

Train Travel Log during COVID-19 – Shanghai Hongqiao to Beijing South Station (3 Adults and 2 Children)

20 April 2020

Part 1. Hongqiao Station, Shanghai

Arrived at Hongqiao station in Shanghai two hours before departure. Train station operating at less than 50 per cent capacity. Many regular departures cancelled. At ID check, they take a picture of any foreign passports, note down the departure time, nationality and—VERY IMPORTANT—arrival date to China. Think this may be important for later.

Part 2. Boarding of train

No difference from any other time I have boarded a high-speed train. So far so good.

Part 3. On-board the train

Non-eventful trip on board. One temperature check and a disinfection of cabin prior to departure are the only extra measures.

Part 4. Arrival at Beijing South Station

We noticed that the majority of passengers got off at Tianjin Station. When we arrived in Beijing, the station was very empty. At ticket check at the station exit, they picked me out and asked if I had a quarantine certificate, which I do not due to the fact that we have been in Shanghai for one month. We discussed this requirement for a bit when I explained that I was to be considered a domestic arrival, I was let through. A close call but the right outcome. After ticket check, everything else at the station was as normal.

Part 5. Arriving compound and Juweihui (居委会)

We were instructed to call our neighbourhood committee (居委会) upon arrival at the station which we did. The JWH told us to call them again when we were close to arriving at our compound, which we did. They then said to call them when we got to our apartment. When we arrived, the compound had only one gate open. Our car was stopped and we were asked to get out with our luggage. There was a temperature check and registration of our passports. We also were required to sign a document stating we understand the terms of our quarantine. Now we are back in our apartment. The JWH will start counting 14 days from tomorrow when they and a nurse will come to our apartment. Upon completion of the quarantine, we have to go to the JWH office and receive a quarantine certificate.

That's it. We made it! Wish all those stuck outside China a safe return!

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