Ordinance on Measures to Combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19)
(COVID-19 Ordinance 2)

of 13 March 2020 (Status as of 26 March 2020)

The Swiss Federal Council, on the basis of Article 7 of the Epidemics Act of 28 September 20121, on Annex I Article 5 of the Agreement of 21 June 19992 between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other part, on the Free Movement of Persons and on Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 20163 on a Union Code on the rules governing movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code),4 ordains:

Section 1 General Provisions5

Art. 1 Subject matter and purpose6

1 This Ordinance orders measures applicable to the population, organisations and institutions and the cantons to combat and reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

2 The measures serve to:

   a. prevent or contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Switzerland;

---

1 SR 818.101
2 SR 0.142.112.681
b. reduce the frequency of transmission, break transmission chains and prevent or contain localised outbreaks;

c. protect persons at high risk;

d. ensure Switzerland’s capacities to manage the epidemic, in particular to maintain the conditions required to provide the population with adequate care and a sufficient supply of therapeutic products.

Art. 1a7 Responsibility of the cantons

Unless this Ordinance provides otherwise, the cantons shall retain their responsibilities.

Section 2
Maintenance of Capacities to provide Healthcare, Restrictions on Cross-Border Traffic

Art. 2 Principle

1 In order to maintain Switzerland’s capacities to manage the COVID-19 epidemic and in particular to guarantee the conditions required to provide the population with adequate care and a sufficient supply of therapeutic products, measures must be taken to restrict the entry into Switzerland of persons from high-risk countries or areas.

2 High-risk countries or areas are in particular countries or areas in which the authorities have taken exceptional measures to prevent and combat the COVID-19-epidemic. A list of high-risk countries and areas is published in Annex 1 to this Ordinance. The Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP) shall compile and regularly update the list in consultation with the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).8

Art. 3 Border crossing and controls

1 The competent border control authority shall refuse entry to Switzerland to persons coming from a high-risk country or from a high-risk area, unless they meet at least one of the following requirements:

a. they are Swiss citizens;

b.9 they have a travel document; and

1. a residence document, in particular a Swiss residence permit, a cross-border commuter permit, a visa issued by Switzerland for the purpose

7 Inserted by No I of the O of 16 March 2020, in force since 17 March 2020 (AS 2020 783).
of attending professional consultations as a health sector specialist or for making an official visit of vital importance,

2. the assurance of a residence permit;

c. they have rights under the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons, have a work-related reason for entering Switzerland and can provide an official certificate confirming this;

d. they are transporting goods for commercial purposes and can provide a bill of lading for the goods;

e. they are simply travelling in transit through Switzerland with the intention of going directly to another country that they are permitted to enter;

f. they are in an emergency situation;

g. they are a specialist in the healthcare sector and need to enter Switzerland for important professional reasons.

2 The persons concerned must provide credible evidence that they meet at least one of the above-mentioned requirements. The border control authority concerned shall assess whether an emergency in terms of paragraph 1 letter f applies.

3 Decisions taken by the competent authorities may be enforced immediately. Appeals against these decisions do not have suspensive effect. Article 65 of the Foreign Nationals and Integration Act of 16 December 2005 (FNIA) applies mutatis mutandis.

4 The criminal provisions of Article 115 FNIA apply mutatis mutandis. In the event of any violation of the provision on entry, a ban on entry may also be imposed.

5 Foreign nationals at Schengen internal and external borders at airports may likewise be refused entry, unless at least one of the requirements in paragraph 1 is met. The FDJP in consultation with the FDHA and the FDFA shall decide on the high-risk countries or areas to which this measure applies. Paragraphs 2 and 4 apply mutatis mutandis in such a case.

Art. 4

Restrictions on cross-border passenger transport

1 The FDJP in consultation with the FDHA, the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC), the Federal Department of Finance (FDF) and the FDFA shall decide on restrictions on road, rail, ship and air passenger services from high-risk countries or areas.

13 SR 142.20
2 It may in particular suspend specific forms of passenger transport for certain routes, lines or flights, close individual border crossings, ports or airports to passenger transport from high-risk countries or areas or simply prohibit passenger transport to Switzerland from high-risk countries or areas.

