

# SHANGHAI NOW

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## City promises rapid response to stamp out new infections

A QUICK response to any new COVID-19 case outside quarantined areas will be crucial in preventing a rebound in infections in the community as Shanghai has cut off community transmission of the coronavirus, according to the city's health authorities.

"The possibility of finding positive infections among risk groups still exists, and the pressure of ... preventing a rebound remains huge," Zhao Dandan, deputy director of the Shanghai Health Commission, told the city's daily COVID-19 press briefing on Wednesday.

Epidemiological investigators will arrive within two hours of any new positive cases being detected at the community level, Zhao said. The investigators will finish collecting core epidemiological information within four hours and figure out the basic transmission situation within a day.

Fast and accurate epidemiological investigation and strict management are critical to curb the spread of the virus and bring the city back on track sooner, he noted.

At signs of a rebound,

epidemiological investigators at city, district and community levels will conduct on-site investigations and define all close and secondary contacts with the help of Big Data analysis.

All new positive cases will be transferred immediately, along with close contacts, to prevent transmission, followed by screening and control measures in the related areas.

Environmental testing and gene sequencing will also be conducted to trace the origin of the infection, Zhao said.

The city government is gradually easing restrictions.

More supermarkets, restaurants and hair salons have been allowed to open this week across the city. Public transport and some parks in outlying districts have also been receiving visitors.

Meanwhile, Shanghai Customs has adjusted the frequency of random checks on qualified imports to help guarantee daily supplies and resumption of work.

Authorities also have granted approval to 864 of Shanghai's financial institutions to resume work.

(Shanghai Daily/Agencies)



Passengers ride on a bus in Jinshan on Wednesday when five lines in the suburban district resumed operations. — Ti Gong



People waiting outside the Hongqiao Railway Station in Shanghai are transferred to a makeshift shelter. Amid the COVID-19 lockdown, some passengers went to the station much earlier than their departure time, even one day in advance, because of the suspension of public transport. Those with next-day tickets will be transferred to the station's P10 parking lot, which has been turned into a makeshift shelter where nucleic acid testing, chargers, hot water and food are available. — Zhou Shengjie

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