, has died at age 43 after a four-year battle with colon cancer, according to an announcement posted on Friday to his socia

Chadwick Boseman addresses the 150th commencement ceremony at Howard University in Washington, May 2018. REUTERS/Eric Thayer

Chadwick Boseman speaks in front of the cast of "Black Panther" after the film won Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, January 2019. REUTERS/Mike Blake

Ahmed Nawaz looks through the damage to his store after Hurricane Laura passed through Lake Charles, Louisiana, August 27. REUTERS/Elijah Nouvelage

Chadwick Boseman poses at the premiere of "42" in Hollywood, April 2013. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni

Downed power lines are seen after Hurricane Laura passed through the area in Creole, Louisiana, August 28. REUTERS/Elijah Nouvelage

Workers Bobby Ore and Steve Piersall remove a tree which fell onto a house in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura in Lake Charles, Louisiana, August 28. The residents of the home escaped injury. REUTERS/Adrees Latif

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

How Nations Of The World Handle The Coronavirus Health Crisis Impacts Their Tourism Favorability

KEY POINTS

Tourism Policy Responses to the coronavirus (COVID-19)

The tourism economy has been heavily hit by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and measures introduced to contain its spread. Depending on the duration of the crisis, revised scenarios indicate that the potential shock could range between a 60-80% decline in the international tourism economy in 2020. Beyond immediate measures to support the tourism sector, countries are also shifting to develop recovery measures. These include considerations on lifting travel restrictions, restoring traveller confidence and rethinking the tourism sector for the future.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has triggered an unprecedented crisis in the tourism economy, given the immediate and immense shock to the sector. Revised OECD estimates on the COVID-19 impact point to **60% decline in international tourism in 2020**. This could rise to **80% if recovery is delayed until December.** International tourism within specific geographic-regions (e.g. in the European Union) is expected to rebound first. **Domestic tourism**, which accounts for around 75% of the tourism economy in OECD countries, is expected to recover more quickly. It **offers the main chance for driving recovery,** particularly in countries, regions and cities where the sector supports many jobs and businesses. **The impact of the crisis is being felt throughout the entire tourism ecosystem, and reopening and rebuilding destinations will require a joined up approach.** Tourism businesses and workers are benefiting from economy-wide stimulus packages, with many governments also introducing tourism specific measures. Governments and industry are focusing their efforts on:

Lifting travel restrictions and working with businesses to access liquidity supports, apply new health protocols for safe travel, and help to diversify their markets. **Restoring** traveller confidence and stimulating demand with new safe and clean labels for the sector, information apps for visitors and domestic tourism promotion campaigns. **Preparing** comprehensive tourism recovery plans, to rebuild destinations, encourage innovation and investment, and rethink the tourism sector. These actions are essential, but to reopen the tourism economy successfully and get businesses up and running, **more needs to be done in a coordinated way as tourism services are very interdependent.** The travel and tourism industry and governments should continue to reinforce their coordination mechanisms to accompany the businesses, notably the smallest ones, and the workers. Particular attention should be given also to the most sensitive/vulnerable destinations in the recovery phase.

Looking ahead, the measures put in place today will shape tourism of tomorrow. Governments need to already consider the **longer term implications of the crisis,** while staying ahead of the digital curve, supporting the low carbon transition, and promoting the structural transformation needed to **build a stronger, more sustainable and resilient tourism economy. The crisis is an opportunity to rethink tourism for the future.**

Germany, Canada, and New Zealand are most favorably impacted, while the United States, Brazil, and India are seen unfavorably.

Based on nations' handling of health crises, most travelers are more comfortable traveling domestically as opposed to internationally over the next five years. Those who feel comfortable enough to travel internationally in the next few years are more likely to visit nations which have made significant strides to contain the COVID-19 pandemic

New York, August 25, 2020 – Necessary safety measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic have inevitably disrupted tourism flows and tampered with our ability to travel freely; and while these precautionary hurdles have not weakened our resolve to go on a vacation getaway, they instead appear to have made us re-think the distance we are willing to travel for a break in our daily routines.