3 Restrictions on cross-border passenger transport are set out in Annex 2.

Art. 4a\(^1\) Granting of visas

The granting of Schengen visas and of national visas and the authorisation to issue visas to person from high-risk countries or areas in accordance with Annex 1 shall be suspended. Exempted from the foregoing are applications from persons in emergency situations or who are specialists in the healthcare sector and need to enter Switzerland for important professional reasons.

Section 3
Measures that apply to the Population, Organisations and Institutions

Art. 5 Schools, higher education institutions and other education and training institutions

1 Events requiring physical presence at schools, higher education institutions and other education and training institutions are prohibited.

2 Examinations that have already been scheduled may be held provided suitable protection measures are taken.

3 The cantons shall ensure that the required childcare services are provided for children who cannot be cared for privately. Persons at high risk may not be involved in providing such services.\(^1\)\(^7\)

4 Children’s nurseries may only be closed if the competent authorities provide alternative suitable childcare services.\(^1\)\(^8\)

Art. 6\(^1\)\(^9\) Events and businesses

1 Public or private events, including sports events and club activities are prohibited.

2 Publicly accessible establishments shall be closed to the public; the foregoing applies in particular to:

   a. shops and markets;

---

\(^1\) Inserted by No I of the O of 18 March 2020, in force since 19 March 2020 (AS 2020 841).
\(^7\) Amended by No I of the O of 16 March 2020, in force since 17 March 2020 (AS 2020 783).
\(^8\) Inserted by No I of the O of 16 March 2020, in force since 17 March 2020 (AS 2020 783).
b. restaurants and cafés;
c. bars, discotheques, night clubs and strip clubs;
d. leisure and entertainment businesses, in particular museums, libraries, cinemas, concert halls, theatres, casinos, sports centres, fitness centres, swimming pools, spas, ski resorts, botanical and zoological gardens and zoos;
e. businesses offering personal services involving physical contact such as hairdressers, massage parlours, tattoo studios and cosmetics studios.

3 Paragraph 2 does not apply to the following establishments and events:

a. food stores and other shops (for example newsagents, petrol station shops), provided they offer foodstuffs and/or everyday household articles;
b. take-away businesses, staff canteens, meal (home) delivery services and restaurants and cafés for hotel guests;
c. pharmacies, drugstores and shops supplying medical aids (e.g. spectacles, hearing aids);
d. post offices and sub-post offices;
e. sales points for telecommunications providers;
f. banks;
g. petrol stations;
h. railway stations and other public transport facilities;
i. workshops for vehicles and other means of transport;
j. public administration offices;
k. social work establishments (e.g. contact points);
l. funerals of close family members;
m. healthcare facilities, such as hospitals, clinics and medical practices, as well as practices and facilities operated by healthcare specialists under federal and cantonal law;
n. hotels.

4 The establishments and events in paragraph 3 must comply with the recommendations issued by the Federal Office of Public Health relating to hygiene and social distancing. The number of persons present must be limited accordingly, and gatherings of people must be prevented.
Art. 6a\(^2\) Company meetings

1 In the case of company meetings, the organiser may, regardless of the probable number of participants and without complying with the period of notice for convening meetings, order the participants to exercise their rights exclusively:
   a. in writing or online; or
   b. through an independent proxy appointed by the organiser.

2 The organiser shall decide within the period specified in Article 12 paragraph 5. Notification of the order must be given in writing or published online no later than four days before the event.

Art. 7\(^2\) Exceptions

The competent cantonal authority may authorise exceptions to the bans under Articles 5 and 6 if:

a. overriding public interests so require, for example for education and training institutions and in the case of supply or service provision problems; and

b. the education and training institution, the organiser or the establishment manager submits a protection plan that includes the following preventive measures:
   1. measures to exclude persons who are or who feel ill,
   2. measures to protect persons at high risk,
   3. measures to inform the persons present about general protection measures such as hand hygiene, social distancing and hygiene for persons with coughs and colds,
   4. adapting the layout of rooms so that the rules on hygiene may be complied with.

