

27th September 2020

Dear All

Please find below the update 30 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

A Fund-raising hiking event for autistic children is held in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing and London on Saturday, 26th September. Initiated and organized by HOPE, the event attracts over 100 participants including UK and US university representatives in China, HOPE's partner Chinese universities representatives, HOPE students, former British Council staff, teachers and students from autistic children rehabilitation centres. The purpose of the event is to wake people's awareness of the increasing number of autistic children, to show care and love to them, and to raise fund to support them. This is the second time this year HOPE organizes the charity event to support autistic children. Another one is the photo contest this April to support autistic children in Wuhan who are suffering from the pandemic.



A total of 75 people of all walks and life formed 13 teams join the event in Shanghai

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Hangzhou by the West Lake



Sino-UK Education Pioneer Team, a team formed by the former British Council staff and former officials of Shanghai Municipal Foreign Affairs Office raised over RMB12600 Yuan (GBP1400) to top all the teams attending the event.

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Love regardless of age, gender, color of skin.



HOPE students in UK boarding schools support from distance by showing their handwriting of the event slogan.

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London team is in action



Shanghai University of Sports Seeds Team wins "the most popular team" by collecting over 625 applauses on their wechat promotion features.

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Kind regards

Daniel Zheng

Daniel Zheng
Managing Director

News on local media

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Shanghai adjusts its quarantine policies

By XING YI in Shanghai | CHINA DAILY | Updated: 2020-09-11 07:47 [f](#) [t](#) [in+](#)



Passengers at Pudong International Airport in Shanghai, on Aug 10, 2020.

Quarantine policies for international travelers to Shanghai with their final destination in neighboring Jiangsu, Zhejiang or Anhui provinces will undergo some adjustments starting on Saturday, the Shanghai government's leading group for combating COVID-19 said on Thursday.

While the total length of quarantine for inbound passengers remains 14 days, people traveling to the three neighboring provinces and testing negative after three days of quarantine in Shanghai — instead of the current seven days — will be transferred to their city of destination to finish the last 11 days of quarantine in designated places, under the new measure.

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Those who show symptoms, test positive or have close contact with COVID-19 patients during their quarantine in Shanghai will remain in the city for treatment or medical observation.

The adjustment doesn't apply to people going to places other than Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui provinces. They will continue their quarantine in Shanghai for the entire 14 days.

Inbound travelers whose destination is within Shanghai are still allowed to do a seven-day hotel quarantine plus a seven-day home quarantine within proper conditions. Such conditions include a fixed residence in the city, a nucleic acid test on the fifth day of a hotel quarantine with a negative result and mandatory home quarantine for those living in the same apartment.

Travelers who do not meet the conditions for home quarantine or do not want a home quarantine will do the 14-day quarantine at a hotel.

Completing 14 days of quarantine at home applies to travelers not fit for hotel quarantine, such as the elderly, minors, pregnant women, those with disabilities or those who need to care for their elderly parents or young children at home. After passing the nucleic acid test upon arrival and being reviewed to qualify for home quarantine, such travelers can apply to do the 14 days at home.

Shanghai began to adopt quarantine measures for inbound travelers on March 6. The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic five days later. Travelers from four countries, including hard-hit Italy and Iran, were initially subject to epidemiological checks by customs officials and 14 days' quarantine. Since March 26, all arrivals in the city have been subject to epidemiological checks and nucleic acid testing as the city launched its management efforts to prevent COVID-19 importation.

Fu Chen, director of the Shanghai Center for Disease Control and Prevention has said the city's closed-loop management consists of three loops. The first is activated upon passengers' arrival at the airport. People showing symptoms are sent by ambulance to a hospital for further examination while others are sent by specially assigned vehicles to quarantine facilities, Fu said.

The second loop refers to the enclosed transportation process, from the airports to designated quarantine locations. The last is the management of quarantine facilities,

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which are staffed by disease control professionals as well as medical and service personnel from local clinics and communities.

As of Thursday, Shanghai had received 587 imported cases and no local transmission had occurred since March except for one in May, a woman visiting from Wuhan, Hubei province.

Visa obstacles, the pandemic and degree ambiguities muddy educational futures

Yao Minji 20:21 UTC+8, 2020-09-23

Cindy Jin goes to bed at 7pm and gets up at midnight to attend an online class from Wellesley College in Massachusetts in the US. After class, back to sleep at 3am until it's time to rise again at 8am and attend an online class from Fudan University held in the conference room of a Shanghai hotel.

"It's manageable; I still get eight hours of sleep," the first-year university student told Shanghai Daily after the first week. "But nowadays, I can fall asleep at the drop of a hat."

The choppy schedule is the least of Jin's concerns. With a first college semester underway without stepping foot on a campus, she wonders what lies ahead.