The Anholt-Ipsos Nation Brands Index (NBI) 2020, a survey of 20,000 global citizens in 20 different nations, reveals that when pondering travel in the next five years, a vast majority feels most comfortable traveling domestically rather than internationally - given how various nations around the world respond to health crises. The only exception, are those from Brazil, who are equally split on their comfort level regarding domestic and international travel:

Comfort level traveling domestically v. internationally

	China	Australia	India	Canada	S. Korea	Germany	Italy	France	Sweden	U.K.
Comfortable Traveling Domestically	87%	73%	71%	68%	65%	65%	58%	55%	54%	54%
Comfortable Traveling Internationally	58%	27%	58%	24%	28%	23%	30%	21%	25%	28%

	Turkey	Egypt	U.S.	Argentina	Russia	S. Africa	Poland	Mexico	Japan	Brazil
Comfortable Traveling Domestically	54%	50%	50%	48%	44%	42%	41%	38%	29%	36%
Comfortable Traveling Internationally	27%	48%	28%	29%	28%	37%	27%	36%	8%	37%

In the next five years domestic travel might become more prevalent, and nations may have to temporarily adjust their tourism strategies, offerings, and price points to be more attuned with, and suited to, the needs and interests of their respective citizens.

Though fewer in number, some global citizens still feel comfortable exploring the world in the next five years - signaling that international travel will not come to a complete standstill. Nonetheless, travel plans and flow patterns will be directly affected by how nations respond to health crises, and how comfortable these measures make travelers feel. The top five nations which global citizens would feel most comfortable visiting in the next five years, based on how they respond to health crises, are:

Top five nations global citizens would feel most comfortable visiting in the next five years

Germany Switzerland Canada N. Zealand Japan

The top five nations which global travelers would feel most comfortable traveling to in the near future are those which have made significant strides to contain the propagation of the COVID-19 pandemic within their own borders. Consequently, it is unsurprising that the nations with the highest levels of net favorability, based on how they respond to healthcare crises, are:

Top five nations with the greatest "net positive" favorability for health crises management

Germany Canada N. Zealand Switzerland Japan

The handling of health crises by some countries has led to significant negative favorability impacts. The following markets have the greatest "net negative" favorability in terms of their health crises management:

Top five nations with the greatest "net negative" favorability for health crises management

U.S. Brazil India Nigeria Mexico

The United States ranks last out of the 50 measured nations in net favorability for its handling of healthcare crises. This particular instance helps further illustrate that the reputational losses incurred by poor perception in the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic may have a greater toll on near-future tourism flows. Not only does it appear that travel in the next few years will mostly occur within nations' borders - but while those willing to go beyond their own national boundaries are likely to travel to countries close in geographical proximity, they are even more likely to travel to nations which appear to have made significant strides to contain the proliferation of the pandemic – highlighted as follows by the top international destinations for each of the 20 measured NBI nations:

Top international destinations for all 20 measured NBI nations

Research Roundup

The long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry is still largely unknown. New NBI 2020 results expectedly demonstrate that the ways in which countries handle health crises impacts favorability towards those nations. Those which have made significant progress to contain the COVID-19 pandemic are seen more favorably. Nations with net gains in favorability have a unique opportunity to attract international travelers in a time when most are cautious about venturing beyond their own nation's borders; while those with net losses in favorability, must work actively to regain trust.

"These important findings confirm that good governance – especially when it also produces benefits outside a nation's borders – is the key to a powerful and positive international reputation. This, in turn, tends to attract more trade, tourism, foreign investment and talent. In today's world of global challenges, doing good and doing well are inseparable," added Simon Anholt.

NBI 2020

These results, along with NBI 2020 ratings, will provide critical insight to nations working to manage their brands and restore their business and tourism sectors quickly after the pandemic. Having a deep understanding of current perceptions, in the global context and in these turbulent times, can help guide future communications and marketing efforts for greater likelihood of success.

