Mandatory quarantine: list of countries and areas

The countries and areas with a high risk of infection are set down in the Covid-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures. This list is regularly updated.

No longer on the list from 14 September 2020: Ecuador, Faroe Islands, Guatemala, South Africa.

The newly added countries and areas are written in bold.

Information regarding Spain: the Canary Islands will be included on the list from 14 September, meaning that the whole of Spain is now on the list.

List valid upon arriving in Switzerland from 14.9.2020

List of countries and areas with a high risk of infection

Remarks from the International Road Transport Union

As of 27 June, Swiss public transport has returned to standard timetables, with the recommendation for passengers to wear face masks at peak times.

On 15 June, borders with EU countries, Iceland, Norway, Lichtenstein and the UK were opened, and the fines imposed on people doing cross-border shopping lifted. Travel between Switzerland and a country that is not part of the Schengen Area is still not allowed. Provided they can prove their status with official documentation, the following categories are exempted from the provision:

• Swiss citizens.
• Holders of a travel document (e.g. a passport or identity card) and
  • a residence permit, i.e. a Swiss residence permit (L / B / C / Ci permits)
  • a cross-border permit (G permit; only for work-related purposes)
  • an FDFA legitimation card
  • a D visa issued by Switzerland
  • a C visa issued by Switzerland after 16 March 2020 in a valid exceptional case
  • a C visa issued by Switzerland in order to work on a short-term contract
  • an assurance of a residence permit from a cantonal migration authority or an entry permit with a visa issued by Switzerland (an employment contract is not sufficient to cross the Swiss border. Persons with an assurance of a residence permit may enter Switzerland at the earliest three days before the date on which assurance becomes valid).
• Holders of a refugee’s travel document issued by Switzerland and a valid residence or permanent residence permit or a valid F permit.
• Individuals who have rights of free movement.
• People transiting through Switzerland to another country that they can enter.
• People in a situation of special necessity. The border control authority will assess the necessity of such situation.
• Specialists in the healthcare sector who need to enter Switzerland for important work-related reasons and who hold a confirmation of notification, an assurance of a residence permit or an entry permit with a visa issued by Switzerland.

As of 15 June, all border crossing points are open; both private and commercial transport is allowed. Goods drivers are allowed to operate to, from and through Switzerland if they have a bill of lading.

More information can be found here.

Source: Swiss government

On 1 April, the Swiss Federal Department of Justice notified the extension of border controls until 24 April. The prolongation involves borders with all Schengen states except land and air borders with France, Italy, Spain, Austria and Germany, which have been prolonged separately. Borders with the Principality of Liechtenstein are also exempted from the provision.

Therefore the current duration of border controls is as follows:
List of areas of neighbouring countries with a high risk of infection

Areas in France:

- Region Centre-Val de Loire
- Region Corse
- Region Hauts-de-France
- Region Île de France
- Region Normandie
- Region Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- Region Occitanie
- Region Pays de la Loire
- Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
- Overseas area French Guiana
- Overseas area Guadeloupe
- Overseas area French Polynesia
- Overseas area La Réunion
- Overseas area Martinique
- Overseas area Mayotte
- Overseas areas Saint-Barthélemy
- Overseas area Saint-Martin

Areas in Austria:

- All air borders except from air borders with Liechtenstein: 25 March 2020 – 24 April 2020
- Air borders with Spain, Italy, France, Germany and Austria: 18 March 2020 – 17 April 2020
- Land borders with France, Germany and Austria: 16 March – 15 April 2020
- Land border with Italy: 13 March – 12 April 2020

Source: Swiss Federal Department of Justice and European Commission

28.03.2020

Entry by road on the Swiss territory from Italy, France, Germany, and Austria is limited to Swiss citizens, Swiss residents and people entering for professional reasons. Only major border crossings are open for movements of persons.

International freight transport is not affected by these measures, and all border crossing points are open for freight movements. Green lanes are also in place at some border crossings for import, export and transit of medical products, foodstuff, fuel supplies, and post. List of border crossings equipped with green lanes for freight transport is available here.

