



When testing became a parade of fashion & fun

Li Qian

Amid the current lockdown, many locals have found a way to stay positive and find joy. As the citywide COVID-19 nucleic acid testing commenced this week, photos of people dressed up for tests as if it's a fashion show or a themed carnival have gone viral on the Internet.

In the photos, people waiting in lines for tests are dressed like runway models in the latest couture or people from 1930s Shanghai in suits and *qipao*, or cheongsam. Some also put on cosplay shows by dressing up as famous characters such as Superman and Teddy Bear.

A woman dressed in an African-style outfit with leather headgear and a grass skirt told Shanghai Daily she hoped to add some fun to the process and lighten her neighbors' mood. On her back was China's national flag. "Come

On, China!" she said, pumping her fists.

There was even an "Omicron x Hesuan (nucleic acid testing)" fashion week invitation that reads: "Please take your e-invitation, aka QR code for testing, to the testing sites. Tips: Dress in old Shanghai-style clothing."

People in a residential complex in the Pudong New Area that is said to accommodate employees of Shanghai Disney Resort and New York University Shanghai dressed up like they were going to a spring picnic or party, wearing festive costumes like Batman and Disney princesses.

The video, uploaded by Praco on WeChat, has received more than 100,000 likes and thousands of comments, such as "So cool! It looks like a carnival parade!," "Fashion is encoded in Shanghai's DNA!" and "It feels so good to live there!"



People are dressed up for nucleic acid testing. — All photos from Internet

