

玩家回歸？

短期不會

澳門商界和旅遊界近期所表現出的謹慎樂觀態度已被沮喪所取代。於香港和中國內地爆發的新一波疫情表明，遊客的回歸終究還是需要一段時間。

THE RETURN OF PUNTERS TO MACAU?

Not anytime soon

The cautious optimism recently displayed by Macau's business and tourism community has been replaced by one of resignation as COVID-19 outbreaks in Hong Kong and mainland China suggest it will be some time yet before visitors return in force.

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managed to keep the virus at bay, owing in no small part to the PRC's zero-COVID policy, along with technologies that allowed health authorities to move quickly to isolate those people who might have been infected, and quarantine them.

Hong Kong was the first region to experience a surge. Despite utilizing similar measures as adjacent provinces, Hong Kong experienced an explosive growth in infections in February, and the virus continues to wreak havoc. Hospitals are at capacity, emergency quarantine facilities were hastily constructed to accommodate infected citizens, and until recently the city's health authorities had been considering a city-wide lockdown along with a massive testing program to bring the virus under control. Panic buying has stripped bare the city's supermarket shelves.

Adjacent cities have not been spared Omicron's wrath. By mid-March, Shenzhen, a city of over 17 million people that sits on the Pearl River Delta near Macau and Hong Kong, went under lockdown. Factories closed, subways and buses stopped running, and residents were ordered to stay home. Dongguan, another major city adjacent to Shenzhen, imposed a similar lockdown.

As recently as November of 2021, there was a certain degree of optimism that much of the world had turned the corner on the pandemic. Macau enjoyed a modest increase in tourism volume during the recent New Year's holiday, and while visitation remained far below pre-pandemic levels, it was a welcome sign to see hotels full and people enjoying themselves in the city's casinos.

Then the Omicron variant struck, and while not nearly as lethal as previous waves, it was far more contagious. While western nations experienced a surge in December, Macau and adjacent Guangdong province

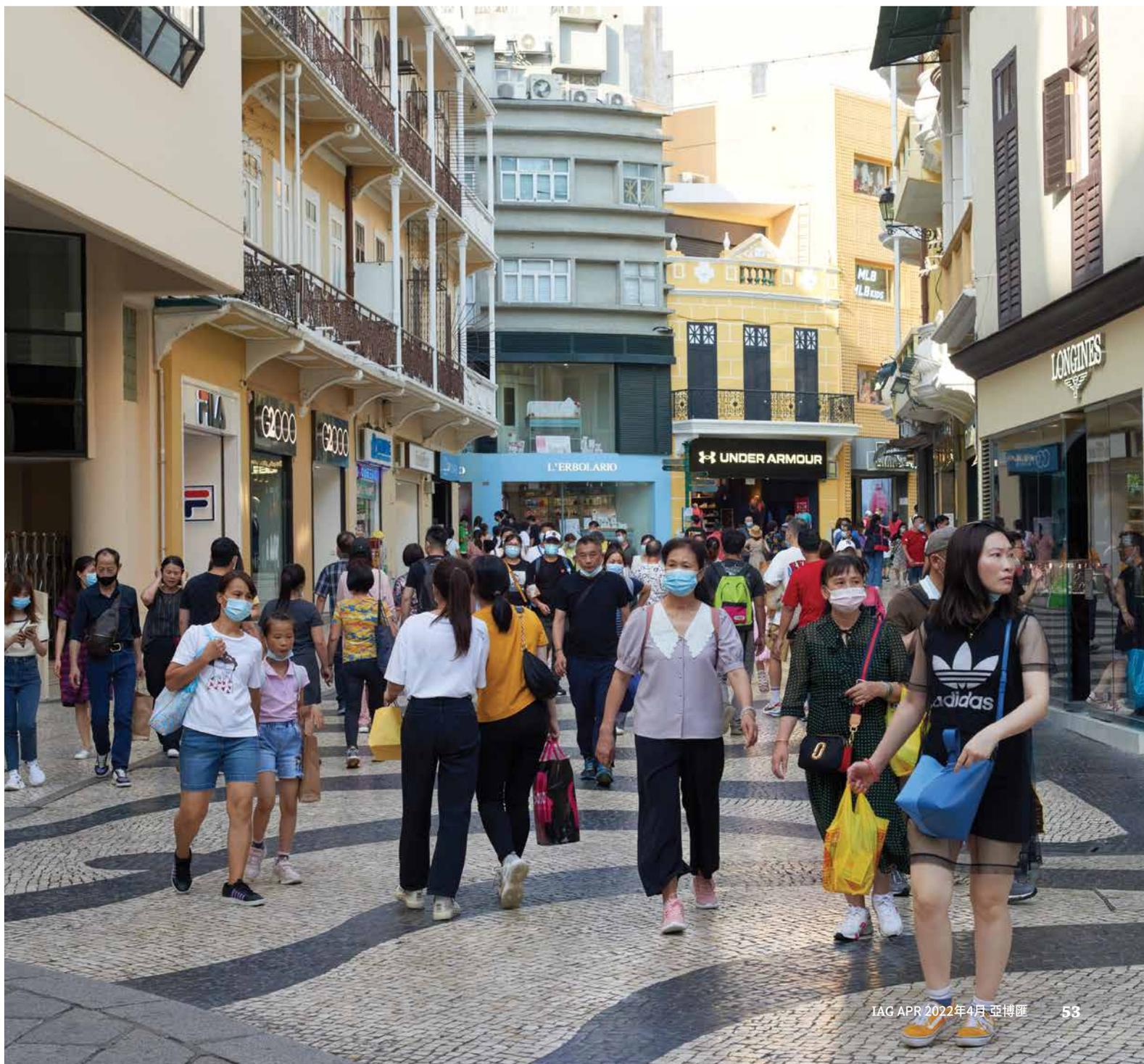
2021年11月，人們還在一定程度上樂觀地認為，全球大部分地區的疫情已經好轉。剛剛過去的新年假期，澳門的遊客人數有增長，儘管訪澳人數仍遠低於疫情前水平，但酒店爆

