



FAQs - Measures

Date: 28 October 2020

Masks

1. Where must a mask be worn outdoors?

Masks must be worn in indoor and outdoor areas of establishments and businesses such as shops, zoos, theatres, cinemas, concert and event venues, restaurants, bars and markets. People can take off their masks in restaurants and bars if they are consuming food or drink at the table.

Outdoors, masks must be worn in busy pedestrian areas of town and village centres. Masks must also be worn outdoors as soon as there is a gathering of people where it is not possible to keep the required distance (for example busy streets, squares and parks).

2. Who has to wear a mask in schools?

Federal law stipulates that teachers and students in upper secondary schools (high schools and vocational schools) must wear a mask. Exceptions are granted for situations where wearing a mask makes teaching significantly more difficult. Classroom teaching is forbidden at tertiary education establishments (universities).

Compulsory schools remain the responsibility of the cantons and are thus subject to the cantons' rules.

3. When must guests in restaurants and bars wear a mask?

Guests in restaurants and bars may only take off their mask when sitting at the table. If a guest is on their way to the table or place of consumption or, for example, uses the sanitary facilities, they must wear a mask. Kitchen staff must now wear a mask unless only one person is working in the kitchen.

4. Who is still exempt from the mask-wearing requirement?

Children before their 12th birthday; people who can prove that they cannot wear a face mask for specific reasons, in particular medical reasons; caregivers at supplementary childcare facilities if wearing a face mask makes it significantly more difficult for them to look after the children; people who are receiving a medical or cosmetic treatment to their face; and people who are performing. Sportspeople and artists are subject to specific rules on the wearing of masks in sports, culture and the arts.

The requirement to wear a face mask now also applies to employees and other personnel working in publicly accessible indoor and outdoor areas of an establishment or business and who until now have

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had special precautionary measures in place such as large plastic or glass screens (for example staff at cash registers).

Restaurants and bars

5. What restrictions apply to restaurants and bars?

Guests must eat and drink sitting down, regardless of whether they are in interior rooms or outdoor guest areas (e.g. terraces and street areas). There is a curfew from 11pm until 6am during which bars and restaurants must stay closed.

6. How many people can now sit together at a table? Are there exceptions?

Four people may sit at one table. The exceptions are families with their children and canteens at compulsory schools.

7. Is dancing still permitted?

Dance events (for example where the audience or guests dance) are banned, as is the operation of discos and dance venues.

Events

8. How many people can take part in events?

Many infections occur at events in a private setting. Despite precautionary measures, infections can also occur at public events. For this reason a maximum of 50 people may attend events at public establishments. This does not include people involved on the basis of their work (staff of the event venue, but also sportspeople at competitions and artists at performances) and people helping to run the event.

Masks must always be worn in publicly accessible indoor spaces and outdoor areas of establishments and businesses. Where people are seated in rows, for example in theatres and cinemas, every second seat must be left unoccupied. Markets and fairs in enclosed spaces are prohibited.

Private events with family or friends in private rooms or locations are limited to 10 participants. In addition to family celebrations, this includes parties in shared flats or on other private premises organised via invitations or social networks. However, the requirement to formulate and implement a set of precautionary measures does not apply. Article 3 concerning the FOPH's recommendations on hygiene and distancing in the Covid-19 epidemic applies.

9. What is meant by public establishments?

This term covers the following in particular: sales outlets (such as shops, shopping centres and fair/exhibition centres), service businesses (such as public areas in banks and post offices, travel agents, cycle workshops and repair services), cultural establishments (such as museums, libraries, cinemas, theatres and concert venues, indoor spaces at zoos, animal parks and botanical gardens), bars, restaurants, nightclubs and places of amusement such as casinos and gaming halls, sports facilities and establishments (e.g. entrance areas and changing rooms of swimming pools, sports facilities and gyms, and stands in sports halls), hotels and lodging establishments, with the exception of individual guest rooms, healthcare facilities such as medical practices and publicly accessible areas of care homes and hospitals, churches and other religious establishments, social facilities, advisory centres, and neighbourhood and youth centres.

