

Top health authority urges stronger maternal safety measures



Ma Xiaowei, deputy head of the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) [File photo/Baidu]

The state health authority Thursday urged the strengthening of maternal safety to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

At present, and for the foreseeable future, the number of older women becoming pregnant and higher risk pregnancies will continue to increase, according the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC).

According to the commission, 18.46 million babies were born in China last year, an increase of 11.5 percent from 2015. More than 7.4 million babies were born from January to May, up 7.8 percent year on year.

In response to China's rapidly aging population, the country allowed married couples to have two children from 2016, ending the one-child policy implemented decades ago to rein in a surging population.

The commission said 60 percent of women eligible to have a second child are 35 years old or above. The number of older women becoming pregnant will exceed three million each year from 2017 to 2020.

This will result in an increased risk of complications in pregnancy and pose more challenges to obstetric and paediatric services.

"It is an arduous task to guarantee maternal and infant safety," said Ma

Xiaowei, deputy head of the NHFPC.

The commission called for stronger measures to guarantee maternal and infant safety, urged comprehensive screening and assessment of gestation period risks, and enhanced management and treatment of higher risk pregnancies.

The next step for the commission is to release a notice to improve maternal safety and launch an action plan.

“We will do whatever we can to guarantee the birth of healthy babies,” said Ma.

[Heavy rain kills 2 in Guangxi, strands 9,000 in Sichuan](#)

Two people are dead after rain-triggered floods left rivers swollen, inundating roads, houses and farms in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

One of the casualties drowned while the other was killed by a collapsing house. More than 3,300 people have been relocated, according to the regional government's civil affairs bureau.

The floods have affected 120,000 people and resulted in direct economic losses of 89.8 million yuan (13.2 million U.S. dollars).

In southwest China's Sichuan Province, thunderstorms caused the province's main airport, in the city of Chengdu, to be closed for an hour. About 50 outbound flights were canceled or delayed, while 40 inbound flights detoured to land at other airports.

The airport said more than 9,000 passengers have been stranded and the number of affected flights is likely to rise throughout the night as the thunderstorm continues.

[China to curb student obesity](#)



People do exercise at a gym. [File Photo]

China plans to slow the growing rate of obesity among its citizens, especially students, according to a national nutrition plan released Thursday.

The national nutrition plan for 2017 to 2030, was published by the general office of the State Council, China's cabinet, to improve the country's health condition.

It paid special attention to various at risk groups, including students, patients, pregnant women, infants, and the elderly.

According to the plan, the growing rate of obesity among Chinese students needs to be slowed down by 2020, and to be under "effective" control by 2030, and the rate of overweight and obese Chinese needs to drop significantly by 2030.

Thirty percent of Chinese adults are overweight, and 11.9 percent are obese, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention said in May.

Among Chinese children aged six to 17, 9.6 percent are overweight and 6.4 percent are obese.

The plan urged the schools nationwide to structure meal plans based on the age of students and the school's location, and to launch an educational campaign on nutrition to students.

It also called for schools to add more sport activities into the curriculum.

Other than the state of obesity in developed area of the country, the plan highlighted the need to take care of malnourished people as well.

It required local governments and schools in poorer areas to improve the nutritional content of meal plans and monitor food safety more strictly.

Local authorities in underdeveloped areas should strengthen the supervision and prevention of foodborne illnesses, according to the plan.

It also proposed the combination of traditional Chinese medicine with Western nutrition and physical training to better serve the people.

Thai-born giant panda Lin Bing gives birth to twins

Lin Bing, a giant panda born in Thailand and returned to China in 2013, gave birth to twins last week, the Chinese Giant Panda Protection and Research Center announced Thursday.

The cubs arrived about seven hours apart last Saturday. The female cub, weighing 170 grams, was born at 8:17 a.m.; her brother, weighing 159 grams, arrived at 3:08 p.m.

Both of the cubs and their mother are in a healthy condition.

According to base staff, Lin Bing had mated with two male pandas before showing signs of pregnancy. The father of the cubs has yet to be confirmed.

The twins are the first pandas born at Sichuan's Shenshuping protection base in the reconstructed Wolong National Nature Reserve after the habitat were severely damaged in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

The earthquake left one panda dead and another missing.

Born in May 2009, Lin Bing is the daughter of giant panda couple "Lin Hui" and "Chuang Chuang".

As the first giant panda born in Thailand, Lin Bing has become one of the most popular animals in the country. In 2015, she also gave birth to twins.

Chinese aircraft carrier formation

conducts coordination training

A flotilla including China's aircraft carrier Liaoning embarked on a new training mission upon arrival at an unidentified sea area Thursday.

The training, a latest effort to explore the oceangoing combat training practice, is expected to strengthen coordination among the vessels in the naval formation, improve the skills of crew and pilots in different marine conditions, and enhance the command capability.

The aircraft carrier has just concluded a five-day visit to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) being stationed in the HKSAR.

The PLA Hong Kong Garrison has been responsible for the defense of Hong Kong since its return to the motherland in 1997.