



FAQ Coronavirus: – new package of measures decided by the Federal Council

Date: 17.12.2021

Measures

1) What are the rules that apply to indoor areas of restaurants, cultural, leisure and sporting facilities that are open to the public, and indoor events?

As a rule, the 2G certificate is required, in other words access is only permitted for holders of a COVID certificate that proves full vaccination or recovery from COVID-19.

In addition, to reduce the risk of transmission by vaccinated and recovered people, masks must be worn. In restaurants, people must be seated to eat or drink. The mask can always be removed to eat or drink while seated (e.g. in sports stadiums, cinemas, theatres).

It is always advisable to follow the hygiene measures as closely as possible, such as physical distancing and regular handwashing.

2) Do 3G or 2G also apply in shops?

No, in shops only the mask-wearing requirement applies. It is also advisable to follow the hygiene measures as closely as possible, such as physical distancing and regular handwashing.

3) What rules apply for private events indoors?

If at least one person is attending who is not vaccinated or recovered, gatherings must be limited to ten people. Children under 16 are included in the number of people present. Private gatherings of up to 30 vaccinated or recovered people and children under 16 are still permitted.

4) In what circumstances is it possible not to wear a mask in indoor spaces that are open to the public?

As a rule, mask-wearing is always mandatory indoors.

There are exemptions for certain non-professional sporting and cultural activities where mask-wearing is not possible. This concerns, for example, nightclubs, dance events and bars, and certain activities, such as brass band rehearsals and swimming.

In settings where it is impossible to wear masks or to be seated to eat or drink, the 2G+ rule applies, which means that only people who have a valid vaccination or recovery certificate as well as a test certificate are permitted entry.

5) Is an exemption to the 2G+ rule planned for people who have recently been vaccinated or recovered?

Informations complémentaires

Office fédéral de la santé publique, communication, www.bag.admin.ch

Ce document est également publié en allemand, en italien et en anglais.

People who received their booster vaccination less than 90 days ago and who wish to enter an event or venue where the 2G+ rule applies are exempt from the requirement to show an additional test certificate. The same applies to people who were fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 less than 90 days ago.

6) What are the rules that apply in gyms?

The 2G rule applies, with compulsory mask-wearing. Gym managers can if they wish impose the 2G+ rule. In this case, masks are no longer required.

7) How do I provide evidence of a negative test for the 2G+ rule to enter an indoor area?

With a test certificate

8) If I am with friends for a sporting activity, such as indoor football, dance or ice hockey, or for a cultural activity, such as a drama group or musical rehearsal, what are the rules?

As for all indoor spaces, the 2G rule applies, which means that only those who are vaccinated or recovered can enter indoor spaces that are open to the public. As a rule, masks must be worn.

When mask-wearing is not possible, the 2G+ rule applies, which means that holders of a COVID certificate that proves recovery or full vaccination must also present a test certificate.

9) I can't get vaccinated for medical reasons. Am I excluded from events where the 2G rule applies?

People who cannot get vaccinated for medical reasons and who can present a medical certificate to that effect should not be excluded from social life. They can access facilities and events where the 2G or 2G+ rule applies – provided they can present a medical certificate and a test certificate. They must wear a mask where possible.

For the very small number of people who cannot be vaccinated or tested for medical reasons, it has been possible since November to access facilities or events where a COVID certificate is required on the basis of a corresponding medical certificate. This is still possible.

10) What are the rules if you want to have a drink at the bar of a restaurant or nightclub?

Access to indoor areas of restaurants, bars and nightclubs is restricted to those who are vaccinated or recovered (2G). Eating or drinking while standing up is not permitted in indoor areas. People must be seated to eat or drink. Whenever people get up from their table in the indoor area of a restaurant, they must wear a mask. These restrictions do not apply in restaurants where access for over 16s is limited to holders of a COVID certificate of vaccination or recovery plus a test certificate (2G+ rule).

Nightclubs and dance venues must restrict access to people who have a COVID certificate of vaccination or recovery plus a test certificate (2G+). They must also collect guests' contact details. However, people do not need to wear masks and do not have to be seated to eat or drink.

11) Is the COVID certificate required for church services and at places of worship?

In churches and other places of worship, masks must be worn. For religious gatherings with more than 50 people, the same rules apply as for other events. Access is limited to people who are fully vaccinated or recovered (2G). For religious gatherings of up to 50 people, there is no COVID certificate requirement.

12) Do people who sing in a choir or a group have to wear a mask during concerts in enclosed spaces?

For both rehearsals and concerts, the following applies: if masks are worn, all artists must have a certificate of vaccination or recovery (2G). If masks are not worn, all artists must have a certificate of vaccination or recovery plus a test certificate (2G+).

13) What rules apply to Christmas markets?

For outdoor Christmas markets, the precautionary measures are defined by organisers in collaboration with the authorities. Depending on the Christmas market, access may be restricted to people with a certificate (usually 3G) and, where necessary, there may be a mask-wearing requirement.

It is always advisable to stick to the hygiene measures, such as physical distancing and regular handwashing.

14) What rules apply to ski resorts?

Masks do not have to be worn on ski lifts and chair lifts. However, masks must be worn in all indoor areas and in enclosed means of transport, such as cable cars and gondola lifts. Operators can impose a more extensive mask-wearing requirement for outside areas, e.g. when queuing. Only people who are vaccinated or recovered can access indoor areas of restaurants.

