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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.

“The other day, I was worried that I wouldn't be allowed to check in at a hotel because I hadn't done a PCR test for days, but the hotel asked only to see my ID card and green code.”

While many people said they feel their lives finally start to get back to some semblance of normal, others admitted they feel a bit lost.

At Jing'an Kerry Center, all the 22 gateways have removed “digital sentries” that scan codes and take temperatures.

“We still provide supplies to customers who feel uncomfortable taking their own temperature, and we are equipped with some medicine and antigen test kits,” said Huang Ning, deputy general manager of Kerry Properties Development Shanghai Co.

A commuter surnamed Wang, who works at Jing'an



With COVID-19 restrictions eased, people flock to the German Christmas Market at The Central mall near the Bund. — IC

Kerry Center, said he and his colleagues have mixed feelings about the relaxed measures.

“I work in the banking industry,” he said. “Although no one has thus far tested positive in my office, I have heard that infections in other banks forced healthy workers to do more shifts.”

Wang said he had to take two days' leave to care for his son after his school reported some positive cases.

“I returned to the office

today,” he said, “but I will have to stay at home again tomorrow. Such a life is a bit troublesome.”

Meanwhile, Sarah Vetter from Canada said she has become more cautious ahead of an appointment with her dentist. Aside from walking her dog, she said she doesn't go out much and still does PCR tests regularly.

“I don't want to get COVID before the appointment with my dentist because I need

to get a tooth fixed,” she explained. “After that, I guess it doesn't matter so much. Life is slowly getting better.”

The unvaccinated worry the most about the relaxation of regulations. One woman who has not been vaccinated because of health issues said that she worries whether she is mixing with anyone who has the virus whenever she goes out.

“I wish people would wear masks when they go out to protect themselves as well as

vulnerable people like me,” she said.

Pharmacies report dwindling stocks of some medicines.

At Huaqian Pharmacy near Huashan Hospital, shop assistants said that drugs to relieve coronavirus symptoms, such as painkillers and cold medications, are sold out. Antigen test kits also are unavailable.

“Customers will have to wait at least for another couple of days,” said a shop assistant. “We heard that pharmaceutical plants are expediting their production.”

Starting from Wednesday, no nucleic acid test result checks are required for emergency and outpatients services in Shanghai.

To deal with the situation, local health authorities are encouraging patients to use the Internet hospital service for consultation and medicine prescription and opening more fever clinics at neighborhood health centers by allocating more resources to grassroots facilities.



Cold and flu remedies are flying off the shelves of pharmacies as people prepare themselves for the COVID. — Jiang Xiaowei



Masks are still around — sometimes required and sometimes just a personal precaution against coronavirus infection. — IC