

Quick Q&A for Common Questions on Expats Re-entering China

****This info is subject to change, please check with official government sources to verify details before you travel****

Visa & Immigration

Q: Who can enter China right now?

- 1) Chinese Passport Holders
- 2) China PR Card Holders
- 3) Taiwan/HK/Macau Citizens who also have the Mainland travel card 回乡证 or 台胞证
(Only citizens of these 3 places can obtain this card)
- 4) Diplomat Passport holders
- 5) Foreigners who have obtained a visa issued after March 28th (see next question)

Q: How to obtain a China visa right now?

Type 1: Visa backed by PU invitation letter

Working person's company will apply for a PU invitation letter with Foreign Affairs Office (FAO) in China, once PU letter is issued the applicant takes it to the nearest China embassy and applies for a visa. Working person will get either M/Z visa, spouses and children will get an S visa.

Type 2: Humanitarian Visa

Can only be obtained for death or medical emergency, with supporting documents such as death certificate or doctor's note for a medical emergency. This is usually a Q visa (停留 – short stop). Humanitarian Visas may not be used for long term stay and is very unlikely to be switched to another visa. Q visas usually only have a stay term of 30 days.

Q: How to get a visa for family reunion?

Currently family reunion is not a sufficient reason to obtain a visa.

Q: My child and I are stuck outside China, my spouse is already back at work in China, how do we get back to China?

Get your spouse's company to sponsor a PU letter for you and your child to obtain a visa.
(There has been success since July 2020 from people of different nationalities applying in embassies in various countries, and sponsoring companies from different provinces throughout China for this method.)

Q: Can family and children of Chinese Citizens get back to China?

Not by this criterion alone, you also have to apply for a visa. Ask your working spouse to have their company sponsor your PU letter to obtain a visa.

Q: My partner is in China, but we are not married, can I get a visa to return to China?

Very unlikely. Currently all of the dependent visas (S visas) we know that were obtained by a working spouse are for married partners and children.

Q: Can teachers get back into China?

Teachers (from grade school up to University) starting recently have been asked by schools to submit information to obtain PU letters as of mid-July 2020.

Q: Can international students get back into China?

No, there's no success cases or known methods yet.

Travel & Entry Restrictions

Q: I'm able to book a flight back to China, can I return?

Only if you have a valid travel document or visa issued after March 28th

Q: Can I transit in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, and Korea?

No, if your flight is bound for China, you **may not transit in HK and Taiwan**.

No, if your flight is not a repatriation flight arranged by your government to return home, you **may not transit in Singapore**.

No, you **may not transit via Tokyo Haneda**.

Yes, you may transit only in **Tokyo Narita, Osaka Kansai, and Seoul Incheon** if they are same day transits.

Link to different country's entry restrictions: <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/international-travel-document-news/1580226297.htm>

Q: Can I enter Hong Kong and wait there?

Only 2 types of people can enter Hong Kong

- 1) Residents of Hong Kong (and their immediate family members – spouse, parents, dependents)
- 2) If you have been in China/Macau/Taiwan for the past 14 days AND your passport allows visa-free stay in Hong Kong for at least 14 days to complete quarantine.

You must quarantine 14 days in Hong Kong if you can enter.

Q: What Airlines are flying to China right now? How do I get a ticket?

Current known approved flights:

http://weibo.com/u/3900189730?topnav=1&wvr=6&topsug=1&is_all=1#_loginLayer_1594944945422

(Same link but shorter: <https://tinyurl.com/y2z2jqjq>)

Book directly with the airline by calling them or checking on their website. Currently a lot of flights have long waitlists, and going through a 3rd party such as booking.com, expedia, kayak, might not get you tickets and seats that actually exists. It's most reliable to go straight to the airline. Expect to be on hold on the phone for as long as an hour.

Q: Do I need to prepare any forms, Health codes, or Covid test reports before boarding my flight to China?

No, there are no mandates by China for foreign nationals to do any of the above.

