



COVID-19: Important information on the new coronavirus and the hygiene and social distancing rules.

New coronavirus

Updated on 29 October 2020

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS.



STOP CORONA



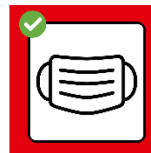
Get together with fewer people.



Keep your distance.



Masks compulsory if distancing isn't possible.



Masks compulsory in publicly accessible indoor and outdoor areas, and on public transport.



Work from home if possible.



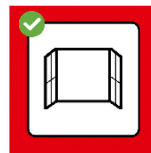
Wash your hands thoroughly.



Cough and sneeze into your elbow.



Do not shake hands.



Air out rooms several times a day.



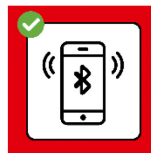
Events:
Public max. 50 people
Private max. 10 people
Gatherings in public places max. 15 people



If you experience symptoms, get tested immediately and stay at home.



To enable contact tracing, always provide your complete contact information.



To break infection chains: download and activate the SwissCovid App.



If you test positive: isolate. If you have had contact with a confirmed case: quarantine.



Only go to a doctor's office or an accident and emergency department after making an appointment by phone.

www.foph-coronavirus.ch

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the new coronavirus

At the end of 2019 a new and very infectious disease emerged. It is called COVID-19. The disease is caused by the new coronavirus, which spread all over the world within a short space of time. In this factsheet from the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health FOPH you will find answers to the most frequent questions about the new coronavirus.

Infection with the new coronavirus can have serious consequences. Some people die of the disease. This means that it is important for everybody to protect themselves from the new coronavirus.

Personal responsibility remains important: The best way to protect yourself from infection is to follow the hygiene and social distancing rules shown on the title page of this document and on Federal Office of Public Health posters. This includes washing your hands regularly with soap and water and keeping your distance.

Important requirements and bans since 29 October 2020:

- Masks compulsory in busy town and village centres, as well as in publicly accessible indoor and outdoor areas of businesses and establishments
- Masks compulsory in public transport facilities throughout Switzerland: on public transport, in aircraft, and at railway stations, stops and airports
- Masks compulsory for everyone in high schools and vocational schools
- Masks compulsory indoors at work, except in own workspace if recommended distance can be maintained
- Remote learning introduced at universities
- Ban on public events with more than 50 people and private events with more than 10 people
- Ban on spontaneous gatherings of more than 15 people
- Maximum of 4 people per table at restaurants (exception for parents with children)
- Bars and restaurants must close from 11.00pm to 6.00am
- People in restaurants and bars must be seated: Food and drink may only be consumed sitting down
- The operation of clubs, discos and dance venues is prohibited
- Recreational sports: Ban on activities with more than 15 people; ban on contact sports; indoors masks must be worn and distance maintained, outdoors masks must be worn or distance maintained; children at compulsory schools may continue to do sports without restriction.
- Culture/arts (music, theatre, dance, etc.) for amateurs: Activities with up to 15 people allowed provided masks are worn and distancing rules followed. For professionals: rehearsals and performances allowed
- Choir performances are banned; rehearsals only allowed for professional choirs
- Work from home if possible
- Quarantine requirement for people arriving in Switzerland

Note: In certain cantons stricter rules apply.

Infection and risks

Why are the rules of hygiene and social distancing so important?

The novel coronavirus is a new virus against which humans **still have no immunity (immune defences)**. **Many people could be infected and get the disease**. For this reason we have to slow down the spread of the new coronavirus as much as possible.

We particularly have to protect vulnerable people who are at greater risk of becoming severely ill.

That means:

- Older people (the risk of a severe case if infected with the new coronavirus increases with age. Pre-existing, underlying conditions additionally increase the risk)
- Pregnant women
- Adults with the following underlying conditions:
 - **High blood pressure**
 - **Cardiovascular disease**
 - **Diabetes**
 - **Chronic respiratory illness**
 - **Cancer**

- **Conditions and therapies that weaken the immune system**
- **Serious obesity (with a BMI of 40 or more)**

Please talk to your doctor if you're not sure whether you belong to a vulnerable group.

