



Zoom has u-turned on its controversial decision to only provide the option of end-to-end encryption (e2ee) for its paid users.

The young video-conferencing company exploded in popularity as the coronavirus pandemic took hold earlier this year, forcing people around the world to work and socialise remotely. It has gone from 10 million users in December to hundreds of millions of users today.

As Zoom has become a household name, its privacy and security errors have been brought to attention; these include data sharing with Facebook, accusations that it had overstated its security measures, leaking of personal information to other Zoom users with the same email provider, and a vulnerability which could force Mac users to join Zoom meetings with their cameras automatically activated. These concerns led to a number of government agencies and companies banning the service.

In May, Zoom attracted criticism for its launch of e2ee, which was limited to Zoom users who pay \$14.99 per host per month for its premium service. Non-paying users are still relying on less-secure transport layer encryption, which is initiated and terminated with service providers rather than with end users.

Digital rights groups such as the Mozilla Foundation and Fight for the Future called on Zoom to make e2ee available to all users, arguing that privacy and security should not be considered a luxury.

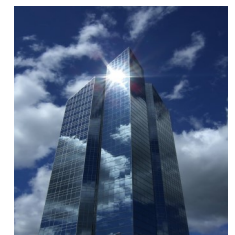
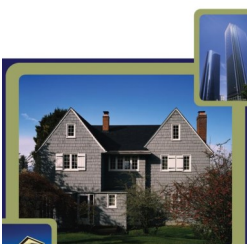
Earlier this month Zoom founder and CEO Eric Yuan said that the company would not offer e2ee to all users in case the company is asked to comply with subpoenas from law-enforcement agencies such as the FBI. His comments were criticised as tone deaf, coming amid widespread protests against police brutality and anti-black racism.

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More information available **By E&T**

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Despite global efforts to improve air quality, a new study has shown that half of the world's population are actually being exposed to progressively worse air pollution.

Researchers at the University of Exeter and the World Health Organisation (WHO) said the study shows that air pollution constitutes a major - and in many areas increasing - threat to public health.



The Local Government Association has called for a national programme of council house building to drive economic recovery from the coronavirus lockdown. A post-pandemic building boom of 100,000 affordable homes a year is needed to provide housing fit for the health, social care and other key workers who have been on the frontline during the crisis, the Local Government Association (LGA) says in a new report.



The LGA calls for councils to be given more powers to boost the supply of affordable housing and get the country building again as private house-builders slow down investment.

The report, [*Delivery of Council Housing – Developing a Stimulus Package Post-Pandemic*](#), sets out recommendations to central government to deliver a building programme of social homes.

It says that the government should expand council housing delivery by bringing forward and increasing the £12bn extension of the Affordable Homes Programme announced in the budget in March, with an increased focus on homes for social rent.

It calls for reform of Right to Buy, with councils able to retain 100% of receipts from the sale of homes under the scheme, the deadline to spend the money from sales should be extended to at least five years, and councils need the power to set the size of discounts locally.

The LGA also says that social housing could be used to drive the use of 'modern methods of construction' – prefabrication – as its use in the private sector has been impeded by mortgage lenders' reluctance to lend against buildings with uncertain durability.

Reported by Construction News

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Leisure Industry to Re-Open

Pubs, bars, cafes and restaurants in England may soon be able to reopen their doors for the first time since lockdown began in March.

But despite the easing of restrictions, a trip to a local bar or dining establishment could be a very different experience from how it was before coronavirus. When will reopening begin?

In its recovery strategy document published on 11 May, the government said that the hospitality sector - which includes pubs, bars and restaurants - could start to reopen "no earlier than 4 July", if Covid-19 safety guidelines could be met.

The government has yet to announce details of what these guidelines would be, but they're expected to include rules on social distancing, heightened hygiene procedures and protection of bar and restaurant staff. It will provide "further safer working guidance" for restaurants, pubs and bars "as soon as we can", said Business Secretary Alok Sharma .



What about the rest of the UK?