Art. 7a\(^2\) Providing the population with food

1 Postal service providers as defined in Article 1 letter a of the Postal Service Ordinance of 29 August 2012\(^2\) are permitted to deliver to the population on each day of the week and in all parts of the country foodstuffs and articles for daily needs that have been ordered online.

2 Special authorisation from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) for working on Sundays and an exemption from the prohibition of Sunday driving for related deliveries are not required, provided the postal service provider is registered with the Federal Postal Services Commission.
Pursuant to Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Road Traffic Act of 19 December, postal service providers making deliveries in terms of paragraph 1 are also exempted from the requirement to comply with driving prohibitions and other traffic restrictions, in particular in town centres and pedestrian zones.

**Art. 7b** Universal provision of services by SwissPost

The Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) may in response to a justified request from Swiss Post authorise the temporary restriction or temporary selective suspension of local, regional or supra-regional services that form part of universal postal services and universal payment transaction services in accordance with the Postal Services Act. Goods transport and payment transactions in accordance with the Postal Services Act must be maintained if at all possible.

**Art. 7c** Ban on gatherings of people in public areas

1. Gatherings of more than five persons in public areas, in particular in public places, on footpaths or in parks are prohibited.

2. In the case of gatherings of up to five persons, each person must keep a distance of at least two metres from the others.

3. The police and enforcement bodies authorised by the cantons shall ensure compliance with the requirements that apply in public areas.

**Art. 7d** Preventive measures on construction sites and in industry

1. Employers in the main and ancillary construction industry and in other industries are required to comply with the recommendations issued by the Federal Office of Public Health relating to hygiene and social distancing. In particular the number of persons present on construction sites or in businesses must be limited accordingly, the organisation of construction sites and businesses must be adapted and gatherings of more than five persons in break rooms and canteens must be prevented.


3. The competent cantonal authorities may close individual businesses or construction sites in the event of any failure to comply with the obligations under paragraph 1.

---

24 SR 741.01
28 SR 822.11
29 SR 832.20
Art. 8 Controls by law enforcement agencies and obligations to cooperate
1 The competent cantonal authorities may carry out controls of establishments and venues at any time without prior notice.
2 The establishment managers and organisers must grant the competent cantonal authorities access to the premises and venues.
3 Orders issued by the competent cantonal authorities when carrying out on-site controls must be implemented immediately.

Art. 9 Enforcement
The cantons shall monitor compliance on their territory with the measures set out in Articles 5 and 6.

Section 4 Healthcare Provision

Art. 10 Duty to report
The cantons are required to report the following information regularly to the Coordinated Medical Services:

a. the total number and occupancy of hospital beds;
b. the total number and occupancy of hospital beds that are available for treating cases of COVID-19;
c. the total number and occupancy of hospital beds in intensive care;
d. the total number and availability of devices for extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO);
e. quantities of personal protective equipment, in particular face masks, surgical masks, gloves, aprons and protective eyewear;
f. details on the availability of medical and nursing staff in hospitals;
g. maximum capacity, i.e. the total number of all patients and the total number of COVID-19 patients that can be treated by their hospitals given the numbers of beds and staff available.

Art. 10a Obligations of healthcare facilities
1 The cantons may require private hospitals and clinics to make their capacities available for the admission of patients.

2 Healthcare facilities under Article 6 paragraph 3 letter m, in particular hospitals and clinics, medical practices and dental practices are prohibited from carrying out non-urgent medical examinations, treatment and therapies (medical procedures).33

3 Non-urgent medical procedures are, in particular, procedures that:
   a. may be carried out at a later time, unless the person concerned may be expected to suffer disadvantages that go beyond minor physical and psychological complaints; or
   b. serve predominantly or solely aesthetic purposes, or bring increased performance or well-being.34

4 Healthcare facilities may carry out statutory medical procedures that are required for reasons of workplace safety on persons who work or may be required to work in particular in the provision of healthcare, in civil protection and civil defence, or for authorities and organisations that provide emergency services or that are responsible for public safety, security and order.35

5 In hospital departments that experience a substantial increase in work as a result of COVID-19, the application of the provisions of the Employment Act of 13 March 196436 relating to working hours and rest periods shall be suspended for as long as the exceptional situation requires. Employers however remain responsible for protecting the health of their employees and must in particular ensure that they are given sufficient rest periods.37

Section 538  Persons at High Risk

Art. 10b  Principle

1 Persons at high risk should remain at home and avoid gatherings of people.

2 Persons at high risk are persons aged 65 and over and persons suffering from any of the following diseases in particular: high blood pressure, diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, diseases and treatments that weaken the immune system, cancer.

