



Weekly Update on COVID-19 in China

Week 1 of 2023

News Review

- **Bustling Beijing returns to normal**

- Traffic jams in downtown Beijing, busy subway stations and bustling shopping malls indicated the city was returning to business as normal on Tuesday, amid the relaxed COVID-19 measures.
- Vehicles crawled on all major city roads between 7 am and 9 am, a scene rarely witnessed since COVID-19 response measures were optimized in early December.
- Data from the Beijing Transportation Operations Coordination Center indicated a road network traffic index of 8.15, meaning "serious congestion". It lasted for about an hour.
- According to the transportation center, 2.41 million commuter trips were recorded in subway stations by 9 am on Tuesday, an increase of 28 percent compared with that of last week. The number of bus trips reached 970,000, an increase of 17 percent.
- Commercial establishments and tourism businesses in the city showed promising numbers as well.
- Between Saturday and Monday, the three-day New Year's Day holiday, Beijing's major department stores, supermarkets, restaurants and online commerce platforms racked up 3.53 billion yuan (\$511 million) in total revenue, which was equal to 83.8 percent of the total revenue during the same period the previous year.
- According to the Beijing Municipal Commerce Bureau, 52 major commercial areas in the capital saw about 12.18 million visits during the holiday
- In the past weeks, Beijing has promoted New Year-themed skating and skiing activities, which have attracted many people.
- Holidaymakers also felt more optimistic about going out. A total of 151 major attractions in the city received 2.69 million visits during the holiday, which led to a total revenue of 248.27 million yuan, up 44.5 percent compared with 2019, when there was no pandemic.

- **Zhejiang enters COVID-19 infection peak**



- Zhejiang province has entered the COVID-19 infection peak, the Zhejiang Center for Disease Control and Prevention said on Monday.
- The number of COVID-19 infections in the province has been growing by roughly a million per day in recent days, according to a health risk notice from the center.
- With Spring Festival fast approaching, travel will pick up significantly, which will spread the coronavirus, it said.
- "The province has stepped into the peak time for COVID-19 infections. Influenza and other respiratory infections are in peak season as well," the notice said.
- To mitigate the health risks of these diseases, the Zhejiang CDC has asked residents to pay special attention to strengthening personal protection, enhancing physical health, vaccinating themselves and carrying out proper self-health monitoring.
- "During recovery or quarantine at home, try to stay in a separate room and minimize close contact with other family members," the notice said.
- In addition, the health risk notice also warned against the growing risk of new imported COVID strains spreading in China.
- On Monday, Hangzhou, the provincial capital, reported detection of the highly contagious Omicron subvariant XBB, which had come from outside the country.
- **China Southern resumes flights to Amsterdam**
 - A China Southern Airlines plane took off from Shenzhen International Airport bound for Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on Monday as the airline resumed the overseas route after a long hiatus.
 - Tickets for the flight have become hot items, with return tickets for Monday set to sell out, according to a statement released by China Southern Airlines on Tuesday.
 - With the Chinese Lunar New Year approaching, there is a strong demand for international air tickets as China has optimized its COVID-19 policies and the Civil Aviation Administration of China will relax restrictions on international flights starting on Sunday, authorities said.
 - In a notice, the CAAC said China will no longer define high-risk inbound flights and will cancel their 75 percent seat occupancy limit.
 - The round-trip between Shenzhen and Amsterdam will operate twice a week — on Mondays and Wednesdays — according to the statement from China Southern. The aircraft is an Airbus A330, it said.



- It marked the opening of the first direct passenger route linking Shenzhen with the Netherlands, which is also the first new international passenger route opened by the airport in the past three years, signaling a potential recovery in the international passenger transport business once decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It's expected to help build an air bridge between Shenzhen and Amsterdam, an aviation hub in Europe, playing a role to enhance economic and trade cooperation and cultural and personnel exchanges between the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the European Union, said Shang Huili, route manager with China Southern Shenzhen branch.
- As of the end of December, the airline had resumed international routes from Shenzhen to Jakarta, Moscow, Dubai and Singapore.
- China Southern's Shenzhen branch said it is planning to gradually restart routes to the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and major cities around the world this year.