It does not matter whether there is a charge for admission, for example to a cultural institution, or whether access is restricted in some other way (for members or season ticket holders only).

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10. What are the rules for parliaments, municipal assemblies and demonstrations?

Parliaments can continue to hold meetings, without any restriction on the number of participants, subject to precautionary measures. Municipal assemblies and demonstrations can be held with the relevant precautionary measures.

11. Can religious events still be held?

Services and other religious events, and funerals, can be held, but with no more than 50 participants.

Sports

12. What sports can I still do and where?

- No restrictions apply to sporting activities for children and young people below age 16. However, competitions may not be held.
- The following applies for people age 16 and over
People can do sports individually and in groups of up to 15 in indoor areas provided masks are worn *and* the requisite distance is maintained. This means that indoor activities such as apparatus gymnastics, yoga, Zumba and training in fitness centres may in some cases be possible. Masks need not be worn in large rooms if additional distancing rules and restrictions on capacity apply and ventilation is assured (e.g. tennis).
- Outdoor sports are allowed if face masks are worn *or* the requisite distance is maintained. This includes activities such as outdoor ice skating. Jogging, ski and snowshoe touring, cross-country running, etc., individually or in groups, are possible any time if the requisite distance is maintained or face masks are worn.

Not permitted are sports involving physical contact (e.g. football, hockey, basketball, martial arts and competitive dancing). Individual training or technique training without physical contact is allowed.

Specific rules apply to professional sport. There are only restrictions on the size of groups at training sessions (group of up to 15 people or as permanent teams that compete). Professional teams can play matches including staff, the media and TV broadcasting, but before a maximum of 50 spectators.

13. Will swimming pools and fitness centres remain open?

Yes, subject to the following rules and restrictions. In fitness centres masks must be worn and the requisite distance must be maintained. Masks need not be worn in large rooms if additional distancing rules and restrictions on capacity apply and ventilation is assured. Subject to these requirements, water sports are also permitted as long as additional distancing rules and capacity restrictions apply (more than 15m² of space per person, or 4m² for sports not involving a lot of movement. Here too these requirements must be implemented in a set of precautionary measures.

Culture and the arts:

14. What cultural activities can take place?

Activities in culture and the arts are only permitted subject to compliance with specific requirements.

- The following are permitted on a non-professional basis:
 - All activities for children and young people below age 16. This also applies, for example, to children's instrumental classes at music schools.
 - Individuals age 16 and over practising or rehearsing (e.g. making music in rehearsal rooms).

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- Performances by individuals and rehearsals and performances in groups of up to 15 people age 16 or over provided masks are worn and the requisite distance is maintained. This largely permits the teaching of music in individual and group lessons. Masks need not be worn in large rooms if additional distancing rules and restrictions on capacity apply. This, for example, allows rehearsals by bands with wind instruments and teaching with wind instruments.
- On a professional basis:
 - rehearsals and performances by artists or ensembles. At performances the maximum of 50 guests permitted at events must be observed.

The sports facilities and cultural establishments in which these activities take place must have a set of precautionary measures in place (e.g. restrictions on the use of changing rooms). Clubs must also have specific precautionary measures in place. The only exceptions to the requirement for precautionary measures are activities involving up to 4 people on a non-professional basis.

15. Are there exceptions for choirs?

Yes. When people are singing they produce particularly large volumes of aerosols and droplets, resulting in a greater risk of infection. For this reason, amateur choirs are not permitted to rehearse or perform. This applies, for example, to church choirs and yodelling groups. On the professional side, concerts involving choirs are not permitted. Rehearsals for professional choirs and performances with singers are permitted provided that the precautionary measures include specific protective safeguards.

Duration of measures

16. Until when do these measures apply?

The measures apply from 29 October 2020, with the exception of the provision on remote learning at universities, which enters into force on 2 November. An end date has not been set. The Federal Council will evaluate the measures on a regular basis. An easing of these measures would be conceivable if there were a clear reversal in the epidemiological trend, with a significant decline in new daily infections, hospitalisation and intensive care occupation. The cantons must also be able to carry out full contact tracing again. It is also important to avoid a yo-yo effect.

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