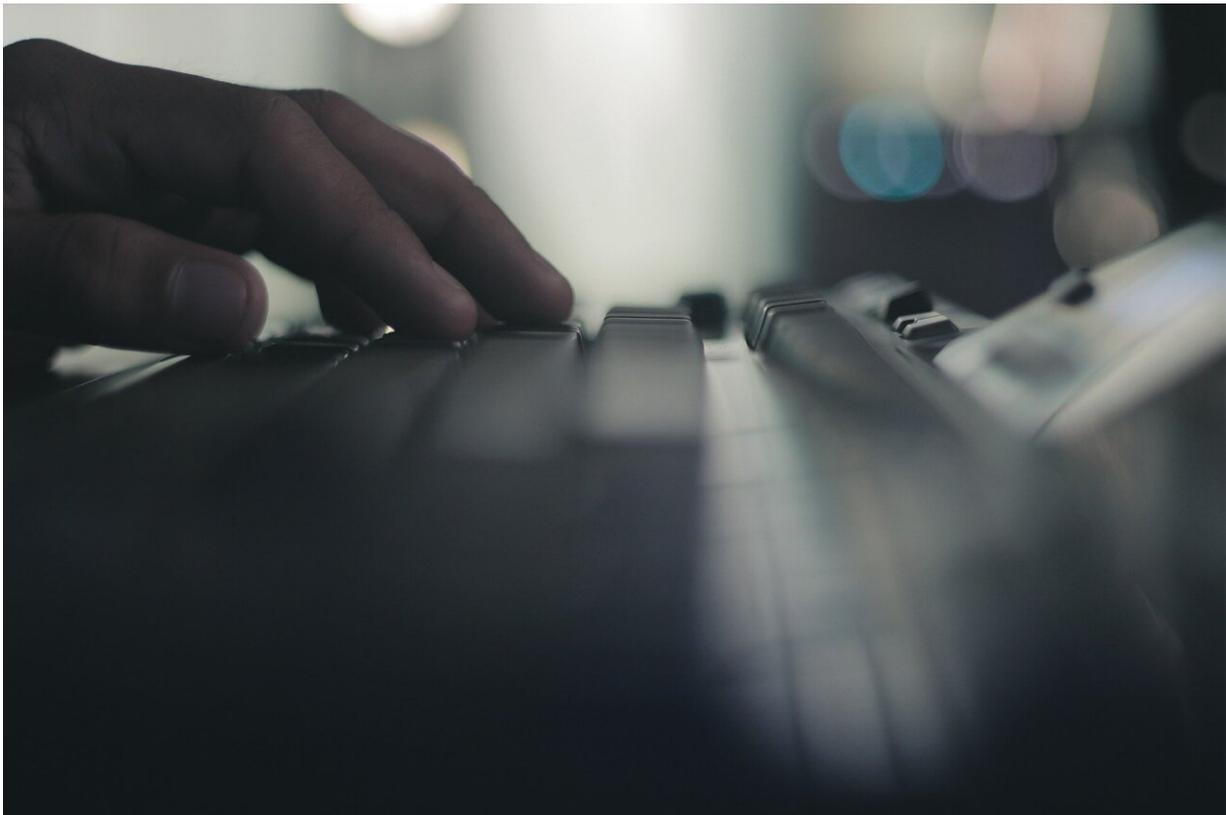


China adopts online video game curfew for minors to thwart addiction

November 8 2019, by Mike Snider, Usa Today



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China has implemented an online video game curfew for minors, a move meant to prevent addiction to games and to improve health among children and teens.

According to government rules issued Wednesday, game companies cannot let players younger than the age of 18 play on their online game networks between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Chinese officials have been concerned about minors becoming addicted to games. The matter is "worthy of high attention," according to an official government interview posted by Xinhua News Agency, the country's state news agency.

The new rules are "of great significance and practical role in strengthening and improving the management of online games, effectively protecting the physical and mental health of minors, and creating a literate and fluent network space," the official says.

China is the world's largest video game market, with 626 million video game players, and revenue generated of \$24.8 billion in 2018, according to consulting and research firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. The U.S. comes in second at \$24.4 billion, according to PwC.

But China's video [game](#) market growth is outpacing that of the U.S. and is expected to reach \$35.2 billion in 2023, compared to the U.S. market estimate of \$31.1 billion.

Concerns of [video](#) games absorbing too much time for some Chinese players is not new. In 2015, a man died in a Shanghai internet cafe after playing "World of Warcraft" for 19 consecutive hours.

Last year, the World Health Organization classified "gaming disorder" as a diagnosable condition, described as patients having "impaired control over gaming, increasing priority given to gaming over other activities to the extent that gaming takes precedence over other interests and [daily activities](#), and continuation or escalation of gaming despite the occurrence of negative consequences."

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