- Only Chinese Citizens (China Passport holders, NOT including China PR holders) need to register their health 14 days in advance.
- CAAC (Civil Aviation Administration of China) announcement in English: <https://tinyurl.com/y26fjbvu>
- Some airlines are confused and do ask for foreign nationals to fill out a health form online and obtain a QR code. In that case look for the “防疫健康码国际版”

Do also check with the **airline and port authority** (city of origin where you are boarding the flight as well as transiting) as there may be specific requirements from them.

Charter flights may also have specific requirements.

Arriving in Shanghai & Quarantine

Q: Do I need to book a hotel before returning to Shanghai?

No, in fact you cannot book a hotel on your own and stay there. Quarantine hotels are assigned to you after you land.

Q: What do I need to do after landing at the airport in Shanghai?

There are a lot of QR codes to scan and forms to fill out. Make sure you have a working China number and working mobile data to do so.

Q: Does everyone get a COVID test at the airport? How? How much is it?

Yes, right now there are 3 types of test at Shanghai Pudong airport, mandatory and FREE to everyone: nose or throat swab, or blood test (via vein or finger prick)

Q: Do children and infants also need to be tested for COVID at the airport?

Yes, there are no exceptions. Everyone must get tested at the airport.

Q: What happens if I or my child gets tested positive for COVID?

You will be sent to a fever clinic immediately to do further testing, which may include blood tests or x-ray scans. You will stay there for several days (most commonly 3 days), if you are continuously tested negative for those 3 days then you go to hotel quarantine. If you are tested positive still, then you get admitted to a COVID specific treatment hospital.

Q: What happens if my child has to be admitted to hospital for treatment after being tested positive?

In Shanghai, adult and children treatment hospitals are separate. Children, no matter the age, will be separated from their parent for independent treatment at Fudan hospital. They will receive excellent care and will be attended to 24hrs, however visitations are strictly not allowed under any circumstances. You will only be able to collect your child once they are fully recovered, tested negative, and discharged from the hospital.

Q: I'm nervous about me or my child testing positive, what can I do to prevent that?

You can voluntarily self-quarantine 14 days prior to your departure flight to China. You can also do a COVID test a few days prior to your departure flight to China. Wear protective gear (masks, hazmat suits if you can get your hands on one, goggles), try as much to not use the toilets in flight or eat anything in flight.

Q: Do I have to quarantine?

Yes, everyone arriving from overseas must quarantine, regardless of flight origin or nationality. (People coming in from HK/Taiwan/Macau flights must also quarantine)

Q: Can I do home quarantine?

If you have children under 18yo, are above 65yo, and other fitting criteria, you may apply for home quarantine at the airport (after immigration, luggage claim, and COVID swab test is done)

Please check last page of this document for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/y6arhsyn>

Q: Can I choose the hotel for quarantine?

No, the hotel is assigned to you by airport staff.

Q: Can my driver or a Didi pick us up from the airport for home or hotel quarantine?

No, everyone must use the arranged busses to leave the airport. No private transport allowed.

Q: Will my family all be in the same room for hotel quarantine?

Wife & Husband: no. Official rule is that adults cannot share a room.

Parent & kid: if the kid is under 16yo then they can stay in the same room as 1 parent

Q: I don't have a house in Shanghai, and I'm bringing 3 young kids. Can we have a family suite or connecting rooms for hotel quarantine?

You may request, but this is not guaranteed. Right now quarantine hotel rooms are very full and suites/connecting rooms are very rare to come across. You may ask your embassy for assistance.

Q: I have to do another COVID test before finishing my quarantine?

Yes, near the end of your quarantine, it is mandatory for everyone to do a final test. The cost is 120rmb per person, and they issue a report for your test results.

Q: Does the quarantine hotel allow food delivery, package delivery?

Please check this document for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/y6arhsyn>

Q: Does the quarantine hotels have Air conditioning?

Please check this document for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/y6arhsyn>

Q: What is a health code and how do I get it?

A health code is required on the last day of quarantine in China before discharge. Going to establishments such as hospitals, banks, hotels, gyms and some restaurants will require for it. It is on your phone within the WeChat or Alipay app called 健康码 or Health Code in English. If your wechat pay or Alipay is not verified with a bank card, you may use the Cloud Health App 健康云 instead to obtain the health code.

*If your final destination is Beijing, you must obtain the Beijing specific health code.