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THE EPOCH TIMES

# CHINA INSIDER



## MUSK'S STARLINK A THREAT TO CHINA?

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## CHINESE VACCINES

# Children in China Diagnosed With Diabetes After Getting Chinese COVID-19 Vaccines

EVA FU

Years would well up in the 5-year-old Chinese kindergartner's eyes whenever he saw other children snacking—a luxury to the boy ever since he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in late January.

The diagnosis came a month and a half after the boy got his second dose of a Chinese-produced COVID-19 vaccine.

Puncture marks can be found all over every finger of both of the boy's hands due to the constant finger-pricking needed to monitor his blood sugar level, according to his father. He gets four doses of insulin every day, and every meal is weighed and measured for carbs.

The boy is one of 600 to 1,000 Chinese children who were diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes between last October and May, according to an open letter signed by parents in

the cohort. Beijing ushered a nationwide campaign in late October to inoculate children aged 3 to 11—the age range of most of the diabetic patients.

On May 31, the eve of International Children's Day, the parents wrote an open letter pleading for public attention.

"We initially didn't link it with vaccines, but thinking back and forth, our children didn't have any change in lifestyle or diet, the only change was getting the vaccine, and they got symptoms after the vaccination," they wrote in the letter, which was first published on a site managed by Wei Boxing, a Chinese health care activist.

The letter had more than 300,000 views and 800 comments as of June 11, with many of the commenters being anxious parents who said they had a similar experience. They left their phone numbers and asked to be added to a group on Chinese social media

Asserting that 'COVID-19 vaccines have nothing to do with leukemia and type 1 diabetes' without careful medical analysis is irresponsible.

Dong Yuhong, former senior medical expert, Novartis



Children prepare to receive a vaccine against COVID-19 in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on Nov. 18, 2021.

WeChat that included people who said they or a family member had experienced severe side effects after taking Chinese-produced COVID-19 vaccines.

Type 1 diabetes occurs when the immune system attacks itself and destroys beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin, which regulates blood sugar levels. It usually develops in children and young adults, especially among those around 13 or 14 years old, although it can appear at any age, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Genes and exposure to viruses and other environmental factors can trigger the disease.

The parents' letter came months after hundreds of parents alleged that the COVID-19 vaccines caused their children to develop leukemia. Many of those diagnosed with leukemia are between the age of 3 and 11.

The parents of newly diagnosed diabetic children said they initially started a group on WeChat to share treatment tips. They started two more groups after the membership of the first group grew to 500 members, the maximum size allowed for a WeChat group.

#### Lost Childhood

The 5-year-old boy had his first vaccine dose arranged by his kindergarten on Nov. 5, followed by a second dose one month later. He started experiencing increased thirst and frequent urination beginning on Jan. 15, his father said.

Being denied small pleasures he and his peers once took for granted is hard to reconcile, especially on June 1, International Children's Day, when all the kindergarteners were celebrating by enjoying a buffet.

"He cried so hard because we were always taking him home to eat," the boy's father, Wang Bin (a pseudonym), told The Epoch Times the next day from the port city of Ningbo in Zhejiang Province. To console their son, Wang's wife bought him chicken wings and cake for dinner.

Afterward, the boy's blood glucose levels shot up to 306 mg/dL, a dangerous level that they were told could have left him in a coma. The mother, who quit her job following her son's diagnosis, hurriedly gave the boy an insulin shot. She anxiously monitored his blood sugar level, and barely closed her eyes throughout the night.

Wang, a delivery driver, thought about buying a glucose monitor to minimize his son's ordeals, but the cost—450 yuan (\$67) every half-month—was too much for the family, given that Wang is the

only breadwinner and a mortgage.

"Each time a new member joins [the WeChat group], our heart would skip a beat," the parents wrote. "Type 1 diabetes is a lifelong disease. Our children have lost the joys of childhood and youth. They have become a group of patients."

#### 'Coincidental'

Wei, the health care activist, said on his website that he has received information on more than 300 diabetic cases, in which symptoms appeared after taking homegrown Chinese vaccines.

