

Friday, April 15, 2022

Crackdown on group-buying price gouging

Yang Jian

SHANGHAI authorities are cracking down on price gouging for group buying and delivery services, which have become a lifeline for residents during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The city's market watchdog has punished 192 people guilty of price gouging and cheating, primarily related to selling vegetables, since the resurgence of the pandemic in March, according to Peng Wenhao, deputy director of the Shanghai Administration for Market Regulation.

More than 30 price-violation cases have been publicized. Two outlets of supermarket chain Century Hualian, for instance, have been fined for charging high delivery fees for online orders. Chain restaurant Jindawan, in another case, raised its delivery fee to as much as 100 yuan (US\$15.71) from 8 yuan per order. Another supermarket was fined for falsely claiming its vegetables were part of "supplies to Hong Kong."

"The administration will continue targeting pricing

issues for daily necessities and pandemic prevention supplies," Peng said at the city's daily COVID-19 press briefing on Wednesday.

The watchdog will ask e-commerce platforms to oversee their online business operators, while cooperating with subdistricts and towns to supervise group buying.

A joint campaign against price violations for delivery and pickup fees has been launched by the administration, the city's commerce commission, postal administration and reform and development commission.

People are encouraged to leave tips via the 12315 hotline or 12345 social network. More than 40 online complaints have been acted upon within 24 hours of being posted, Peng revealed.

Community group buying has become a major way to guarantee daily supply delivery during the lockdown, and has helped address difficulties in purchasing vegetables and daily commodities, according to Peng.



Shanghai's largest COVID-19 makeshift hospital at the National Exhibition and Convention Center is fully operational. See related story on P2-3. — Xinhua

Police help find medicines for residents in lockdown

Chen Huizhi

XIA Xin, 65, lives alone in a locked-down residential building in Taopu Town, Putuo District. He panicked a bit a few days ago when he found that he was running out of his anti-hypertension medicine.

After he reported his problem to the neighborhood committee, he was dismayed to find out that the town hospital was out of stock.

Qian Youji, 54, an officer at Baili Police Station who serves

this residential complex, stepped in to help.

A community volunteer was given a pass to travel to other parts of the district and finally got Xia's prescribed medicine from a hospital in another town.

"We have dozens of calls daily from the residents who seek medicines, and the shortage of common prescriptions from the town hospital makes it more difficult for us to address their needs," said Qian,

who serves 7,600 residents, a great many of whom are elderly.

Most parts of the densely populated urban districts in Shanghai are still under lockdown or restrictive measures, due to which many people are not able to leave their compound, subdistrict or town.

Shanghai police have mobilized forces on the ground to help address urgent needs of residents, and medicines are one of the priorities.

SHINE
BEYOND A SINGLE STORY

Powered by

Shanghai Daily
上海日报

Check out our website

WWW.SHINE.CN

You are welcome to send your comments and opinions to annchenjie@shanghaidaily.com

FOLLOW US

Search for "Shanghai Daily" @