滿，人們在賭場裡盡情享受，著實是可喜的跡象。

然而，Omicron變異株襲來，雖不似先前幾波疫情那麼致命，但傳染性卻強很多。當西方國家在12月經歷病毒的激增之時，澳門及鄰近的廣東省設法阻

止了病毒的傳播，這很大程度上是因為中國的清零政策，令衛生當局可以迅速甄別可能被感染的人群，並對之進行隔離。

香港是第一個經歷激增的地區。儘管與周邊地區採取了類似的措施，但進



儘管臨近深圳和東莞令其公民如履薄冰，澳門並未受到近期鄰近城市確診人數激增的影響。

Macau has been spared from the recent surge experienced in nearby cities, although its proximity to Shenzhen and Dongguan leaves its citizens vulnerable.

So far, Macau has been spared from the recent surge experienced in nearby cities, although its proximity to Shenzhen and Dongguan leaves its citizens vulnerable, particularly if an asymptomatic visitor with a recent negative test crosses over into the SAR from Guangdong province. In anticipation of such a scenario, Macau health authorities maintain a quarantine for all visitors to Macau, other than those from mainland China, of 14 days followed by seven days self-health management.

For people living in other parts of the world, it is difficult to appreciate how seriously the PRC and the special administrative regions of Macau and Hong Kong have treated the pandemic. While each individual province within the PRC and the two SARs have their own regulations, they have one thing in common – their health protocols are strict, and they maintain a zero-COVID transmission policy. For instance, Macau residents returning from a foreign country must first present





香港自今年2月起一直受到
新冠疫情影响。

Hong Kong has been
gripped by COVID-19
since February.



三月中旬，深圳實施社區封
鎖管理。

The city of Shenzhen was
placed into lockdown in
mid-March.

