**After Early Praise, Virus Cases Rise in Singapore**

**新加坡早期防疫措施备受赞美而今却病例攀升**

Singapore has been praised for limiting the spread of the coronavirus. But infections have risen recently among migrant workers.

新加坡曾因控制冠状病毒传播而备受赞誉。但是，最近该国的外来务工工人感染率有所上升。

The city-state now has the most infections in Southeast Asia. As a result, Singapore is bringing back some restrictions.

新加坡城现在成了东南亚感染人数最多的国家。也正因此，新加坡正在恢复一些限制措施。

Singapore’s Ministry of Health said that, as of Monday, about 87 percent of reported cases are workers living in dorms. These kinds of housing can have up to 20 people living in one room.

新加坡卫生部表示，截至周一约有87%的上报病例出自住在宿舍的工人。这些宿舍一间房间最多可容纳20人合住。

Singapore is known for having a high number of foreign workers who come from Britain and other places to work in business or banking. But many foreign laborers come as well. They include Philippine cleaners and Bangladeshi building laborers.

众所周知，新加坡拥有大量来自英国和其他地方的从事商业或银行业的商人。然而，这里也有许多外国劳工，其中包括来自菲律宾的清洁工和来自孟加拉国的建筑工人。

Migrant workers are part of Singapore’s two-track economy of both high-paying technology jobs and low-paying labor jobs.

外来务工人员是新加坡双轨经济的一部分——既有高薪技术工作，也有低薪劳工工作。

The activist group Transient Workers Count Too said it has been warning that crowding among migrants presented a risk of viral spread. Alex Au is the group’s vice president. He said, “There’s no denying now that density and poor ventilation in our dorms” helps spread disease.

激进组织“关怀临时工人”表示，他们已就居住拥挤的移民或有传播病毒的危险发出过警告。亚历克斯(Alex Au)是该组织的副主席。他说：“目前尚不能否认宿舍的密度和通风不良情况”是有助于传播疾病的。

But he said that is only part of the problem.

但是他说，这也只是问题的一部分。

Au said Singapore is too dependent on low-cost labor. Migrant workers there are getting attention now because they make up a large majority of Singapore’s COVID-19 cases.

亚历克斯表示新加坡过于依赖廉价劳动力。现在，那里的外来务工人员受到关注是因为新加坡新冠肺炎病例大部分来自于这个群体。

Before the large increase in infections, experts had praised Singapore for its strong actions to limit the spread of the disease. Experts said measures such as fast treatment for patients, following contacts of people who could carry the disease and travel restrictions were successful.

在感染量大增之前，专家们赞扬了新加坡为限制这种疾病传播所采取的强有力举措。专家们表示，新加坡迅速对病人进行治疗，追踪可能携带这种疾病的人以及采取旅行限制等措施都做得很成功。

Travel restrictions, however, could not prevent the spread of COVID-19 within Singapore. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the disease was “hidden” as it spread largely among laborers. New cases have increased in the past three weeks after being comparatively low before then.

当然，旅行限制并不能阻止新冠肺炎在新加坡内部传播。新加坡总理李显龙表示，这种疾病被“隐藏”了，因为它在工人中广泛传播。与之前相对较低水平的感染率相比，过去三周新病例有所增加。

HOME is a non-profit organization in Singapore aimed at helping workers. The group said in a statement: “The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that migrant workers are indispensable” to the operation of the country.

“家”是新加坡一家旨在帮助工人的非营利组织。该组织在一份声明中称：“ 新冠肺炎大流行表明，外来务工工人是该国正常运转必不可少的一部分”。

Singapore’s Manpower Minister Josephine Teo said there is “no question” that Singapore should improve conditions in the dorms.

新加坡人力资源部长张志贤表示，“毫无疑问”新加坡应该改善工人的宿舍条件。

Teo’s ministry is helping with providing food and supervising workers at the dorms. But she said Singapore must deal with the virus emergency before it can deal with workers’ living conditions over the long term.

张志贤所在的政府部门在协助监督并为住在宿舍的工人提供食物。但是她说，新加坡在长期范围内改善工人的生活状况之前必须先应对好当前这种紧急情况。

The Health Ministry said it is increasing testing for the virus in the dorms. It is also following possible carriers, a method known as contact tracing.

卫生部表示正在增加对宿舍人员病毒感染的检测，并利用接触者追踪的方法追踪潜在的病毒携带者。

Health Minister Gan Kim Yong spoke Monday about the new measures. He said Singapore had increased health care workers and expanded medical centers in preparation for more cases.

周一卫生部长甘金勇就新措施发表了讲话。他说，新加坡增加了医护人员并扩大了医疗中心，为应对出现更多病例做准备。

Officials are especially concerned about what are called “unlinked” cases. For these cases, it is unclear how the virus spread from one person to the next.

官方也在特别关注所谓的“不相关”病例。目前尚不清楚这类病例中病毒是如何从一个人身上传播到另一个人身上的。

Labor activist Au said he hopes the health crisis will bring attention to important labor issues like high payments to recruiters and unpaid work for migrants.

劳工激进主义者亚历克斯表示，他希望这次健康危机能引起人们对重大劳工问题的关注，例如招聘方收取高额费用以及务工人员的不计酬工作。

Au said labor unfairness is a “structural problem” that opens the country to many other problems. He added, “It’s hard to predict where the next crisis might come from.”

亚历克斯表示，就业不公是一个会使该国面临许多其他问题的“结构性问题”。他还补充道：“很难预测下一次危机可能从何而来。”

I’m Mario Ritter, Jr.

小马里奥·里特报道。

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