



## FAQ: measures

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Date:

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### **Coronavirus: Swiss Federal Council decides on incremental opening. Shops, museums and outdoor sports facilities to open again.**

The number of new infections has continued to fall in the last few weeks. Given the new, more contagious variants of the virus, however, the epidemiological situation remains fragile. After a thorough analysis of the situation and consultation with the cantons, the Federal Council has decided on a cautious, incremental opening. The goal is to create more room again for social and economic life while at the same time preventing a third wave of disease as far as possible.

As a first step, only activities with a low risk of infection will be permitted again. From 1 March shops, museums and library reading rooms will be able to reopen, along with outdoor areas of zoos, botanical gardens, sport and leisure facilities. It will again be permitted to hold outdoor events with up to 15 people. In addition, young people under age 20 (born in or after 2001) will again be able to engage in sporting and cultural activities.

Other nationwide measures resolved on 18 December 2020 and 13 January 2021 will be extended by one month until 22 of March 2021.

#### Shops and shopping centres

##### **1. From 1 March shops can open again. Are there any exceptions?**

All shops, including those selling goods that are not day-to-day-necessities, may open. However, restrictions on capacity and a compulsory mask-wearing requirement apply to all shops and shopping centres. The number of people permitted to be in a shopping centre at the same time is limited to the total of the maximum numbers for each individual shop.

#### Museums and libraries

##### **2. I am a student. Can I use the university library again?**

The reading rooms of university libraries and archives may open again. Masks must also be worn at the tables in the reading room. In addition, only a limited number of people are allowed at the same time.

##### **3. Is it permitted to hold a vernissage or small reception for the opening of a new museum exhibition?**

No. Museums can reopen from 1 March. But events, including vernissages, are not permitted.

#### **Further information:**

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication, [www.bag.admin.ch](http://www.bag.admin.ch)  
This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

#### **4. Are guided tours allowed in museums?**

Guided tours of museums count as events and are not allowed.

#### Zoos, leisure facilities and sports

#### **5. The outdoor areas of a zoo are opening, but why not the monkey house and vivarium?**

In places like this, social distancing is difficult, even if the number of visitors is limited. Not only that, but the risk that infection will spread in indoor spaces is significantly higher than outdoors.

#### **6. Will I be able to buy food and drink at takeaway stalls at the zoo?**

Food stalls are permitted. However, no seats may be provided, as is the case throughout Switzerland.

#### **7. Do I have to wear a mask on the golf course or when playing tennis outdoors?**

If you do sports outdoors you do not have to wear a mask provided the requisite distance can be maintained. Groups doing sports outdoors are limited to a maximum of 15 people. Bodily contact is not permitted; competitions are not permitted either. This applies to all people age 20 and over (born 2000 or earlier). A greater range of sporting and cultural activities is permitted for children and young adults (born 2001 or after).

#### **8. Can we begin outdoor football training again as a club?**

Only in certain cases. Team training in sports clubs is not permitted, or is only permitted in small groups of up to 15 people, and without physical contact; competitions are prohibited. This also applies to informal tournaments.

#### **9. Only the outdoor areas of thermal baths and swimming pools can open. But at our thermal baths you have to swim from the inside to get to the outside. Does that mean they have to remain closed?**

You may get into the pool indoors to get to the outdoor pool. But the rest of the indoor pool area must not be accessible or must be closed off.

#### Private gatherings indoors and outdoors

#### **10. How many people can I invite to my home?**

The number of people who may take part in indoor gatherings among family and friends is still limited to five. This number still includes children.

#### **11. Can ten of us friends get together for a barbecue?**

Now up to 15 people may get together for outdoor gatherings of friends and family. This number includes children.

#### **12. We're planning a small club gathering in the park with a maximum of 15 people. Is that permitted?**

No. Club and community events of this sort are not spontaneous gatherings, which means they do not fall under the special rules for private events (only family and friends); they count as events and are therefore forbidden. This also applies to other recreational organisations such as events held by parishes or neighbourhood associations and other club activities.

#### **Further information:**

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication, [www.bag.admin.ch](http://www.bag.admin.ch)  
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**13. Our annual meeting is coming up. Can we hold it on club premises if we wear masks and do social distancing?**

No. Club gatherings, including annual meetings, count as events, which are still banned. The only exceptions are in specific cases such as religious services (up to a maximum of 50 people), funerals and political meetings. In addition, meetings of established self-help groups related to addiction and mental health will now be permitted from 1 March for up to ten people.

**14. Is a theatre group or carnival banked allowed to rehearse outdoors in the woods?**

Yes. Activities of this sort are permitted for groups of up to 15 people who are social distancing and wearing masks. However, a theatre performance before an audience is not allowed; neither are guided city tours or concerts outdoors – all these things count as (public) events with an audience and are still banned.