We can protect these people too more effectively if we all keep to the hygiene and behaviour rules. Since intensive care units have only limited space and ventilators (breathing equipment), adhering to the rules helps make sure that hospitals and other health centres can continue to give good treatment to people who are seriously ill.

Are you over 65 or pregnant, or do you have one of the underlying conditions listed above? This is how you can protect yourself:

The best way to protect yourself from infection is to carry on observing the hygiene and behaviour rules. The recommendations are as follows:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly with soap and water
- Keep your distance from other people (at least 1.5 metres).
- Observe the requirement to wear a mask on public transport.
- Follow the hygiene and behaviour rules, even when meeting friends or family, e.g. not using the same cutlery to serve food and not drinking from the same glass, etc.
- Avoid busy times at places frequented by large numbers of people (e.g. public transport at peak times, railway stations and shopping on Saturdays). If you do find yourself in places frequented by large numbers of people and are unable to keep the necessary distance, we recommend you wear a face mask.

Do you have one or more symptoms of the disease, such as coughing (in most cases a dry cough), a sore throat, shortness of breath, chest pain, fever, or sudden loss of your sense of smell and/or taste? **Immediately phone your doctor or a hospital, even at the weekend.** Describe your symptoms and say you're at an especially high risk (vulnerable).

You are pregnant and therefore at greater risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19. What kinds of precautions do you need to take?

If you are pregnant, you should especially protect yourself from an infection with the new coronavirus. We therefore advise you to follow our recommendations for vulnerable people (see previous answer).

Under the terms of the Ordinance on Maternity Protection, your employer is obliged to take all steps to protect you, a pregnant woman, from contracting the new coronavirus at work. If the circumstances are such that this is impossible, the employer must offer you alternatives. If the continuation of work proves impossible, your gynaecologist may issue a prohibition of employment.

The latest findings suggest that, if you are pregnant, infection with the coronavirus might result in a more severe course of the illness, particularly if you are also overweight, older, or if you have certain underlying conditions. There are still many open questions around pregnancy and COVID-19. It is advisable to be particularly cautious when protecting mother and child.

If you have any symptoms of the disease, immediately phone your gynaecologist to discuss the necessary steps.

How is the novel coronavirus transmitted?

The virus spreads most frequently when people are in close, protracted contact: If you stay less than 1.5 metres away from someone who is infected, without protection (protection means, for example, that both people are wearing a mask). The longer and closer this contact, the greater the chances of becoming infected.

The novel coronavirus can be transmitted as follows:

- **Via droplets and aerosols:** When the infected person breathes, talks, sneezes or coughs,

droplets containing the virus can get onto the mucous membranes in the nose, mouth or eyes of other people in the immediate vicinity (less than 1.5 metres away).

The virus can be transmitted over longer distances via very fine droplets (aerosols), but this does not happen often. This type of transmission is most likely to occur during activities requiring increased breathing, for example physical work, sports, loud talking, and singing. The same applies if you stay for a longer period in unventilated or poorly ventilated rooms, especially if these rooms are small.

- **Via surfaces and the hands:** If infected people cough and sneeze, infectious droplets get onto their hands or nearby surfaces. Another person can then become infected if they get these droplets on their hands and then touch their mouth, nose or eyes.

When can you infect other people?

Be aware: If you fall ill with the new coronavirus you are contagious for a long time. This means:

- Already **two days before symptoms appear**, in other words before you notice you have been infected.
- **You are particularly contagious while you have symptoms,**
- and remain so **until at least 48 hours after** you feel completely well again. This means that you should continue to make sure that you keep your distance and wash your hands regularly with soap.

Symptoms, diagnosis and treatment

What are the symptoms of the illness caused by the new coronavirus?

The most common symptoms are:

- Cough (usually dry)
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Fever
- Sudden loss of sense of smell and/or taste

Other symptoms may include:

- Headache
- General weakness, feeling unwell
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach ache)
- Head cold
- Aching muscles
- Skin rash

The symptoms vary in severity, and can also be mild. Complications, such as pneumonia, are also possible.