For more information on this news release, please contact:

Jason McGrath
Senior Vice President, US
Corporate Reputation
Jason.McGrath@ipsos.com

Uri Farkas
Account Manager, US
Corporate Reputation
Uri.Farkas@ipsos.com

(Courtesy ipsos.com)

SC 美国生活 Daily News

美国政策大转弯 取消要求外籍留学生离境的签证规定

美国月前宣布取消可能导致外国留学生被迫离境的签证规定。移民局曾表示，如果留学生只参与线上课程，必须离境美国。美国的这一声明，意味著移民局上周的决定180度大转弯。

美国移民局曾指，从今年秋季开始，如果国际留学生只参与网上课程，将不得继续留在美国，除非他们转到其他面对面授课的课程。若国际学生不遵守上述规定，将面临被驱逐离境。

如今美国当局宣布收回成命，允许国际学生继续在美国境内参与网上课程。

高校诉讼

上周，哈佛大学与麻省理工大学（MIT）向国土安全局及美国移民及海关执法局（Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE）发起诉讼。

哈佛大学校长劳伦斯·巴科（Larry Bacow）在声明中表示，学生签证的上述规定过于「一刀切」，让国际学生除了离境美国和转学之外，几乎别无他选。

他说，当局这一决定损害了包括哈佛在内众多学校致力于平衡授课与师生健康的周全举措。

多所高校随后加入哈佛与MIT的阵营。因为新冠病毒疫情的影响，美国许多大学都已改成网络授课。哈佛大学此前宣布，秋季学期所有课程都将继续以此方式授课。

美国总统特朗普曾在推特上批评哈佛只在线上授课的决定「荒谬」。他坚持，美国学校必须在秋季学期以正常形式授课。他威胁说，如果某些学校不正常复课，政府将削减对其的财政支持。

网络授课

新冠疫情在美国蔓延之后，许多大学已经关闭校园改以网络授课，那些已经在读的国际学生获准在春季和夏季学期继续留在美国网络上课。

但是美国移民局上周宣布，留在美国全数上网课的国际学生，「必须离开美国，或采取其他措施，例如转到面授的课程或学校」。

新申请签证的留学生，如果课程完全以网络上课，也无法获得美国学生签证。

新规定给美国大学施加了压力，迫使校方重新开放学生上课，让国际学生必须至少有部分的讲课以面对面形式进行。

这将如何影响美国学校的中国留学生?

在美国留学的中国留学生Iris Li已做好了失去学生签证、一年之内无法返校的心理准备。

今年20岁的她修读社会学与宗教学，即将在美国亚特兰大的埃默里大学（Emory University）升读大三。

3月下旬，学校宣布停课后，已在美国学习6年的Iris返回了家乡北京。「当时就预感可能一年之内回不来，」她对BBC说。

她的预感如今得到了印证。美国的网课相关签证规定与依然有效的中国旅行禁令意味著数以十万计的中国留学生如今进退两难。

身在中国的留学生难以取得新签证返美，留在美国的中国学生则必须参与面授课程，不过一些高校已宣布，在新学年只会在网上授课。

Iris说，她认识的中国留学生当中约有七成已返回中国。

疫情期间，中美之间的航班十分有限，机票一票难求。美国的签证与入境政策之外，中国民航局的「五个一」规定让不少中国留学生感觉「被抛弃」。Iris难掩失望，坦言感觉「被夹在（中美）中间当皮球踢」。

她正烦恼，留在美国的行李细软该如何处理，毕竟重返美国的日子遥遥无期。「如果大四能回去（美国）上课我就很开心了。」她的一名中国留学生朋友则在微信上留言道：「今年说过最多的话：太难了。」

各方批评

美国当局声明发布后，不仅在留学生群体中引发焦虑，也在国内招致各方批评。

每年有大量的留学生到美国求学，国际学生支付全额学费，是美国大学的重要财政收入来源。

2019财政年度，美国国务院一共签发388,839个F签证（学术课程），以及9,518个M签证（职业课程）。

根据美国商务部的数据，2018年国际学生为美国经济总体贡献了450亿美元。

持有上述的F签证和M签证的国际学生将受到美国移民局最新规定的影响。