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New coronavirus



Version: 6.3.2020

The coronavirus can pose a serious threat to people over the age of 65 and younger people with pre-existing medical conditions. New recommendations for the workplace should help to protect these groups. Find out about the current situation in Switzerland and internationally.

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Coronavirus infoline

+41 58 463 00 00, daily 24 hours

There is currently high demand for advice and information. We have increased the number of Infoline call handlers, but callers may still experience lengthy delays before getting through. Thank you for your patience.

Information for travellers

www.safetravel.ch 

(in German or French)

Current situation in Switzerland

The top priority for the Swiss Federal Council is the health of the public. The aim should be to make sure that people are better protected from the novel coronavirus, especially those who are at a higher risk of becoming severely ill. We can all help by following the recommendations (both the new ones and those issued previously):

- **Keep your distance** – for example: Protect elderly people by keeping adequate distance from them; Keep your distance when queuing or waiting in line; Keep your distance at meetings.
- **Wash your hands thoroughly.**
- **Avoid shaking hands.**
- **Cough and sneeze into a tissue or the crook of your arm.**
- **If you have a fever and are coughing, stay at home.**
- **Only go to the doctor or A&E once you have notified them by phone.**

You will find detailed information on the "[Protect yourself and others](#)" site or at www.bag-coronavirus.

Recommendations for the workplace

The new coronavirus can pose a serious threat to people over the age of 65 and younger people with pre-existing medical conditions. The [recommendations for the workplace](#) are aimed at helping to protect these groups.

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Federal government measures

In view of the current situation and the spread of the coronavirus, the Federal Council has categorised **the situation** in Switzerland as **special** in terms of the Epidemics Act. Large-scale events involving more than 1000 people are to be banned. The ban will apply at least until 15 March 2020. The cantonal authorities decide on events with less than 1000 participants. Further information can be found under [Federal government measures](#).

This measure should prevent or delay the spread of the disease in Switzerland, thus reducing its momentum.

Confirmed in Switzerland

5.3.2020:

Switzerland recorded its first death attributed to the coronavirus; a 74-year-old woman from the canton of Vaud. The FOPH is in contact with the Vaud cantonal authorities.

6.3.2020, 2 pm:

Infections with the new coronavirus **have been confirmed**: 181 persons

All those infected with the virus have been placed in isolation. The public health authorities are contacting people who have been in close contact with those infected.

Reports of diseases from: the cantons Aargau, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Basel Land, Basel Stadt, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Graubünden, Jura, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, Schwyz, Solothurn, St. Gallen, Ticino, Thurgau, Vaud, Valais, Zug, Zurich and from the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Suspect cases **tested negative** (all laboratories combined): more than 3500 persons

A number of people are in quarantine in their canton of residence. They must stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

The federal government, the cantons and healthcare providers are prepared.

- Testing for the new coronavirus has been intensified in people presenting flu-like symptoms.
- The Infoline is staffed 24 hours daily in German, French, Italian and English.
- Travellers and cross-border commuters are being provided with advice at the border and at airports on what to do if symptoms appear (shortness of breath, cough or high temperature).

The federal government is working closely with the cantonal health authorities with regard to all measures.

No travel restrictions for entry into Switzerland

There are no travel restrictions for entry into Switzerland.

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Current situation – International

As of 6 March 2020, 6.30am: 3,858 cases of new coronavirus have been confirmed in Italy. Of those, 149 people are known to have died. For Italy as for all other areas concerned, travellers should inform themselves about the local situation.

Cases of new coronavirus infections have been confirmed in China and in more than 70 further countries or regions.

Globally over 98,000 people are confirmed to have been infected with the new coronavirus. In the majority of cases the illness is mild. However, older people could become seriously ill. 3,383 people are known to have died, 346 outside of mainland China. Totally more than 55,000 people have been recovered again.

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People at especially high risk and progression of the disease

People aged over 65 and those with one of the following pre-existing conditions are at a higher risk of becoming severely ill:

- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Cardiovascular disease
- Chronic respiratory diseases
- Conditions and therapies that weaken the immune system
- Cancer

The way the novel coronavirus disease progresses can vary widely. Some people, for example, have only mild symptoms and hardly notice that they're ill. Others need intensive care in hospital.

To find out how we can protect ourselves and others from infection, please see the [Protect yourself and others site](#).

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Affected areas

Areas affected means: Areas in which continued transmission of the virus from person to person is taking place or can be suspected.

Affected areas include:

- China, including Hong Kong
- Iran
- Italy
- Japan
- South Korea
- Singapore

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Information campaign 'Protect yourself and others'

We can protect ourselves and others from becoming infected with the new coronavirus by following a number of rules on hygiene and how to behave around others. You can find more information here: [Protect yourself and others](#).

Information for health professionals

Call the appointed cantonal medical officer **within two hours** if a case meets the **case definition criteria** and **the reporting criteria**.

- **Detailed information** for health professionals in [German](#), [French](#) or [Italian](#)
- Directly to **case definition and reporting form** in [German](#), [French](#) or [Italian](#)

COVID-19

On 11 February 2020 the WHO gave the disease caused by the new coronavirus an official name: **COVID-19**, short for coronavirus disease 2019.

Origins of the new coronavirus

The coronavirus epidemic in China probably originated at a market in the central Chinese city of Wuhan where bats, snakes and other wild animals were traded in addition to fish. The virus was transmitted from animals to humans. Since then the virus has been transmitted from person to person. The Chinese authorities have closed the market.

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Press conference

Further information

New coronavirus: Federal government measures

The Federal Council's highest priority is to protect the public. It has declared that a 'special situation' exists in Switzerland. As a result, the federal government can introduce special measures such as banning large-scale events.

New coronavirus: Protect yourself and others

How can you protect yourself against the new coronavirus? You can find out just how to do that in the section on 'How to protect yourself and others'. Follow the rules on hygiene and what to do if you experience symptoms.

New coronavirus: Recommendations for the workplace

The new coronavirus can pose a risk to people over the age of 65 and to people with pre-existing medical conditions. Their protection is the main aim of these recommendations for the workplace. However, the recommendations apply to all employers and employees.

New coronavirus: Recommendations for travellers

The WHO has not yet issued any travel restrictions. What should you do if you are visiting an area heavily affected by the new coronavirus? What should you be aware of?

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the new coronavirus

Do you have any questions regarding the risk of infection, travel and tourism, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, and protecting yourself from infection? You will find many answers here.

Links

Documents

Federal government links

[FDFA: Coronavirus – News](#) 

[EDA: Fokus Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#) 

[alert.swiss: Ongoing events](#) 

Additional links: Switzerland

[Safetravel: medical advice for travellers \(in German or French\)](#) 

[HUG Geneva Virology Laboratory](#) 

Additional links: international

[WHO: Coronavirus](#) 

[Disease Outbreak News der WHO](#) 

[WHO Technical documents for novel coronavirus](#) 

[WHO advice for international travel](#) 

[Risk assessment of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control ECDC](#) 

[ECDC: Infographic COVID-19](#) 

[Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE](#) 

Last modification 06.03.2020

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