But if you have one or more of the frequently occurring symptoms it could be that you have the novel coronavirus disease.

In this case:

- **Stay at home and avoid contact with other people.**
- **Do the coronavirus check (check.bag-coronavirus.ch) or phone your doctor. Answer all the questions you are asked in the online check or on the phone as best you can. At the end you'll be given a recommendation on what to do and, if appropriate, will be instructed to have a test.**
- **Read the instructions on isolation (www.bag.admin.ch/new-coronavirus-downloads) and follow them consistently.**

If you are over age 65, pregnant, or have an underlying condition, you must call a doctor immediately if you have one or more of the frequent symptoms – even at the weekend.

Are you unsure what to do?

If you go to the coronavirus check at check.bag-coronavirus.ch and answer a small number of questions, you will receive a recommendation on what to do from the Federal Office of Public Health (available in German, French, Italian and English).

On the Canton Vaud website at coronavirus.unisante.ch/evaluation you'll find **a coronavirus check in 8 further languages.**

The coronavirus check is no substitute for a professional medical consultation, diagnosis or treatment.

The symptoms described in the check can also occur in connection with other diseases that require a different approach.

Always contact a doctor if you have prominent symptoms that get worse or concern you.

My child, who's under the age of 12, has symptoms. What should we do? Can it go to school or its childcare facility?

According to the latest findings, children can also get infected with the new coronavirus. However, those under age 12 are less likely than young adults and adults to have symptoms or spread the virus to other people.

Situation 1: Child and close contact have symptoms

Your child has symptoms of a possible infection with the new coronavirus and has had close contact with someone (a person over age 12) displaying symptoms of infection. In this case, what you should do next depends on the test result of the close contact:

- **If the close contact's test result is positive:** Your child must stay at home and will be tested in consultation with the paediatrician, who will provide you with information on how to proceed.
- **If the close contact's test result is negative:** Your child may only return to his or her school or childcare facility following a period of 24 hours during which he or she no longer exhibits fever or if his or her cough has significantly improved.

Situation 2: Child with symptoms but without contact with a person with symptoms of COVID-19

Your child has symptoms of a possible infection with the new coronavirus but has not had close contact with someone (a person over age 12) displaying symptoms of infection. In this case, what you should do depends on your child's symptoms and health:

- **Your child has mild cold symptoms** (sniffles and/or a sore throat and/or a slight cough) **and is in good general health:** Your child may continue to attend his or her school or childcare facility.
- **Your child has a fever and is in good general health:** Your child must stay at home and may only return to his or her school or childcare facility following a period of 24 hours during which he or she no longer exhibits fever. Contact your paediatrician if your child's fever persists for three days or more.
If your child has other symptoms (gastrointestinal complaints, headache, aching limbs, loss of sense of taste and/or smell), discuss what to do with the paediatrician.
- **Your child has a severe cough and is in good general health:** Your child must stay at home and may only return to his or her school or childcare facility if the cough has improved significantly within three days. Contact your paediatrician if your child's severe cough persists for more than three days.
If your child has other symptoms (gastrointestinal complaints, headache, aching limbs, loss of sense of taste and/or smell), discuss what to do with the paediatrician.
- **Your child has a fever or severe cough and/or is in poor general health:** Contact the paediatrician directly to discuss what to do.

How is the novel coronavirus illness treated?

The options are currently limited to relieving the symptoms. Those with the disease are isolated for the protection of others. In most severe cases, intensive care at a hospital – possibly including artificial respiration (ventilation) – is required.

Do you have problems, a feeling of being unwell or symptoms that are not connected with the new coronavirus?

You must still take health problems, illnesses and symptoms that are not connected with the new coronavirus seriously and get treatment. Get help and don't wait too long: phone a doctor.

When should I get myself tested for the new coronavirus?

