



FAQ - Quarantine

Date:

11 September 2020

1. Border regions are not affected by quarantine. But how are these regions defined?

In France and Italy, the border regions are those regions (administrative entities) that share a border with Switzerland. For France these regions are Grand-Est, Bourgogne / Franche Comté, Auvergne / Rhône-Alpes. For Italy, the regions are Piemonte / Valle d'Aosta, Lombardia, Trentino / Alto-Adige. In Austria and Germany, the border regions cover the federal states (Länder) that border on Switzerland. All these regions are characterised by close economic, social and cultural ties with Switzerland.

2. Is it permitted to travel to a neighbouring country to go shopping, visit relatives or attend a doctor's appointment without being subject to quarantine?

People who, for professional or medical reasons, undertake essential travel that cannot be postponed to a country or region with an increased risk of infection do not have to go into quarantine.

The prerequisite for this is that the stay abroad does not exceed five days and that precautionary measures are drawn up and implemented. All trips to border regions are excluded from this requirement, even if there is a high risk of infection in these regions.

Shopping tourism in regions with a high risk of infection outside the border regions entails a 10-day period of mandatory quarantine.

3. What happens if the infection figures in a border region exceed the critical threshold of 60 cases per 100,000 inhabitants? Will cross-border commuters have to go into quarantine? Are there any exceptions?

Cross-border commuters are already exempted from the quarantine requirement at present (Art. 4 para. 1 letter d COVID-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures).

4. In some countries, the quarantine period is limited to five days. What is the risk of developing symptoms of infection after five days of quarantine?

No reliable data is available on this so far. The Science Taskforce is not currently recommending any change to the quarantine period of ten days. Quarantine measures are thus being implemented differently in a large number of countries on account of the unclear data situation. A quarantine period of 14 days is frequently the rule.

5. Does the Federal Council recommend not travelling to regions of France that are included on the list of countries subject to quarantine?

The Federal Council is continuing to rely on people's assumption of personal responsibility for implementing the requirements. Whenever possible, they should avoid travelling to high-risk areas or should go into quarantine when returning from such areas.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health FOPH, Communication, www.bag.admin.ch

6. Are there any exceptions to the requirement to quarantine?

Persons working in the cultural sector are now also exempted from the quarantine requirement following a cultural event, as are sportspersons following a competition and participants at professional conferences. A prerequisite for this is that specific precautionary measures must have been drawn up and implemented for the event in question abroad.

Also exempted from the obligation to quarantine are persons who, for professional or medical reasons, have to undertake essential travel to a high-risk region that cannot be postponed. The prerequisite for this is that the stay abroad does not exceed five days and that precautionary measures are drawn up and implemented.