

Shanghai Is Flying Drones Over Districts to Tell Citizens Under Lockdown to ‘Curb Your Soul’s Desire for Freedom’ and Comply with COVID-19 Restrictions

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Videos have circulated on Twitter and the Chinese social media platform Weibo of what appears to be a drone hovering in the sky, broadcasting Covid lockdown guidelines to residents under quarantine.

One particular clip shows a drone with red, flashing lights hovering above apartment buildings, broadcasting a message loudly. The [video’s original poster](#) said the clip was taken in a residential district in Shanghai.

“Everyone, don’t sing songs on your balcony. Songjiang Jiuting Park residents sang a little bit and then there was a drone coming over to say to control the desire for freedom in one’s soul,” read the poster’s caption on the video.

In the [video](#), the drone is seen flying over buildings, and a robotic voice broadcasts the message:

“Residents of Jiuting. During the pandemic, we request that you strictly abide by

COVID-19 restrictions and related guidelines. Control your soul's desire for freedom. Do not open the window or sing. This increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission."

As seen on Weibo: Shanghai residents go to their balconies to sing & protest lack of supplies. A drone appears: "Please comply w covid restrictions. Control your soul's desire for freedom. Do not open the window or sing."
<https://t.co/OZTc8fznaV> pic.twitter.com/pAnEGOIBlh

— Alice Su (@aliceysu) [April 6, 2022](#)

Other drones have also been seen flying over Shanghainese districts, [prompting some posters who filmed videos of the drones](#) to call it "a glimpse of Cyberpunk 2077," referencing the [dystopian video game](#).

In [other clips](#) on the Twitter-like Weibo platform, drones broadcasting messages to college students were seen taking off. These drones broadcast messages that indicated that due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, one must keep face masks on at all times and stay in the confines of their college dormitories.

It's not just drones that are being deployed in Shanghai. [Videos of robot dogs trotting along the empty streets of Shanghai](#) have also been [uploaded to Weibo](#).

One robot dog was spotted carrying a loudspeaker from which COVID-19 lockdown guidelines were broadcast.

"Disinfect regularly. Ventilate your home. Prevent the pandemic in a scientific manner," intoned the broadcast message, in a similarly robotic voice.

Robot roaming the streets making health announcements in [#Shanghai](#) during lockdown. pic.twitter.com/64x0mU4C2D

— Eric Feigl-Ding (@DrEricDing) [March 31, 2022](#)

Shanghai is currently struggling with a marked surge in COVID-19 cases, [prompting the entire city of 26 million to be put on a strict lockdown](#) amid [mandated mass-testing](#) for the virus. The city's Covid-zero policy has, however, drawn flak after [disturbing videos emerged of infants and toddlers being left unattended in an overcrowded quarantine center in the city](#) — a move that the Chinese government has [defended](#).

The city's mass-testing regimen has surfaced more than 94,000 infections in the southern financial hub since March 1, per the [South China Morning Post](#).

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