

Current Status and Prospects of New Coronavirus Infections in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Summary)

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The 8th Political Bureau meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), held on May 12, 2022, recognized the pandemic of a new type of coronavirus infection (COVID-19) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The number of "fever cases" peaked on May 15 and has been consistently dropping ever since.

Sino-DPRK trade declined significantly in 2020 compared to the previous year due to the closure of the Sino-DPRK border with the transition to a special quarantine regime on January 30, 2020. The resumption of railway transport in January 2022 led to a significant year-to-year increase in Chinese exports to the DPRK from January to April. However, due to the suspension of railway transport in late April, Chinese exports to the DPRK declined significantly in May. If China makes a full-fledged transition to the new normal with COVID-19 with the conclusion of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China, the DPRK is expected to take a different approach, such as the reopening of border traffic with China.

Keywords: COVID-19, border closure, epidemic prevention

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