SHANGHAI NOW

A teacher at a kindergarten checks a student's nucleic acid test code. — Photos by Dong Jun

COVID protocols in place as schools reopen

Yang Meiping

SHANGHAI'S 1.65 million primary and secondary school students and over 550,000 kindergarten children went back to school on Thursday to begin the fall semester.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of them had been absent from their classrooms for about six months.

The students must wear masks on the way to school and have their temperatures taken when they arrive as per the anti-pandemic regulations. They also have to take a nucleic acid test every day.

A student sanitizes hands before entering the school.

PCR health declarations eased for people entering China

Wang Qingchu

PEOPLE entering China no longer need to state their PCR test results, COVID-19 infection history or vaccination dates in health declaration in order to improve efficiency, China's General Administration of Customs said.

The new rules are effective from August 31.

In the updated version of the health declaration, a consent form about collecting people's throat swab samples is added to save time in subsequent testing upon arrival.

The changes are aimed at improving efficiency, rather than relaxing pandemic prevention rules. Travelers are still required to undergo PCR tests to get green health codes to board a returning flight.

Customs encourage people to fill in the health declaration form online as it is considered easier and quicker.

People can declare their health condition via the WeChat mini program "海关旅客指尖服务," webpage, mobile phone app 掌上海关, or on a paper form, 24 hours prior to their entry into China.

Some wording have also been further clarified in the updated version of the health declaration to reduce misunderstandings.