Sources: ASTAG and Federal Customs Administration
At its meeting on 11 September, the Federal Council decided on the quarantine rules for persons entering Switzerland from neighbouring countries: only those regions of neighbouring countries where the infection rate is over the limit will be added to the list of countries and areas with an increased rate of infection, not the entire country. Border regions may be exempted from inclusion on the list. In so doing, the Federal Council is responding to the rapid rise in infection numbers, while still taking account of the close interaction between Switzerland and neighbouring regions. The revised ordinance will come into force on 14 September. At the same time, the list of risk areas will be updated.

Since 6 July, anyone entering Switzerland from a country or area with a high risk of infection has been required to go into quarantine for ten days. This Federal Council measure aims to prevent the import of the coronavirus into Switzerland and its spread within the country as far as possible. The Federal Council is now taking a region-based approach to neighbouring countries. Only specific regions of neighbouring countries will be included in the list of countries and areas with an increased risk of infection, in line with the practice in various other countries.

Exemptions for border regions
The border regions of neighbouring countries may be exempted from inclusion on the list. By allowing this exception, the Federal Council is taking account of the close economic, social and cultural exchanges that take place in the border regions. At the same time, the Federal Council is responding to the increasing numbers of infections in Switzerland and in various neighbouring countries, particularly in France.

Since June, the number of new infections in Switzerland has been rising steadily. While 98 cases were reported in the first week of June, at the end of August the figure was 1844, i.e. 18-times higher. In France, the number of cases is increasing even more rapidly and the number of new infections over two weeks in almost all regions of France is considerably higher than the limit value of 60 per 100,000 persons (14-day incidence). In certain Austrian states, a rise in cases in excess of the threshold has also been recorded, as it has in several Swiss cantons.

Taking a regional approach means that persons returning to Switzerland from risk areas will be required to go into quarantine, but not persons returning from regions on the Swiss border. In implementing this measure, the Federal Council is continuing to rely on members of the public to act responsibly. They should avoid travelling to risk areas if at all possible, or spend time in quarantine if they have travelled to these regions. Cross-border commuters are already exempted from the quarantine requirement.

The majority of cantons have expressed their support for this approach. However, some cantons are concerned that the new exemptions for the border regions will lead to increased costs and may lead to lower levels of compliance with the quarantine rules.

Exemptions from the quarantine requirement
Under the new rules, creative artists returning from a cultural event, athletes returning from competitions and persons who have been attending professional conferences will be exempted from the quarantine requirement. However, this exemption only applies if precautionary measures have been planned and taken at the foreign event concerned.

Also exempted from the quarantine requirement are persons who are required to travel without delay to a risk area for professional or medical reasons. The persons concerned must not remain abroad for more than five days, and precautionary measures must be planned and taken.
In addition, the Federal Council has revised the calculation rules for quarantine in the COVID-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures. This will allow the cantons to take account of time spent in a country where there is not a high risk of infection before entering Switzerland, and to reduce the length of time spent in quarantine in Switzerland accordingly.

Coronavirus tests: Federal government reduces tariffs
At its meeting, the Federal Council also decided to reduce the tariff for a molecular-biological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 (PCR test) from CHF 95 to CHF 82 and that for a serological analysis (antibody test) from CHF 39 to CHF 25. It has also specified the details of various procedures.

Further information: Ordonnance sur les mesures destinées à lutter contre le coronavirus dans le domaine du transport international de voyageurs (PDF, 399 kB)

07.09.2020

Mandatory quarantine: updated list of countries and areas

No longer on the list since 7 September 2020: Belgium, El Salvador, Eswatini (Swaziland), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Oman.

The newly added countries and areas are written in bold.

List valid upon arriving in Switzerland from 7.9.2020

Important: a negative test result does not exempt you from the mandatory quarantine requirement or shorten the quarantine period. This is because a negative test result does not rule out an infection with the new coronavirus. You will find the biological explanation for this on the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page.

