

Return to Shanghai Kit

Please note: Things are changing rapidly. Any of the information provided here might not be entirely accurate any more by the time you arrive in Shanghai.

Check the **APPENDIX** for the latest Quarantine Procedure at Shanghai Airport

(Min, Hu. 'Illustrated Explainer on New Policies for Air Passengers', *Shanghai Daily*, 18 March 2020)

Note: Starting March 22, 2020, nucleic acid tests are required for all international arrivals in Shanghai.

As of March 24, 2020, the list of key countries seriously affected by the coronavirus expands from 16 to 24, which are **South Korea, Italy, Iran, France, Spain, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, Australia, Malaysia, Greece, Czech Republic, Finland, Qatar, Canada, UAE and Philippines**. Travelers who have travel history (incl. transit) to the 24 key countries in the past 14 days are required to undergo a compulsory 14-day quarantine at home or government's designated sites.

1. Health Declaration Form

Before landing, you will need to fill in a paper Health Declaration Form on the plane. If you have children traveling with you, please fill in the forms for them.

2. Onboard Check After Landing (approximately 2 hours)

After landing, please remain seated. The customs officers will board the aircraft to check your temperature and health declaration form along with your passport. Those with fever or other suspected symptoms will be called off first and sent to a designated hospital by an ambulance standing by on the tarmac. Others will get off the plane by seat and be taken to the next stage by a hazmat team.



3. Health Declaration and Epidemiological Investigation (approximately 2 hours)

You will be guided to an area where another temperature and health declaration check be taken. Every passenger will be interviewed for an epidemiological investigation and the interview (children as well!) is recorded.

4. Label Stickers

You will be assigned a sticker, normally in yellow or green, based on the investigation and your declaration information.

Green

If you are not from coronavirus hot spots and don't have any close contact with any suspected or confirmed cases, you will most likely get a green sticker. After finishing customs and collecting your bags, you will be escorted to a temporary transfer area where you can sign up for a nucleic acid testing at the desk of district where you live (**starting March 22, 2020, all green label passengers also need to take nucleic acid tests as yellow label ones**). You then leave for your district's NAT checkpoint in a government bus and get tested there. Green label passengers can go home for a 14-day self-isolation after finishing the test by taxi, Didi or a private car. You will be notified when the test result is available.

- Negative – 14-day self-isolation at home.
- Positive – Transferred to designated hospitals for treatment by an ambulance.



Yellow

Passengers with yellow stickers will go through immigration and fill out arrival card as usual, then collect bags from baggage claim area (bags are sprayed with disinfectant). After getting your bags, you will be escorted to a temporary transfer area where you can find the desk of district where you live. Show your passport and address in Chinese (it is advisable that you bring your temporary residence registration form) to your district officer, who will verify your information and determine the next step.

- Passengers who do not have a fixed residence in Shanghai will be transferred to a designated hotel for centralized quarantine.
- The rest will be taken to the district’s NAT testing point in a government bus.

The waiting time for bus is approximately 2-3 hours as normally the bus won’t depart until it’s full.

Nucleic Acid Test (NAT)

The NAT is performed in the form of swabs from each nostril and another from the back of the throat. It maybe uncomfortable but quick. After testing, each passenger will be assigned a place (a hotel room or waiting area at testing point) to wait for the result. It usually takes 6 to 8 hours to get the result, but that can vary by district. As you are allowed to bring your luggage with you, it’s good for you to plan for the stay and prepare enough water and snacks with you, as well as clothes to keep you warm.

While waiting for the test result, the officials will contact your neighborhood committee or property management office to examine and confirm your eligibility for home quarantine.

- Negative – Go home in a government bus or to a designated hotel for centralized quarantine if not eligible for home quarantine.
- Positive – Transferred to designated hospitals for treatment.



(Left: one of the NAT checkpoint of Xuhui District)

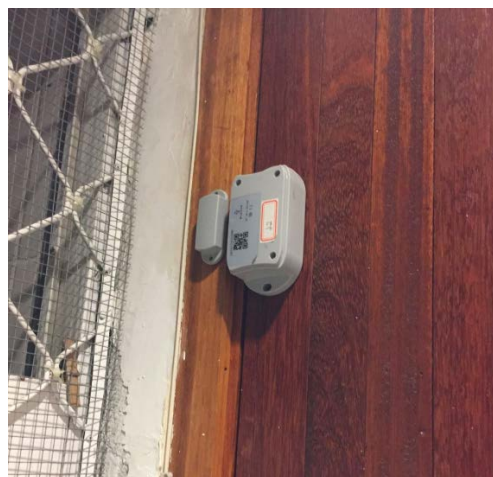
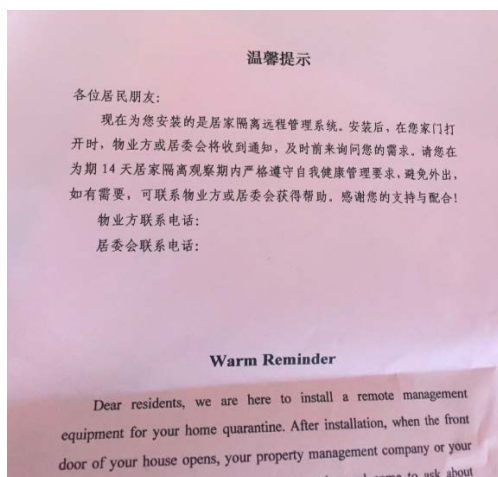
5. Quarantine

