**Title:**

The Reach of the Party: Covid-19 ‘Community Prevention and Control’ in the People’s Republic of China

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**Abstract**

Community Prevention and Control (Community P&C) was a strategic approach taken in response to Covid-19 to cover the entire population of the People’s Republic of China with non-pharmaceutical intervention policies. It involved all levels of the Party and state and relied heavily on society. It formed a filter system to prevent spread into, within, and outwards from communities, by pinpointing and filtering out any individual deemed to pose a risk of causing virus spread. Using a systematic documentary study, drawing not only on standard policy documents but also what we term ‘quasi-policy documents’, this paper probes what Community P&C was and how it worked. It finds that Community P&C was based on critically important but typically overlooked inherent features of the Chinese political system: Party-state relationship fluidity; the capacity of the Party-state to shift from foregrounding a state-citizen to a Party-people relationship; and the incorporation of implementation by ‘the masses’ into the Party-state’s overall containment strategy.