"This year has been very strange," she said. "I understand we are in a strange time, and I'm getting used to it. But I'm still confused and frustrated."

Among her frustrations is trying getting a US visa. After various attempts, she finally secured a visa appointment at the Chengdu consulate in

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southwestern China in mid-August. Several days later, the consulate closed, and the appointment evaporated.

Jin then applied for a visa at the US consulate in Shanghai two weeks ago, but it couldn't be processed because the website wouldn't allow her to pay.

The Trump administration announced in early July that students studying in the US on F-1 or M-1 visas would not be permitted to stay in or re-enter the country if they were taking only online classes. The directive was then modified to allow visas for schools offering only online courses. Details remain unclear.

Jin wonders if she will need to provide some kind of proof that she's taking a full curriculum of offline classes, which would be impossible because she can't choose classes for the second semester until it starts.

"Even if I get a visa appointment now, there are still so many uncertainties," she said, adding she has recently started to worry about the uncontrolled coronavirus outbreak in the US if she were to go there to study.

There were more than 1 million international students in the US for the 2018-19 academic year, about 30 percent of them from China. Many are unable to return to studies there because of problems with visas and flights, and concerns about personal health.

Many US educational institutions rely on foreign students for income because they pay higher tuition. They are trying to maintain study programs for those stranded in China. Overseas universities with Chinese campuses ask those sister campuses to host students who can't return.

NYU Shanghai, for one, is hosting more than 3,000 Chinese students from the school's New York and Abu Dhabi campuses for the fall semester. The

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school converted seven floors in a nearby building into classrooms and hired an additional 75 faculty members.

China's education ministry also announced new policies to help these students, including encouraging them to take online courses organized by their universities. Extra student quotas have also been provided for institutions with education links offshore so they can admit some of the overseas students who are remaining in China.

The policies also make it clear that alternative learning program will not affect the authenticity of their college degrees.

Despite all the help, individual students still ponder their futures and the absence of the sort of campus experience they are missing.

It all feels like a movie, and nobody is sure what is going to happen the next day. It is not how I imagined college campus life. *Chloe Chen, a student enrolled in a university on the US West Coast*

A Chinese student who wanted to be identified only as Jonathan is enrolled at Creighton University in Nebraska, the US, for a one-year master's degree program in occupational therapy. As a new student, he faces the same visa difficulties Jin has and worries about how that will affect his degree.

"Internship in a hospital is of utmost importance in my field, and that is exactly why I choose to study at this school," he said. "But now I can't go to Nebraska. The school there has rearranged the curriculum and put most theoretical courses in the first semester online so that we can take them remotely. But they are still not sure about the second semester. It depends on how many international students will be able to return."

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To practice as an occupational therapist in the US, Jonathan would need to take a test for a qualification certificate, but now he plans to take it in China and work here instead.

Chloe Chen, who is enrolled in a university on the US West Coast, wants to take a gap year while she ponders her educational future.

Her first year at the university went without a hitch. She secured a visa before the pandemic struck and was able to get a flight in August to the US. Now she is stuck there, searching for a return flight.

“I’m taking remote classes in my dorm room,” she said. “I sit apart from friends when eating in the school canteen. We have had three rounds of virus tests. The street protests here are still going on. It all feels like a movie, and nobody is sure what is going to happen the next day. It is not how I imagined college campus life.”

Jin might tell her that coming home doesn’t guarantee a campus life either. Though she lives in Shanghai, she moved into a local hotel last week with about 200 students from various US institutions to take advantage of a “go local” option.

Though the hotel is near Fudan University, host for their program, Jin and her hotel mates do not have access to the campus.

Most Chinese universities are back in full operation, after adopting strict epidemic controls for off-campus personnel entering the campus.

In the US, these are equally trying times for universities. Leslie Lok, assistant professor of architecture at Cornell University in New York, says the school is now running a hybrid system of in-person and online classes until late November. After that, everything will be shifted online, she said.

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The university, cognizant of time differences, has adopted a policy that asks faculty not to require student participation in classes before 8am or after 10:30pm in their home time zones. Some architecture professors, she said, give lessons twice in a day to accommodate different time zones. It has worked out better than expected.

NYU Shanghai and Fudan University haven't yet responded to Shanghai Daily requests for comment.

Meanwhile, Jin looks at her options. Will she get a US visa? If she does, will she need to travel to the US via a third country because the US still bars people who were on the Chinese mainland 14 days prior to entry? Would she feel safe returning to the US, amid protests and pandemic?

"Well, I still have a roommate," Jin said, trying to look on the bright side. "We have group chats. I can talk to my Wellesley classmates when doing remote classes, and I get to see my parents whenever I want to. But I hope some normality returns soon."