Home Quarantine

When you arrive at your residential complex, in most cases, staff from health service centers, neighborhood committees, police and foreign language translation volunteers will wait for you and ask you to sign a home quarantine commitment letter, indicating that you will not leave your

apartment during the quarantine, take your body temperature twice a day, etc. Workers from neighborhood committees will help you with trash disposal, courier and food deliveries during the 14-day quarantine period. You can still order food and other living supplies on your cellphone by Sherpa's (食派士), Epermarket(这样生活), Kate & Kimi(可食可觅), Hema (盒马), Meituan (美团), Elema (饿了么), etc.

Many complexes or communities started installing a remote management equipment or putting a seal on the door to make sure the returner to abide by quarantine rules.



Strict home quarantine management will be imposed by police, health authorities and community officials to ensure that you do not leave home. People breaking quarantine will be held responsible according to the law.

After serving the 14-day quarantine, you will be given a release letter if no symptoms appear.

Centralized Quarantine

If you are sent to group quarantine, no panic. Life is not as bad as you think. The following articles may help you get an idea of what's hotel quarantine look like.

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/7zFmRvNvUiVSzgOGnO8jtg>

<https://www.shine.cn/news/metro/2003154350/>

<http://www.smartshanghai.com/articles/wellbeing/i-am-in-government-quarantine-now-this-is-what-its-like>

Three meals are provided a day but in a typical Chinese style. You may order outside food. Check with the hotel before you do so. After you finish the quarantine, you will be given a release letter and be free to go home.

Things to Do Before Your Trip

- Contact the HR Immigration and Relocation Services team at shanghai.hr.relo@nyu.edu to share your travel schedule. You will be assigned an administrator to support you in case of emergency during the trip.
- Prepare **a list of travel history** in the past 14 days with evidence if you have, which can help customs officers understand clearly.
- Prepare **a copy of your lease agreement** and your latest **Registration Form of Temporary Residence** (临时住宿登记表) to show that you have a fixed residence in Shanghai. If you do not have a copy of your registration form, contact the HR Immigration and Relocation Services team who might have a copy in file.
- Prepare the following with you in case of long wait at the airport and possible centralized quarantine at a government hotel.
 - Water
 - Snacks, e.g. bread, biscuits, chocolate, etc.
 - Power banks
 - Masks
 - Hand sanitizer, soap or wet wipes
 - Warm clothes
 - Travel pillow
 - Kettle to boil water
 - Coffee or tea bags
 - Enough nappies and formula for kids
- When you book a flight, please avoid afternoon or evening arrival as you will probably stay overnight to wait for your test result if you qualify for home quarantine.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are conditions for a home to qualify home quarantine?

A: Generally, your home should meet the requirement of one person one apartment, i.e. no shared space with others. You cannot live in the same apartment with other family members who do not need to be quarantined, unless you promise to undergo quarantine together and bear risks of potential cross-infection.

Q: I stay in faculty cooperative housing. Is that qualified for home quarantine?

A: Currently, Mo Star and Green Court made it clear that residents returning from key affected countries must complete 14-day group quarantine at government facilities before they can move in. This is in accordance with local government's requirements. Lujiazui Binjiang Mansion and Lanson Place can accept returners from key affected countries provided they could be released by airport officials for home quarantine. However, Lanson Place needs to report the guest's information to the management team and property owner for approval in advance. The process takes about 2 weeks. Lujiazui Binjiang Mansion can't take new reservations anymore due to full capacity.

Q: What about hotels and other serviced apartments? Can I home quarantine there?

A: Hotels are not qualified for home quarantine. Staying in a serviced apartment can be tricky. It is determined by government officials based on factors, such as term of your lease, apartment's condition for quarantine, local community's requirement, etc.

Q: If I stop over in Hong Kong and have a quarantine there, must I go through another 14-day quarantine after arrival in Shanghai?

A: It is determined by quarantine officials at Shanghai airport.

Q: Is there a way that I can avoid centralized quarantine?

A: Unfortunately no. All passengers need to go through same process and government officials make the final call.

Q: Is there a list of designated hotels for centralized quarantine?

A: The government did not publish the list yet. According to insiders, most are state owned 3 or 4 star hotels. Room facilities vary by hotel and passengers will be allocated to different hotels on a random basis.

Q: In case of centralized quarantine, is the internet good at designated hotels?

A: The internet varies from hotel to hotel. According to those who have shared their experience on social media, the internet looks good in most cases.

Q: Any recommended channel to get the latest updates on quarantine policies in Shanghai?

A: You may follow the Wechat of Shanghai Daily (Wechat account: SHDSHINE) to get the latest updates.

Please understand that, the whole process is daunting and long. We hope the information above is helpful for you to make informed decisions. Stay safe and healthy!