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# China expert says Beijing has no intention to ease lockdowns until after Communist Party's 20th National Congress in late 2022

A political and economics analyst told Piers Morgan Uncensored the Chinese government has no intention of easing its "draconian lockdown" until the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party in late 2022.



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A China political and economics analyst predicts the country's "draconian lockdown" will continue for the rest of the year and throughout the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Dr Robert Lawrence Kuhn, author of *How China's Leaders Think*, says the country's mission of saving people's lives is the reason why China's zero-COVID policy is still in place - more than two years into the pandemic.

In an exclusive interview on Piers Morgan Uncensored, which will air on Sky News Australia on Tuesday night, Dr Kuhn outlined three reasons why the local government has shown no intention of easing the stay-at-home measures.



Dr Robert Lawrence Kuhn outlined three reasons why the government has shown no intention of easing the lockdowns. Picture: Piers Morgan Uncensored

"First, putting people first is the leadership of President Xi Jinping (and) the party's highest objective," Dr Kuhn told Morgan.

"Their mission, saving people's lives, is at the top of the list. Estimates were that there might've been 200 million cases, two million deaths in China if they hadn't done the draconian lockdown in the early days.

"Secondly, because of the early success with the original virus, China has claimed that their system for putting people first is the best in the world - better than the western liberal democracies."



A staff member wearing PPE disinfects a residential community in Shanghai, China. Getty Images

Dr Kuhn says he doesn't expect easing of lockdown restrictions until after the party congress, predicted to be in November 2022.

"Third, the 20th party congress for people not familiar with it is the most important event in China's political calendar," he said.

"It occurs every five years, it establishes the leadership, the top people which in China, is the most important aspect.

"China needs absolute stability - especially in Beijing - until that time.

"They'll try to modify it a little bit as we see in Shanghai as they can - but no significant changes until after the party congress.

"And after that there will be and has to be a relaxation of the zero COVID policy just to keep the economy going."

China's pursuit of COVID-zero has plunged Shanghai - the country's financial hub - into a [brutal lockdown](#).

The city of 26 million has been under lockdown since March 28, confining nearly all of its residents to their homes with no direct access to food or basic necessities.

Meanwhile, Beijing officials have launched several rounds of mass testing on nearly all of its 22 million residents as the capital reported a fresh spike in coronavirus cases.

Beijing officials have banned all restaurant dining, shut down Universal Studios and ordered residents to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test to enter public venues.

**The interview will air on *Piers Morgan Uncensored* on Sky News Australia tonight from 9pm AEST. [Watch on Sky News on Flash](#).**

<https://www.skynews.com.au/world-news/china/china-expert-says-beijing-has-no-intention-to-ease-lockdowns-until-after-communist-partys-20th-national-congress-in-late-2022/news-story/7e9ebf7ed4fd945568f61929d4fd601a#share-tools>