**15. Is singing allowed again?**

Yes. Singing, rehearsing and making music is allowed for all children and young people born in or after 2001, but without performances in front of an audience. For adults, singing together on a non-professional basis outside the family is still not permitted.

Children and young adults

**16. What is now permitted for children and young people born in or after 2001?**

Children and young adults before their 16th birthday were already granted a number of privileges, for example sports. They can play football or indoor hockey indoors and outdoors, practise on a climbing wall or rehearse jazz dance without an upper limit on the number of people. From 1 March this leeway will also be granted to young people born in or after 2001. Now competitions may also be held, provided there are no spectators.

**17. What does age 18 mean? Does the date of birth apply?**

The year of birth is decisive. The eased conditions apply for those born in 2001 or later. Anyone born in 2000 counts as an adult. This rule is easier to apply, and is also based on the fact that in sports juniors are usually grouped by year of birth.

**18. Can our basketball club start holding training sessions and junior championships again?**

Yes. Training sessions are permitted for children and young people born in 2001 or later, as are competitions, both indoors and outdoors. This also applies to contact sports such as martial arts. No spectators are allowed at training sessions and competitions; this also means that parents are not permitted to watch football or hockey from the sidelines.

**19. What's the difference compared with the rules that apply to adults?**

Stricter rules apply to adults born in 2000 or earlier. For them sport is only permitted outdoors (with masks or social distancing), and only if there is no physical contact. In other words, sports involving bodily contact (e.g. football, hockey, basketball and contact sports such as martial arts and couples' dance) are not yet allowed. However, individual or technical training without physical contact is allowed outdoors. Added to this, only groups of 15 adults may do sports and train together (with the exception of professional sportspeople).

## **20. Competitive sport for young talent**

There are also eased rules for young people engaged in competitive sports who are not in a national team or squad run by a sports association. Young competitive sportspeople who hold a national or regional talent card from Swiss Olympic may train. Around 8,000 people currently hold a regional card, around half of whom are over 16. The proposed solution thus allows around 4,000 16- to 19-year-olds to continue on the path to elite sport. This increase in the number of people actively doing sport does not pose a threat in epidemiological terms; all training sessions are subject to the precautionary measures set down each sports association.

### Youth clubs and cultural activities for young people

#### **21. Can music bands, youth orchestras and youth choirs rehearse together again?**

Rehearsals and concerts (including those for choirs) are now permitted for those born in 2001 or later. Performances before an audience remain forbidden for the time being for the protection of the audience. However, rehearsals and performances may be videoed and broadcast online.

#### **22. The youth orchestra holds a music camp every spring. Will that be possible in 2021?**

Yes. Camps of this sort are permitted for young people born in 2001 or later. Precautionary measures are required.

#### **23. Can we meet friends at the youth club again?**

Youth clubs can open again. A youth worker??? [oder: a qualified person??] [qualified supervisor??] must be present, and masks must be worn by all children and young people over age 12.

#### **24. Can I hold my birthday party at the youth club?**

No. Parties, discos and concerts are not allowed. Drinks and food may not be served either.

#### **25. What about a barbecue outside down by the lake for a group of friends (aged 14 to 17)?**

Here the same rules apply to everyone: indoors the maximum number of people is five, outdoors the maximum number of people is 15. The eased rules for children and young people up to age 20 only apply to sports, culture and activities such as youth clubs and scouts under the auspices of youth work.

#### **26. Are scouting events allowed?**

Scouting exercises and excursions were already possible. They fall under Youth+Sports. Here too the age threshold is being raised to 20 as of 1 March. (see question 13 above on scouting)

### Homeworking

#### **27. Why is the homeworking requirement still in place?**

Employers are still obligated to order homeworking anywhere where this is possible with reasonable effort on the basis of the type of activity. The goal is to reduce the number of contacts. For the time being this will apply until the end of March.

#### **28. If I have to work from home do I also get compensation for the expenses I incur at home?**

No. Given that this is only a temporary arrangement, employers do not have to reimburse employees for expenses (electricity, a share of rent, etc.). However, employers must take appropriate organisational and technical measures to enable homeworking. These must be possible with reasonable effort.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication, [www.bag.admin.ch](http://www.bag.admin.ch)

This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

**29. If homeworking is not possible for operational reasons, how are employees protected?**

If homeworking is not possible or only partial homeworking is possible, additional measures must be taken at the workplace. As before, for the protection of employees, masks must be worn everywhere in indoor spaces where there is more than one person in the room. Given the high risk of infection, it is no longer sufficient for there to be large distances between workspaces in the same room.