The mandatory quarantine requirement does not apply to transit passengers who have spent less than 24 hours in a country or area with an increased risk of infection. Further exceptions are set down in Article 4 of the Covid-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures.

Anyone who fails to comply with the quarantine requirement or the duty to report to the authorities is committing an offence under the Epidemics Act (in German), which can be punished by a fine of up to CHF 10,000.

18.08.2020

Mandatory quarantine: updated list of countries and areas

The countries and areas with a high risk of infection are set down in the Covid-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures. This list is regularly updated.

Removed from the list on 20 August 2020: Equatorial Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Singapore

The newly added countries and areas are written in bold.

List valid upon arriving in Switzerland from 20 August 2020

List valid upon arriving in Switzerland between 8 August 2020 and 19 August 2020
14.08.2020

**Travelling to Switzerland**
Travelling from EU/EAA countries, including the United Kingdom, is in principle allowed.

All travellers entering Switzerland from countries or regions that are defined as Covid risk areas will have to quarantine for 10 days. The Federal Office of Public Health keeps a list of countries concerned, which is updated regularly.

As of 8.8.20, **Luxembourg, Romania and Spain (with the exception of the Balearic and Canary Islands)** are defined as Covid risk areas.

**Travelling from Switzerland or returning to Switzerland**
From the beginning of the pandemic, the Swiss Government has been advising against non-urgent travel abroad. This advice has gradually been lifted for a selection of countries.

Currently, the following countries are exempt from the general advice against non-urgent travel abroad: countries in the Schengen area, United Kingdom, Andorra, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Ireland, Japan, Morocco, Monaco, New Zealand, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, Vatican/Holy See.

If you re-enter Switzerland having at any point in the past 14 days spent time in a state or area defined as a Covid risk area, you must immediately go to your home or to other suitable accommodation, where you must stay for 10 days from the day of your arrival. Also, you have to report your arrival to the responsible cantonal authority within two days, and follow its instructions. The list of countries and territories with increased covid-infection risks is defined and regularly updated in a Federal Act.

Following the EU council recommendations, entry restrictions are lifted for a selection of third countries. It currently concerns: Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, and Uruguay, and the EU states outside the Schengen area (Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Romania, and Cyprus). China is also expected to be removed from the list in line with the EU recommendations, provided it guarantees reciprocal rights of entry to people travelling from Switzerland.

An updated list of States and areas with an increased risk of infection is available at www.bag.admin.ch
Rules and Exceptions
Entry restrictions have been lifted for residents of EU/EEA countries (including UK), as well as for their family members (irrespective of their nationality). Travellers that are required to go into quarantine will be notified during the flight, on board of coaches and at border crossings. They will have to register with the cantonal authorities within two days after arrival, and follow their instructions. Airline and travel companies will be instructed not to transport sick passengers. For updated information, also see the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) FAQs

Links to national sources

www.bag.admin.ch

Source: Driving abroad

### Switzerland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Land</th>
<th>Aviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Borders with Schengen states are open again.</td>
<td>• Measures concerning road transport (decision of 24 April 2020)</td>
<td>• Restriction on international flights to enter Switzerland only via Zürich, Geneva and Basel airport has been lifted.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Full free movement of persons with EU/EFTA States and the UK (Press release)</td>
<td>• Rail: international passenger traffic is gradually returning to normal operation (FR, DE, AT: from mid May; IT: regional traffic from mid June, long distance from 29 June) (Press release)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Travel ban to Switzerland: For third-country (non-Schengen) nationals who do not have rights of free movement, entry restrictions continue to apply.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Granting of Schengen and national visas is suspended (exception: emergency situations and healthcare specialists).</td>
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<td>• Green Lanes were used to transport priority goods as well as by persons working in health care or emergency services.</td>
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<td>• All border crossings are open again.</td>
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<td>• Ordonnaunce 3 du 19 juin 2020 sur les mesures destinées à lutter contre le coronavirus (COVID-19)</td>
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Travel ban to Switzerland from Italy, Germany, France and Austria

End date: not available

Further information: https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/de/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pa...