36 SR 822.11
**Art. 10c** Employers’ obligations

1 Employers shall make it possible for employees who are at high risk to carry out their work from home. They shall take the required organisational and technical measures to achieve this.

2 If work activities can only be carried out at the customary place of work because of the nature of the activity or the absence of feasible measures, employers are obliged to take appropriate organisational and technical measures to ensure compliance with the federal recommendations on hygiene and social distancing.

3 If it is not possible for employees at high risk under Article 10b paragraph 2 to carry out their work within the framework of paragraphs 1 and 2, their employer shall grant them leave and continue to pay their salaries.

4 Employees shall give notice that they are at high risk by making a personal declaration. The employer may request a medical certificate.

**Section 6** Export Controls

**Art. 10d** Export licence

1 A licence from SECO is required for the export from Swiss customs territory of the protective equipment listed in Annex 3.

2 Paragraph 1 does not apply to the export of protective equipment:
   a. provided reciprocity is guaranteed, to EU member states, the overseas countries and territories listed in Annex II of the Treaty of 13 December 2007 on the Functioning of the European Union (Consolidated Version), Norway, Iceland, the United Kingdom, the Faroe Islands, Andorra, San Marino and the Vatican City;
   b. by medical, disaster relief and civil protection personnel in order to carry out their professional duties or to provide first aid;
   c. by other persons for their own personal use;
   d. as equipment for providing first aid or for other emergency uses in buses, trains, aircraft or ships on international transport services;
   e. to supply:
      1. Swiss foreign representations, foreign missions and deployments for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex,
      2. Swiss public institutions abroad,
      3. members of the Swiss armed forces deployed abroad,

---

4. Swiss members of international police missions or civilian international peace-keeping missions.

**Art. 10e** Procedure and decision

1 The application must be submitted via the ELIC electronic licensing system operated by SECO.

2 SECO shall decide within five working days of receipt of the duly completed application. If particularly complex clarifications are required, this deadline may be extended by a further five working days.

3 SECO notifies the applicant of the decision in electronic form.

4 A licence shall be granted provided there is sufficient protective equipment for healthcare facilities, other medical personnel, patients, civil protection and civil defence and for rescue and security authorities and organisations in Switzerland.

5 Before making its decision, SECO shall consult the Federal Office for National Economic Supply, the Federal Office of Public Health, the Federal Office for Civil Protection and the Coordinated Medical Services. The Coordinated Medical Services shall in particular declare the quantities of protective equipment reported by the cantons in compliance with the duty to report under Article 10.

6 SECO may consult foreign authorities, provide them with relevant information and take account of information they have provided when reaching its decision.

7 The decision whether to grant a licence shall be based on all relevant considerations, including where applicable the question of whether the export will support:
   a. states or international organisations that have made a request to Switzerland;
   b. aid organisations abroad that are protected under the Geneva Convention on Refugees;
   c. the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) of the World Health Organization (WHO).

**Section 7** Criminal Provisions

**Art. 10f**

1 Unless a more serious offence under the Criminal Code has been committed, any person who wilfully fails to comply with any measures under Article 6 is liable to a custodial sentence not exceeding three years or to a monetary penalty.

---

42 Convention of 28 July 1951 relating to the Status of Refugees (SR 0.142.30)
45 Originally Art. 10d.
46 SR 311.0
2 A fine shall be imposed on any person who:
   a. violates the ban on gatherings of people in public areas under Article 7c;
   b. exports protective equipment for which a licence is required under Article 10d paragraph 1 without holding such a licence.47

3 Where the ban on gatherings of people in public areas under Article 7c is violated, a fixed penalty of 100 francs may be imposed pursuant to the procedure under the Fixed Penalties Act of 18 March 201648,49

Section 8 Final Provisions50

Art. 11 Repeal of another enactment
The Ordinance of 28 February 202051 on Measures to Combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is repealed.

