

## ■ COVID Outbreak Scare in China as Authorities Ease Restrictions

China is facing a fresh wave of COVID-19 infections amid policy chaos, triggering a global alarm. Major cities in China reportedly appear quiet as people stay home, with infections spreading from major cities to smaller ones and rural areas. Some cities like Chongqing and Zhejiang urged people with mild COVID-19 symptoms or no symptoms to work as usual. Wu Zunyou, the chief epidemiologist at the Chinese CDC, said the country is facing the first of three expected waves of infections this winter, which is expected to last until mid-January.