Each nation of the UK is setting its own rules for the reopening of food and drink outlets:
 The Scottish government has outlined a phased approach to pubs and restaurants reopening but has yet to give a date for when this might take place
 Wales's First Minister Mark Drakeford has refused to give "any promises about when pubs might reopen
 In Northern Ireland, the executive is due to discuss

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WHAT IS MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Mechanical engineering combines engineering physics and mathematics principles with materials science to design, analyse, manufacture, and maintain mechanical systems. It is one of the oldest and broadest of the engineering disciplines.

The mechanical engineering field requires an understanding of core areas including mechanics, dynamics, thermodynamics, materials science, structural analysis, and electricity.

In addition to these core principles, mechanical engineers use tools such as computer-aided design (CAD), computer-aided manufacturing (CAM), and product lifecycle management to design and analyse manufacturing plants, industrial equipment and machinery, heating and cooling systems, transport systems, aircraft, watercraft, robotics, medical devices, weapons, and others. It is the branch of engineering that involves the design, production, and operation of machinery.

Mechanical engineering emerged as a field during the Industrial Revolution in Europe in the 18th century, however, its development can be traced back several thousand years around the world .



SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibodies

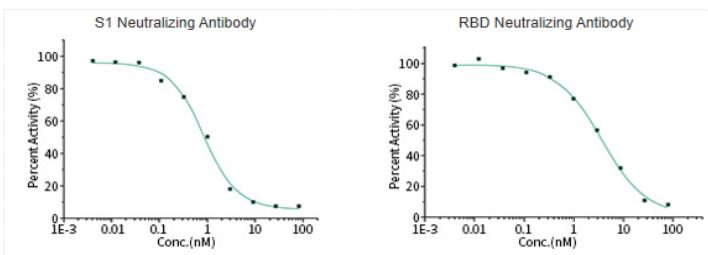
SARS-CoV-2
Neutralizing Antibodies | S2-Specific Antibodies

Antibody Whitepaper

To support COVID-19 research, Sino Biological has developed a large collection of antibodies against different antigens of SARS-CoV-2. These antibodies can be used to detect and/or neutralize the virus in a variety of assays including ELISA, western blot, immunofluorescent staining, immunohistochemistry, SPR (Biacore and Octet), pseudovirus infection, and potentially in vivo animal studies.

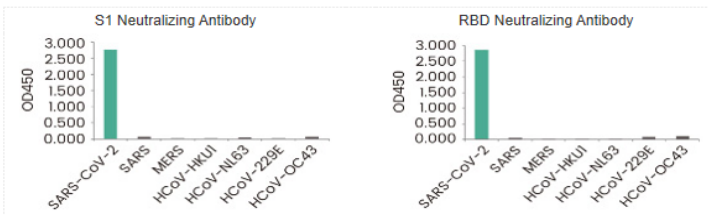
Competitive-ELISA Assay

Neutralizing ability was detected by SARS-CoV-2 Inhibitor Screening ELISA Kit (Catalog# KIT001) using competitive ELISA.



Specificity Assay

These two anti-spike antibodies have been tested against all seven coronaviruses, and are shown to be specific to SARS-CoV-2 spike. The reactivity of the antibodies against the known coronaviruses is assessed in ELISA. The reactivity (OD450) is illustrated in the figures below.



Antibody Against SARS-CoV-2 Spike S2

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Cat # | 40590-D001 |
| Description | SARS-CoV-2 Spike S2 Antibody |
| Type | Chimeric MAb |
| Ig Type | Mouse V domain & Human IgG1 |
| Cross-reactivity | No cross-reactivity in ELISA with SARS-CoV-2 (2019-nCoV) Spike S1 (Cat# 40591-V08H) SARS-CoV-2 (2019-nCoV) Spike RBD (Cat# 40592-V05H) |

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CDB Consulting Engineers celebrate being in business now for over 9 years moving from strength to strength, with a team of engineers, the main parties who have been working within the building services industry each for over 30 years.

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