Most of them, he said, are linked to Sinopharm and Sinovac, two of the largest Chinese COVID-19 vaccine makers, while a handful of the patients got a vaccine from Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical, which has been also approved for use in Colombia, Indonesia, and Uzbekistan. The first two are inactivated vaccines, meaning they contain copies of a killed virus to stimulate the immune system, while the latter is a protein subunit vaccine, which is made with isolated viral proteins.

Among the samples that Wei analyzed, about two-thirds were in the 3 to 12 age group.

Chinese authorities didn't confirm or deny whether certain side effects may have resulted from the vaccine.

"We are still in the process of understanding irregular vaccine reactions and its diagnosis. This requires us to constantly improve," said Wang Huaqing, a chief expert leading the national immunization program at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, at a press conference in late May. He said that any suspected vaccine-related side effects should be reported to health authorities, and a multidisciplinary group of experts would probe the cases before giving an opinion.

Even after official assurances, local immunization authorities have uniformly been dismissing parents' concerns, telling them, in "almost identically worded" evaluation reports, that the diabetes was "coincidental" or "unrelated" to the vaccines, they said in the letter. Parents whose children were diagnosed with leukemia after inoculation said they were told the same by officials.

"Honestly, we don't think local governments should rush to such conclusions," the diabetic children's parents wrote. "Medical development is a result of clinical studies. Since our children have Type 1 diabetes after a vaccine injection, and they belong to a certain group, even if no prior evidence indicates the two are linked, what happened to them

should receive serious attention." Dong Yuhong, who previously worked as a senior medical expert for antiviral drug development at the Swiss-based drugmaker Novartis, also objected to the blanket dismissal by authorities.

"Asserting that 'COVID-19 vaccines have nothing to do with leukemia and Type 1 diabetes' without careful medical analysis is irresponsible," Dong, currently a chief scientific officer for a Swiss biotech company, told The Epoch Times. The problem with such pronouncements, she said, is that they're "too absolute."

Dong noted that clinical and case studies warn of possible heart inflammation from mRNA and protein-based COVID-19 vaccines, and all flag a risk of acute hepatitis from mRNA vaccines. Both of these are autoimmune conditions that the vaccine's spike protein appears to be responsible for, she said.

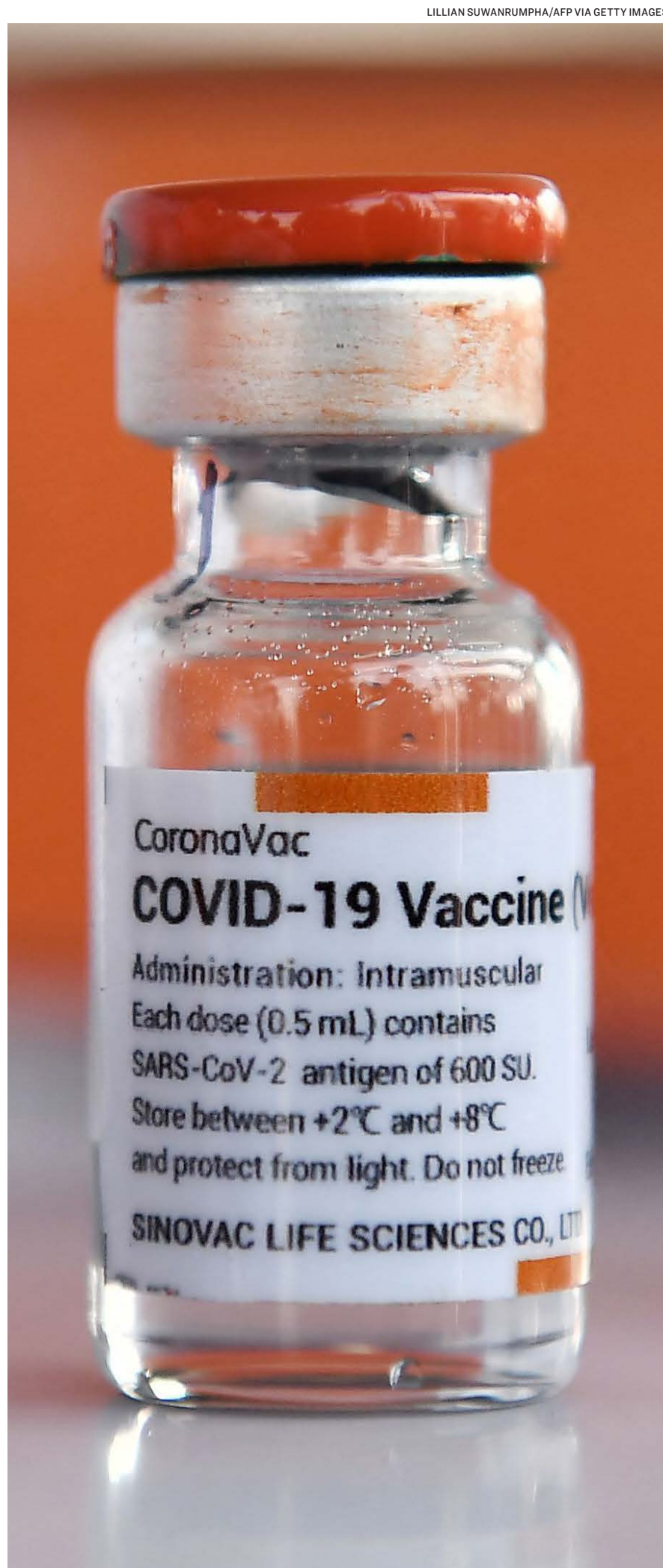
By the same analogy, "in theory, the vaccine could trigger an immune response targeting the insulin-producing beta cells," she said. "This is not impossible."