Do you feel ill or are you experiencing any of the symptoms of the new coronavirus? If so, **stay at home, take the coronavirus check** ([check.bag-coronavirus.ch](https://www.check.bag-coronavirus.ch)) or **phone your doctor**. Try to answer as best you can all the questions that you are asked in the online check or on the phone when you call the doctor. At the end you will be given a recommendation about what to do next, which may include getting yourself tested. Stay at home until you have the test result.

Where can I get tested?

Tests are carried out by GPs, hospitals or specially set up test centres.

You can take the coronavirus check ([check.bag-coronavirus.ch](https://www.check.bag-coronavirus.ch)) to see whether you could get tested: it will tell you what you need to do.

The website www.ch.ch/fr/coronavirus has links to the cantonal webpages where you will find information about the new coronavirus and relevant contact details.

Under what circumstances does the federal government cover the costs of a PCR test?

Since 25 June 2020 the federal government has paid the costs of the test if the criteria set by the FOPH (Swiss Federal Office of Public Health) are met. This is the case, for example, if you have symptoms matching COVID-19 and your doctor prescribes a test for infection with the new coronavirus. A notification via the SwissCovid App of a contact with an infected person is also a criterion for cost coverage.

If the FOPH's criteria for a test are not met, the federal government will not cover the costs. This may be the case, for example, if you need a test result to travel or if you are only having the test at the request of your employer.

Gatherings, events and leisure activities

What kinds of gatherings are not allowed?

Spontaneous gatherings of more than 15 people are not allowed in public spaces. Public spaces include, for example, public places, footpaths and parks.

What rules apply to public and private events?

A **maximum of 10 people** can take part in private events among friends and family (which do not take place in publicly accessible places, for example at home). If possible you should avoid private events.

It is prohibited to hold events with **more than 50 participants**. This applies to all sporting, cultural and other events with the exception of parliaments and municipal assemblies. Political demonstrations and petitions (collecting signatures for initiatives and referendums) are also still possible, subject to the necessary precautionary measures as previously.

What rules apply to sporting and cultural leisure activities?

Sporting and cultural leisure activities with up to 15 people are permitted indoors if both sufficient distance can be maintained and masks can be worn. Masks do not have to be worn if there is ample space, for example in indoor tennis courts or large halls. Outdoors only the distancing requirement applies. Contact sports are banned. The rules do not apply to children under age 16.

In professional sports, culture and the arts training sessions and competitions, and rehearsals and performances, are allowed. Since people produce particularly large volumes of droplets when they are singing, amateur choir events are not permitted; professional choirs are allowed to rehearse.

What rules apply to bars and restaurants?

- A group of no more than 4 guests can sit at each table. The exception is parents with their children.
- Bars and restaurants must close from 11.00pm to 6.00am.
- People in restaurants and bars must be seated: Food and drink may only be consumed sitting down.

What rules apply to discos and dance venues?

It is not permitted to operate discos and dance venues or hold dance events.

Homeworking

Work from home if possible. This reduces contacts and thus the spread of the virus.

For employees who cannot work from home the Employment Act applies. The employer is obligated to take measures to safeguard the health of employees.

Further information

Where can I find further information in my native language?

Visit the website [migesplus.ch](https://www.migesplus.ch) for additional reliable information on Covid-19 and other health issues:
<https://www.migesplus.ch/themen/neues-coronavirus-covid-19>

Where to get help.

What can I do if they don't speak or understand my language in the hospital?

From the start ask for a translator (interpreter). There are also interpreting services by phone. If professional interpreters are brought in you don't have to take your relatives with you to translate, so they're protected from infection. In the event of medical interventions you have the right to understand and be understood.

Do you have to stay at home and need food or medication?

Or would you like to help?

Look to the people in your immediate environment:

- Is there someone you could ask for help?
- Or could you offer someone your help?

Other options:

- Contact your municipal or town council
- Use the Five up app
- Check out www.hilf-jetzt.ch / www.aide-maintenant.ch

Here too the following still holds: The hygiene and behaviour rules must always be complied with.

Are you worried or need someone to talk to?

