

# Scots team leads study into China's Covid-19 response

*Research will assess measures which have worked as well as those with some issues*

## #WUHAN

By **MARY BROWN**

An international team of researchers is to examine the response of the Chinese government to the coronavirus outbreak.

Led by Professor Jane Duckett of Glasgow University, the team will assess the measures put in place in China to combat the virus, which originated in the city of Wuhan.

The study will look over policy documents from the government, as well as Chinese social media and field work in four areas of China – Beijing, Guangdong, Hubei province – where Wuhan is located – and the neighbouring Anhui province.

Reported infection and death rates in China have dropped in recent weeks, with some calling into question the reports coming from the Chinese state.

Prof Duckett said: "We urgently need to understand Chinese government measures to deal with Covid-19. Rates of infection have slowed down in China but are accelerating

worldwide.

"Given the apparent success of Chinese measures, other countries may consider adopting them.

"Yet we do not fully understand China's measures, which extend well beyond health and clinical management to include policing, travel restrictions and support for businesses, or their effects, both negative and positive."

Prof Duckett claims the research will assess measures which have worked in the country as well as those which have created issues, such as vulnerable people being left isolated.

The team of 12 researchers includes one from Peking University, along with six from Glasgow University and another from Manchester Metropolitan University.

Funded by £300,000 from UK Research and Innovation, the study is expected to take up to 18 months.

Meanwhile, a key adviser to the UK government on coronavirus has said trials for a vaccine for the disease could be completed by mid-

August.

Human testing of a potential vaccine is due to begin within the next week at Oxford University.

Professor Sir John Bell, a member of the government's vaccine task force and an adviser on life sciences, told BBC Radio 4: "If we can see evidence of a strong immune response by the middle or the end of May, then I think the game is on. Then, of course, there is the massive issue of how you manufacture at scale many billions of doses."

**Dani Garavelli: Pages 8-9**

**Euan McColm: Page 22**

## £300,000

Cost of the research study funded by UK Research and Innovation





Medical workers check information as they take swab samples