That could apply to any kind of COVID-19 vaccine, she added, including mRNA, inactivated, and protein-based vaccines.

Gu Xiaohua contributed to this report.



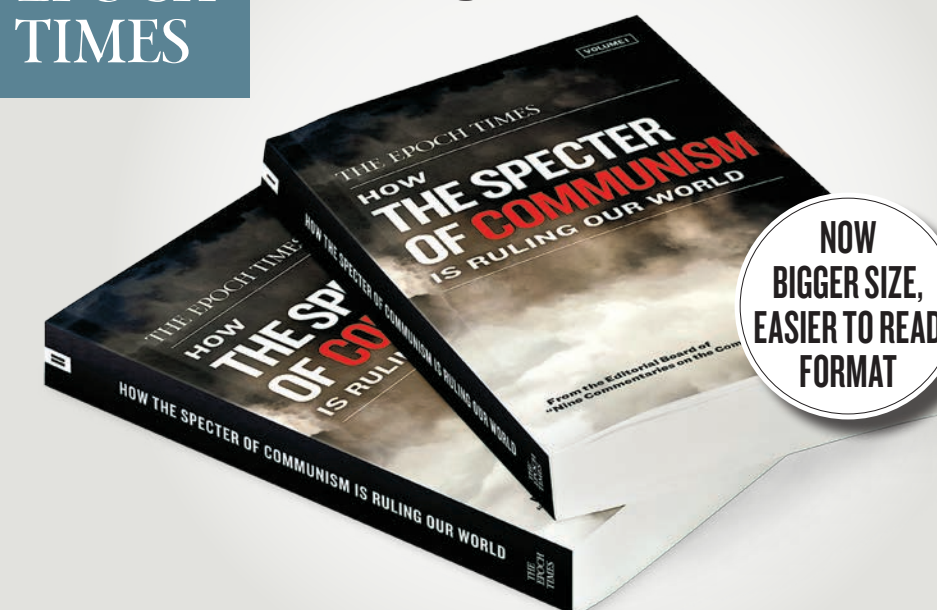
A technician works in a lab at Sinovac Biotech in Beijing on Sept. 24, 2020.



A vial of the CoronaVac vaccine, developed by China's Sinovac firm, in Bangkok on Feb. 24, 2021.

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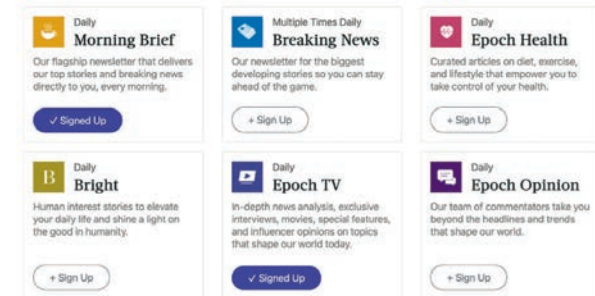
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