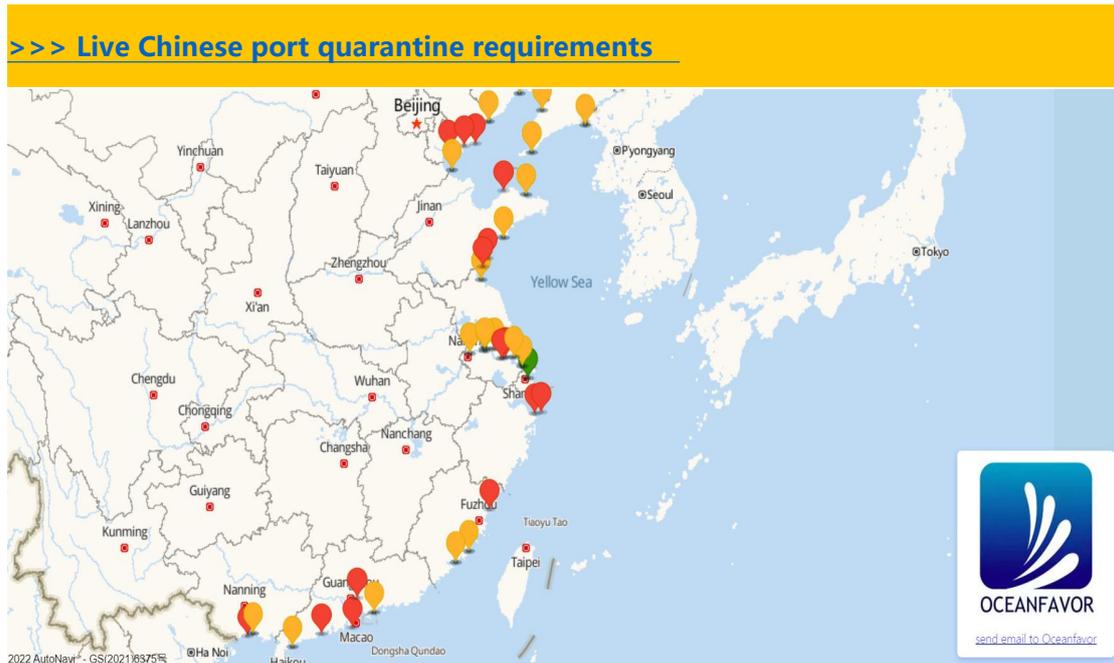
Quarantine Requirements

Existing quarantine rules remain valid for the time being till 8th January 2023 and expected to modify soon, following the relaxed Covid control policies

- Crew joining a vessel at foreign ports and arriving in China within 7 days from departure, must bear a valid nucleic acid test(negative) report issued by a competent testing institution as designated/recognized by local Chinese embassy or consulate within 3 days before boarding.
- Crew joining vessel at foreign ports in last 7 days before arrival will have nucleic acid tests upon berthing by customs in some of China ports, cargo operation won't be allowed until testing results turn out. However, such 7-day ban has been lifted in more and more ports recently.
- Vessels scheduled to drydock in a Chinese shipyard after cargo operation must have all crew nucleic acid tested at 1st port of call in China.
- Please click on the bubble of each port to see the latest details of the quarantine requirements :
 - **Green bubble:** Indicates that the port is under normal conditions, vessels only need to follow the port lineup



- **Yellow bubble:** Indicates that vessels will get berthed following a port lineup, PCR tests will be carried out after berthing, cargo operations will commence after negative test results
- **Red bubble:** Indicates either that vessels need to have at least 14 days since departing from the last foreign port, prior to berthing ; or that the port is closed due to certain reason (full details given upon clicking on the bubble)



Port Operations

- No port shut down but most ports are facing labor shortage these weeks as lots of port workers are infected with Covid, while nation eased its control and prevention measures last week and number of infection in some provinces reached peaks. Cargo operations were slowed down and port stay of vessels was prolonged apparently, congestion became heavier specially in the North
- Lack of pilots continued and caused delay on vessel's turnaround in Yangtze river and Pearl river ports, where whole pilotage were divided to different sections which require more pilots to be involved
- Crew's shore leave will be allowed again soon as per a governmental notice released last week

Crew Change



- Foreign crew change in China ports are expected to resume after 8th January 2023, when no quarantine are required for inbound travellers, though detailed implementation scheme are still pending and expected to be announced soon
- Procedure relating to Chinese crew change will also be optimized and simplified after 8th January 2023, to facilitate normalization of shipping community
- Currently, as for Chinese crew change, application will be evaluated by various authorities(customs, MSA, local municipal health commission, etc.) case by case before being approved.
- With effect from 15th February 2022, vessels performing international voyages arriving from overseas , intending to carry out crew change of Chinese nationals in China ports, must conduct Covid tests for all crew on board within 48 hours prior departing last foreign port, nucleic acid tests are prioritized while other alternative rapid testing methods such as rapid antigen tests are acceptable, in case nucleic acid tests are not available. All these rapid testing agents/materials shall be of approved type by China or other nations' drug administration.
- All above crew shall have regular Covid tests on 1st, 4th, 7th and 14th(as applicable) day of the passage enroute China port from last foreign port, records for such tests must be kept available on board and presented to port authorities when vessel conducting entry formalities.
- All outgoing crew are to have nucleic acid tests upon berthing and 7-day quarantine/medical observation in designated hotels followed by 3 days self health observation at home.
- Joining crew must possess valid NAT negative reports issued within 72 hours before boarding.
- In view of different policies/practice in different ports, please consult Ocean Favor Shanghai office for detailed information of a specific port and updated regulations.
- Crew change in Hong Kong are fully resumed as of 12th October 2022, no matter there are cargo ops or not



海德航运服务(上海)有限公司
OCEAN FAVOR SHIPPING (SHANGHAI) LTD.

Oceanfavor has accomplished several owner's matter in various ports

All Ocean Favor offices stay on alert in front line and keep a sharp eye on the development of Covid-19 at key China ports.



Please contact us on below, in case you have inquires or need help from our end for specific issues, we are available on 24/7/365 basis.

Ocean Favor Shipping (Shanghai) Ltd.

Tel: +86-21-63068919/8920/8929

E-mail: shanghai@oceanfavor.com

Website: <http://www.oceanfavor.com>