Art. 12 Commencement and duration
1 Subject to paragraph 2, this Ordinance comes into force on 13 March 2020 at 15.30.

2 Article 5 comes into force on 16 March 2020 at 06.00.

3 Subject the following provisions, this Ordinance applies for as long as necessary, but for a maximum of 6 months from its commencement. The Federal Council shall repeal this Ordinance in part or in its entirety as soon as the measures are no longer necessary.52

4 Article 4a applies until 15 June 2020.53

5 ...

6 The measures under Articles 5–9 apply until 19 April 2020.55

48 SR 314.1
51 [AS 2020 573]
52 Amended by No I of the O of 18 March 2020, in force since 19 March 2020 (AS 2020 841).
54 Repealed by No I of the O of 16 March 2020, with effect from 17 March 2020 (AS 2020 783).
Annex 1\textsuperscript{56}
(Art. 2 para. 2)

List of high-risk countries and areas

All Schengen states (with the exception of the Principality of Liechtenstein), in each case including civil aviation from such States)
All other states (civil aviation from such States)

Restrictions on cross-border passenger transport

The following applies to flights from abroad:

1. Flights carrying passengers from abroad shall be directed to the national airports at Zurich-Kloten, Geneva-Cointrin and Basel-Mulhouse.
2. Passenger flights from abroad to other Swiss customs aerodromes are suspended.
3. Cargo and work flights, flights for maintenance purposes and air-ambulance flights are not regarded as passenger flights.

\textsuperscript{57} Inserted by No II para. 2 of the O of 18 March 2020, in force since 19 March 2020 (AS 2020 841).
Protective equipment

The equipment listed in this Annex corresponds to the provisions the PSA Ordinance of 25 October 2017\(^{59}\).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Customs tariff no</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protective eyewear and visors</td>
<td>– Protection against potentially infectious material</td>
<td>ex 3926.9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Covering the eyes and surrounding areas</td>
<td>ex 9004.9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Compatible with different models of filtering facepiece FFP masks and facial masks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Transparent lens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Reusable (may be cleaned and disinfected) and single-use items</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face shields</td>
<td>– Equipment to protect the facial area and associated mucous membranes (e.g. eyes, nose, mouth) against potentially infectious material</td>
<td>ex 3926.9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Includes a visor of transparent material</td>
<td>ex 9020.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Usually includes fixations to secure over the face (e.g. bands, temples)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Can include mouth-nose protection equipment as described below</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Reusable (can be cleaned and disinfected) and single-use items</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


\(^{59}\) SR 930.115
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>SITC chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mouth-nose protection equipment     | - Masks to protect the wearer against potentially infectious material and to protect the environment against potentially infectious material spread by the wearer  
- Can include a face shield as described above  
- With or without a replaceable filter | ex 4818.9000  
ex 6307.9099  
ex 9020.0000 |
| Protective garments                 | - Garments (e.g. gowns, suits) to protect the wearer against potentially infectious material and to protect the environment against potentially infectious material spread by the wearer | ex 3926.2090  
ex 4015.9000  
ex 4818.5000  
ex 6113.0000  
ex 6114  
ex 6210.1000  
ex 6210.2000  
ex 6210.30  
ex 6210.4000  
ex 6210.50  
ex 6211.3200  
ex 6211.3300  
ex 6211.3910  
ex 6211.3990  
ex 6211.4210  
ex 6211.4290  
ex 6211.4300  
ex 6211.4910  
ex 6211.4920  
ex 6211.4990  
ex 9020.0000 |
| Gloves | Gloves to protect the wearer against potentially infectious material and to protect the environment against potentially infectious material spread by the wearer | ex 3926.2010  
4015.1100  
ex 4015.1900  
ex 6116.1000  
ex 6216.0010  
ex 6216.0090 |