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China could ' lift ban on HIV-positive visitors

BEIJING: China could lift a longstanding ban on HIV-positive foreigners entering the country as early as this month, state media reported yesterday.

Citing "insiders," the China Daily newspaper said the State Council, or Cabinet, decided on Monday it would make changes to laws barring foreign HIV carriers.

Under current regulations, those suffering from infectious diseases such as leprosy or HIV/AIDS or from mental disorders are not allowed in, the report said.

The changes could be announced before the start of Shanghai's World Expo on May 1, Hao Yang, deputy director of the health ministry's disease prevention and control bureau, was quoted as saying.— AFP