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Can we teach old folks new tricks as digital age engulfs us?

Yao Minji 19:56 UTC+8, 2020-09-23



Patients are required to show their health codes on their mobile phones at all Shanghai hospitals, which is a big challenge for elderly people who aren't tech-savvy.

Zhang Qun, 66, holds two mobile phones. One is for Shanghai's health code program that allows him to enter public places if his code says he doesn't have coronavirus. On the other phone, he's calling a friend's daughter to ask for help.

The health code turns inactive if not used for a while, and Zhang has forgotten how to re-register.

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The retired president of a company with more than 5,000 employees said he has never felt as helpless as he has in the last few months.

Online grocery shopping, digital health codes, digital identification cards, food delivery services, online reservation for doctors. The increasing dominance of life online can be complicated for many people, but more so for older folks who can't or won't use digital services.

"I know we are getting very digitalized in every way," Zhang told Shanghai Daily. "But it used to be okay for me not to use these digital services and still live my life. Not anymore."

He added, "The coronavirus pandemic has turned everything online, which was necessary, helpful and safe. But it has made me realize how I may not be as smart as I thought."

His son lives abroad, making it inconvenient to contact him when he needs help. The few times he did manage to talk to his son, the conversations turned confrontational.

"He kept saying, 'Just do what I say.'" Zhang recalled. "I did what he said, but that didn't work. I know he's busy. I don't want to get into fights over such small things. And I felt dumb."

His "tech-savvy" wife is more than willing to help, but to save face, Zhang doesn't want her to discover that he can't remember the code-registration format. But his wife Xu, 65, is indeed savvy.

"I know that my husband is hiding it," she posted on her WeChat moments. "He's trying to learn it but can't. It doesn't make him dumb. There are those who can and those who can't catch up with digitalization. We should care for those who can't."

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Less than 7 percent of China's 900 million Internet users are 60 years or older. Many don't own smartphones, while others have no mobile phone at all.

Wang Jianjun, 79, meets old pals in a nearby park every morning to practice tai chi. When he can't make it, he calls a friend to post a notice to the group or asks his 12-year-old granddaughter to send a message to the group's chat site.

"Two-thirds of my pals in the group don't have digital accounts," he said. "Like me, they use their children's or their grandchildren's accounts."

Wang's wife died, and his son and daughter-in-law are both away on frequent business trips. His granddaughter helped him buy online tickets for the Shanghai Book Fair and makes online reservations for his regular hospital visits.

"Recently I've been thinking about taking a class at my community center to learn how to do all this myself because I don't want to keep bothering my granddaughter," Wang said. "But my fingers are big and slow. When they say swipe, I swipe and nothing happens. I'm not sure if I can learn how to do it properly even if I take classes."

I know we are getting very digitalized in every way. But it used to be okay for me not to use these digital services and still live my life. Not anymore.*Zhang Qun, 66*

Like many elderly, Wang has chronic health problems that require frequent trips to the hospital for medicine. He was stunned in February and March when local hospitals barred entry to anyone who didn't have an online reservation. Gradually, as the pandemic threat eased in Shanghai, he was once again able to enter the hospital, where volunteers would help him with reservations. But that often meant booking for another day and returning.

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That is among the most common complaints from elderly people — the difficulty in making online reservations.

The problem hasn't gone unnoticed by the Shanghai Health Commission, which recently announced a series of measures to make hospital services more convenient for those 70 years or older.

Medical institutions are now required to set up priority windows for the elderly, provide more convenient reservation formats and earmark seats in waiting rooms for older patients.

The commission also said it will step up efforts to improve community and home medical services.

"It's not just medical reservations," said Zheng Lei, a professor with the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University. "The more advanced digital technology becomes, the wider the 'digital gap' for the elderly."

He added, "We encourage digitalization, but that doesn't mean those who can't use it should be abandoned. Service providers need to take that into account. We need warmth in our social services."

Wang did take one class on how to use mobile phones at his local community center, but he is not sure about continuing now that his hospital has restarted phone reservations that he can make on a landline and may open a priority window soon.

Retired businessman Zhang is secretly watching videos on how to use WeChat, the health code program and car-hailing services. His efforts have not gone unnoticed by his astute wife.

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“He thinks I don’t know,” she posted on WeChat. “My husband is catching up with the information age. Good! We have fun playing hide and seek like this. Maybe one day, he will be more tech-savvy than I am!”

People make mooncakes for upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival

Xinhua | Updated: 2020-09-25 14:08



Students make mooncakes at Huaguoyuan No. 3 Primary School in Nanming district of Guiyang, Southwest China's Guizhou province, Sept 24, 2020. It is a tradition to eat mooncakes during the Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on Oct 1 this year.[Photo/Xinhua]

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