



Afternoon tea along Suzhou Creek in Shanghai goes a long way toward helping people feel like life is returning to normal. — IC

The benefits and pitfalls of learning to live with COVID

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Freedom from tight coronavirus restrictions has come with a price. Your health is now more in your own hands as the virus continues to lurk in the public.

Shanghai has eased its pandemic measures like scrapping venue code screening, PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests and health code checks in most places.

Shanghai Daily went out into the streets to find out how people are adjusting to the new mode of living with the virus.

It seems that while residents generally welcome the new policies, they do worry that they may become infected and pass the virus on to loved ones.

Small shops and restaurants probably are the happiest about the eased restrictions.

Iris Wang, who owns a nail

salon on Wulumuqi Road N., said that customer foot traffic was up a bit last week, with expats about half of the clients.

Customers are no longer required to scan a venue code on the door, but Wang still asks her staff to adhere to strict pandemic-prevention measures.

“We need to be responsible for the sake of customers and staff,” Wang said. “So we

ask our staff to do PCR tests once every three days, and we sterilize the salon twice a day. We also have medicine on hand in case staff need it.”

Commuters are also happy that they don’t have to wait so long to have their venue codes scanned during rush hours.

“In the past, there was always a large crowd waiting for their venue code checks, and now time is saved, which is important to commuters,” said

a Metro rider surnamed Tian at Changshu Road Station. “I always believed that pandemic controls would be eased, but let’s be honest, we need to respect science. So I think that I will work harder to build a stronger immune system.”

Meanwhile, at Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station, a passenger surnamed Qiu, who just arrived from Hangzhou, said it takes some time getting used to all the changes.