15) What are the new rules for higher education settings?

Access is restricted to people with a COVID certificate of vaccination, recovery or test (3G). This also applies to PET colleges, examinations in these institutions and other educational and training settings. It also applies to individual training courses to acquire basic skills. For all other training courses, the same rules apply as for events, in other words access is restricted to people with a certificate of vaccination or recovery (2G).

16) What new rules apply in the workplace?

Working from home is now mandatory. If this is not possible, there is a general mask-wearing requirement for all employees in indoor spaces where there is more than one person, regardless of whether or not they hold a certificate. Exceptions apply for situations in which a mask cannot be worn for safety reasons or due to the type of activity, and for people who are exempt from mask-wearing e.g. on the basis of a medical certificate.

Test costs

17) I have symptoms and need to get a test. Is it still free?

Yes. Individual PCR tests for those with symptoms, their contacts and for a confirmatory diagnosis (in the case of a positive pooled test), are still paid for by the federal government. However, they do not lead to the issue of a certificate.

18) I am not vaccinated or recovered and would like a test to obtain a COVID certificate. Do I have to pay for the test?

From 18 December, the federal government covers the costs of rapid antigen tests carried out in order to obtain a COVID certificate. Individual participation in pooled saliva PCR tests is also paid. The providers of such pooled tests are required to issue a COVID certificate if the result is negative at the latest from January, 17 2022 on.

You still have to pay for the following tests yourself: self-tests, individual PCR tests that are carried out to obtain a COVID certificate, and antibody tests.

19) I'm participating in repeat testing in my company. Will I get a certificate through that?

Yes. For repeat PCR pooled testing in businesses, healthcare facilities and universities, test certificates are also issued at the latest from January, 17 2022 on.

20) What test do I need for 2Gplus?

You need the same tests as you would need to get a COVID certificate, so rapid antigen tests and pooled tests. PCR tests performed within the last 72 hours, and rapid antigen tests performed within the last 24 hours are accepted.

21) Do I have to pay for the test for G2plus myself?

No, rapid antigen tests and pooled tests are paid for by the federal government.

Entry rules

22) What do travellers entering Switzerland need to bear in mind?

Everyone arriving in Switzerland must comply with two rules:

1. On entry, everyone must have completed the entry form with their contact details (Swiss PLF). This can be done online or on paper (two copies). The contact details are important in case the person needs to be notified that someone with whom they may have had contact has tested positive. The contact details can also be used by the cantons to check that arrivals have had the required tests.
2. In addition, everyone entering Switzerland must also present evidence of a negative test. From 20 December, as well as PCR tests that must have been performed within the last 72 hours, rapid antigen tests are also accepted, provided they are performed within 24 hours of entry

Antigen tests are generally less accurate than PCR tests and false results can therefore occur more frequently. Regardless of the negative test result, all those travelling by plane or coach must therefore stick to the rules on hygiene and wear a mask when on board. The FOPH publishes a list on its website of rapid antigen tests that have been validated in Switzerland and are sufficiently accurate.

23) Does the test requirement also apply to Switzerland's border regions?

No, exemptions apply for cross-border commuters and people travelling to Switzerland from the border regions. Travellers from these regions do not have to complete a contact form or have a test. However, this exemption does not apply if they are entering Switzerland by long-distance coach or by plane. In this case, they too must be able to present a negative test at boarding and record their contact details. This ensures that the cantons have the contact details to hand in case a fellow passenger subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.

The border regions are:

- Regions in Germany: Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria
- Regions in France: Grand-Est, Burgundy/Franche Comté and Auvergne/Rhône-Alpes
- Regions in Italy: Piedmont, Aosta Valley, Lombardy and Trentino/South Tyrol
- Regions in Austria: Tyrol and Vorarlberg
- Regions in Liechtenstein: the whole Principality of Liechtenstein

24) Is a second test needed after entry?

For people who are vaccinated or recovered, a second test between days four and seven is no longer necessary. However, those who are not vaccinated or recovered must continue to get this second test and report the test result to the competent cantonal authority. Negative test results are to be substantiated by means of a Covid certificate.

It can take up to 10 days to detect an infection, so a second test must be performed between day four and day seven.

25) Does this test requirement also apply to Swiss nationals returning to Switzerland?

Yes, the test requirement applies to all arrivals aged 16 or over.

26) Who checks whether the tests are even performed?

When entering by plane or coach, boarding is only possible on presentation of a negative test. Airlines and coach operators are responsible for checking these. They must inform passengers that they need to get tested for SARS-CoV-2 before departure and that they will only be allowed to board the plane or coach on presentation of a negative test result.

When entering on other means of transport, spot checks will be carried out at the border to ensure that people can present evidence of a negative test.

After entry, the cantonal authorities can check that tests have been performed on the basis of the entry form that everyone needs to complete. At the same time, all hotels and holiday apartments are required to check that guests have had a test.

27) What happens if no test was done before entering Switzerland?

Anyone who is unable to present a negative test result when entering Switzerland risks a fine from the border control authority. The person must get a test immediately and inform the cantonal authority.

The cantons check compliance with the test requirement using the contact data. Hotels and holiday apartments are required to check that their guests have been tested and notify the cantonal authority if anyone has failed to have a test.