踏入2月之後，香港的感染人數呈爆發性增長，疫情持續惡化。醫院運轉已經滿負荷，緊急隔離措施需倉促建成以容納受感染的市民。香港的衛生當局目前正考慮全市範圍內實施禁足，並採取全員強制檢測，以控制病毒傳播。恐慌性的搶購使該市超市貨架空空如也。

鄰近的城市也未能倖免於Omicron的威脅。3月中旬，擁有超過1700萬人口的深圳實施社區封閉管理。工廠關閉，地鐵和公共汽車停止運行，居民被要求待在家裡。

與深圳相鄰的另一個大城市東莞也採取了類似的措施。

截至目前為止，澳門並未受到附近城市近期確診病例激增的影響。由於澳門鄰近深圳及東莞，近期有核酸檢測陰性的無症狀感染者可能從廣東省進入特區，將令澳門市民置於風險中。考慮到這種情況，澳門衛生當局近期下令，對所有赴澳人士保持14天醫學觀察隔離及額外7日的自我健康管理。

對於生活在世界其他地區的人們而言，很難理解中國、澳門特別行政區和香港特別行政區對疫情的重視程度。儘管中國各省和兩個特別行政區都有各自的防疫規範，但它們有一個共同點——衛生措施非常嚴格，並且保持零新冠病毒傳播政策。



proof of a negative COVID test upon departure for their flight to Macau. Upon arrival into Macau, each passenger is tested once again. Then, every returning resident is ushered to a quarantine hotel. At last check, the quarantine period was 14 days plus seven days of “self-health management”. For those returning residents who have the misfortune of testing

positive upon arrival, they are taken to a hospital, where they are checked in, monitored and tested for a variety of possible medical conditions until medical authorities are convinced they are virus free and healthy.

Every resident is required to have a dedicated app on their mobile device whenever venturing out in public. The

app stores vaccine status and recent test results. It also monitors human interactions. In the course of a day, a person would have to scan their mobile app when entering a public building, shopping mall, apartment complex or place of business. With each scan, one of three color codes are displayed: green, yellow or red. A green code allows the



例如，澳門居民從海外返回澳門時，必須先出示核酸檢測陰性結果的證明，然後才可乘飛機飛往澳門。抵達澳門後會再次接受核酸檢測。之後，每位返回的居民都將被安排至隔離酒店隔離，隔離期為21日。對於那些不幸在抵達時核酸檢測呈陽性的居民，他們將被送往醫院接受檢查、監測和各種可能的醫療狀況檢測，直到醫療當局確信他們沒有攜帶病毒並且恢復健康。

在公共場合外出時，每個居民都必須在自己的移動設備上安裝一個專用的應用程序。該應用程序顯示了接種疫苗的狀態和最近的核酸檢測結果。一日之內，人們在進入公共建築、購物中心、公寓大樓或營業場所時，都必須使用移動應用程序掃碼。每次掃描都會顯示三種顏色代碼

之一：綠色、黃色或紅色。綠碼允許居民自由行動。黃碼表示此人曾在感染區域活動。紅碼表示此人可能與檢測呈陽性的人接觸過，此時衛生當局會迅速採取干預措施，可能會導致立即隔離。

中國內地和香港都使用了兼容的系統。儘管堅持清零政策和有著允許衛生當局迅速採取行動的技術，Omicron變異株還是迅速傳播開來。儘管疫情最終會平息，但它已經動搖了許多人認為病毒將在短期內得到控制的信心。

謹慎樂觀的時期已被沮喪所取代。澳門博彩業在2022年復甦的希望，現在看來相當渺茫。在某一時刻，這種病毒會減弱，出行限制會放鬆，玩家將會重新回歸澳門的賭場，只是似乎不會很快就發生。iag

resident to proceed and move freely. A yellow code indicates that the person has been in an area where an infection may have been detected. A red code indicates that the person may have come into contact with someone who tested positive, causing the swift intervention of health authorities. That intervention may lead to an immediate quarantine.

Compatible systems are used in the PRC and Hong Kong. Despite adherence to the zero-COVID policy and technologies that allow health authorities to act quickly to contain the virus' spread, Omicron has managed to propagate rapidly. While the surge is expected to eventually subside, it has shaken many people's faith that the virus will be brought under control anytime soon.

A period of cautious optimism has now been replaced with frustration. The hope that Macau's gaming industry will experience a recovery in 2022 may now be fleeting. At some point, this virus will abate, travel restrictions will ease and gamblers will return to Macau's casinos. It just does not appear that this will occur anytime soon. iag