



FAQs - Quarantine

Date: 27 January 2021

Quarantine arrangements for contacts, and regulations relating to quarantine and testing for people entering Switzerland

1. Why was a travel quarantine imposed in the summer?

In summer 2020, there were repeated local surges in case numbers after people infected with coronavirus entered the country. When the number of cases in a country is low, it is important to prevent such imported new infections. That is why the quarantine requirement was introduced for people entering Switzerland from countries and areas with an increased risk of infection as of 6 July 2020.

2. Why has the Federal Council decided to adapt the quarantine rules?

The goal is to be able to shorten the quarantine period when the circumstances allow. Up to now, someone who had been in contact with a person who was infected had to remain in quarantine for 10 days. From now on, the quarantine can be lifted if the person gets a rapid antigen test or a PCR test from the seventh day of quarantine and the result of the test is negative. People will still be required to wear a mask and stay at least 1.5 metres away from others, except inside their apartment or accommodation (e.g. hotel, holiday apartment) for the full term of the quarantine.

3. Does this measure also apply to travellers arriving in Switzerland?

This new rule also applies to travellers entering Switzerland from countries and regions with an increased risk of infection, set out in the Ordinance: [List of countries and areas \(admin.ch\)](#).

These travellers must also prove that they have had a PCR test in the 72 hours preceding their arrival in Switzerland. People arriving in Switzerland from regions not considered high-risk do not need to go into quarantine.

4. Who are considered contacts?

Contacts are people who have been in close contact with someone with a confirmed or suspected coronavirus infection:

- a. while this person was symptomatic: during the 48 hours preceding the onset of symptoms and for 10 days after, or
- b. while this person was asymptomatic: during the 48 hours preceding the test until they started isolating.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication and Media Section, www.bag.admin.ch
This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

5. Does the mandatory quarantine for at least seven days also apply to children?

Yes. This new rule also applies to children.

6. Are people at especially high risk still advised to quarantine for 10 days?

People at especially high risk who have a negative test on the seventh day after the last contact can also come out of quarantine. However – like for people who are not considered high-risk – they are still required to wear a mask and stay at least 1.5 metres away from others for the full term of the quarantine.

7. Can my canton require me to remain in quarantine following a negative test after seven days of quarantine?

If you have a test from the seventh day of quarantine and the result is negative, there is no apparent reason why the cantonal medical office would not lift the quarantine. However, it is not possible to end the quarantine prematurely without the approval of the competent cantonal authority.

8. I'm in quarantine and would like to get tested after seven days. Do I need to inform the cantonal authorities?

Yes. You need to inform the cantonal medical office if your test is negative and you would like to come out of quarantine.

9. Are there different rules for people arriving in Switzerland by land or by air?

For travellers from countries that are not considered high-risk areas, the same rules apply, regardless of whether a person arrives by air or by land. Travellers entering Switzerland by plane must always present a negative PCR test, even if they are not travelling from a high-risk area. Airlines must ask passengers to present evidence of a negative test before boarding, and if the passenger is unable to present such evidence, they will not be allowed to fly.

10. Do the new testing and quarantine measures also apply to cross-border workers?

No. Cross-border workers are not affected by these measures.

11. What happens if someone does not present evidence of a negative test on arrival in Switzerland?

Anyone unable to present evidence of a negative PCR test on arrival in Switzerland must get themselves tested for SARS-CoV-2 immediately at their own expense by taking a PCR test or a rapid test in consultation with the relevant cantonal authority.

Anyone who is required to present evidence of negative PCR test on arrival, but is unable to do so may face a fixed penalty of CHF 200.

12. The Federal Council also adapted the rules relating to breaches of coronavirus measures. What does this change in concrete terms?

These are mainly minor changes to ensure the rules are enforced as consistently as possible. However, the Federal Council decided to be able to impose fixed penalties on people who take part in gatherings in public places that exceed the permitted number of people. This provision also applied between March and June 2020 during the exceptional situation. Only intentional breaches will be sanctioned.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication and Media Section, www.bag.admin.ch
This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

13. How much are the fixed penalties?

- Breach of the requirement to wear a mask: CHF 100
- Participation in illegal events: CHF 100
- Intentional breach of the ban on gatherings of more than five people: CHF 50
- Breach of the obligation to sit down in bars and restaurants for hotel guests: CHF 100
- Failing to present a molecular biological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 with a negative result on arrival in Switzerland: CHF 200
- Failing to provide contact details or providing false ones on arrival in Switzerland: CHF 100

Further information:

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