

SHANGHAI NOW

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City says goodbye to scanning venue code

VENUE code scanning, once a daily routine for citizens, has been scrapped at most public venues in Shanghai in a further relaxation of the city's COVID-19 control measures.

From this week, venue code checks are only required at elderly-care institutions, child welfare centers, medical facilities, schools (including kindergartens), as well as other places with special COVID prevention requirements.

Government bodies, large enterprises and some other sites can continue with venue code scanning and other COVID checks according to their own needs.

The code was initiated in Shanghai during the pandemic resurgence in early 2022 to trace close contacts of positive cases as well as check the polymerase chain reaction report and health code at the entrances of public venues.

Also this week, Shanghai dropped COVID-19 high-risk areas.

The lockdown was lifted on the city's last seven high-risk areas after midnight on Monday.

It means the entire city will enter the regular COVID-19 prevention and control stage, the city government announced on its official

WeChat account.

Meanwhile, China's itinerary card, used for tracing people's travel history in the country, were also retired.

The Communications Itinerary Card, which tracks whether someone has been to a high-risk area based on their phone signal, went offline on Tuesday, according to an official WeChat post, after more than two years in operation.

"All channels to get the itinerary card such as text messages, web pages, WeChat mini program, Alipay mini program and app will go offline at the same time," the post added.

China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom said they would delete all user data of the card and will protect user privacy as per the law.

The Communications Itinerary Card was first launched in late February 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a system that mark users' predicted level of COVID exposure. The card was tweaked multiple times before a final change this year shortened the tracking period from 14 to seven days.

It now has 900 million users, according to the website.

(Shanghai Daily/Agencies)



People scan the venue code before entering a mall in Shanghai. Venue code checks are only required at a few kinds of places in the city from this week. — CFP



Above: Residents buy cold medicines at a pharmacy in Shanghai. — Photos by Jiang Xiaowei

Right: Empty shelves are seen at the pharmacy.

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