Here you'll find information:

- On the internet at www.dureschnufe.ch / www.santepsy.ch / www.salutepsi.ch
- Telephone advice from the Dargebotene Hand/La main tendue/Telefono Amico Ticino e Grigioni Italiano by dialling 143

Do you feel threatened at home? Are you seeking help or protection?

- You'll find phone numbers and email addresses for anonymous advice and protection all over Switzerland at www.opferhilfe-schweiz.ch / www.aide-aux-victimes.ch / www.aiuto-alle-vittime.ch.
- In an **emergency** call the police: phone number **117**

Further important phone numbers:

- **Ambulance 144:** This service is available around the clock all over Switzerland for all medical emergencies.
- **Infoline** on the new coronavirus: By phoning **058 463 00 00** you can get answers to questions on the new coronavirus.
- **If you don't have a family doctor (GP):** You can call **Medgate** on **0844 844 911** every day and through the night.

Masks



In Switzerland it is compulsory to wear a mask in many different places. The following general rule applies: Wear a mask if you are not at home and cannot constantly keep your distance from other people. The mask should always cover your nose and mouth.

Wearing a mask in public primarily protects other people. A person infected with the coronavirus may be infectious for up to two days before symptoms appear without even being aware. If everyone in a crowded place wears a mask, then everyone is protected. Although wearing a mask does not ensure complete protection against the coronavirus, it does slow down the rate of infection.

Where is it compulsory to wear a mask?

- **Masks compulsory on public transport and in aircraft:** You must wear a mask on the following public transport services and in the following public transport facilities:
 - Trains, trams and buses
 - Mountain railways and cable cars
 - Ships and boats
 - Aircraft (all scheduled and chartered flights taking off or landing in Switzerland)
 - On railway platforms and at tram and bus stops, even if these areas are outdoors
 - In railway stations, airports and other public transport access points, even if these areas are outdoors
- **Masks compulsory in publicly accessible areas throughout Switzerland:** It is compulsory to wear a mask in all publicly accessible areas of businesses and establishments. This applies to both indoor and outdoor areas. This includes, for example:
 - Shops, shopping centres, banks and post offices
 - Museums, libraries, cinemas, theatres and concert venues
 - Zoos, animal parks and botanical gardens
 - Restaurants, bars, discos, casinos and hotels (with the exception of guest rooms)
 - Entrance areas and changing rooms of swimming pools, sports facilities and gyms
 - Healthcare facilities, medical practices and publicly accessible areas of hospitals and care homes
 - Churches and religious establishments
 - Social facilities, advisory centres and neighbourhood centres
 - Publicly accessible areas of administrative buildings, including those of social services and courts, as well as publicly accessible indoor spaces in which parliaments and municipal assemblies meet
 - Markets, including Christmas markets
- **Masks compulsory in public areas:** In public spaces, including, for example, streets, pavements (sidewalks), parks and playgrounds, the mask-wearing requirement applies as follows:
 - In busy pedestrian areas in town and village centres
 - Anywhere where there are so many people that you can't keep a distance of 1.5 metres from other people. This also applies if you meet friends and acquaintances on your way and cannot keep the requisite distance
- **Masks compulsory in indoor spaces at work:** You must wear a mask in all indoor spaces at work. The exceptions are if you work in a separate room or can keep a distance of 1.5 metres from other people, or if for safety reasons you cannot wear a mask.
- **Masks compulsory in upper secondary schools:** Masks are required in upper secondary schools (secondary level II), for example high schools and vocational schools. Young people, teachers and other staff must wear a mask. The mask-wearing requirement applies during teaching as well as in the school and on the school site.

Are there exceptions for young children and any other groups?

Children under the age of 12 are exempt from the mask-wearing requirement. Individuals who are unable to wear a mask for a particular reason, especially medical reasons, are also exempt.

If I don't have a mask with me, can I pull a scarf over my mouth and nose, or use a cloth or towel?

No, scarves, cloths and towels do not satisfy the requirement to wear a mask. A scarf does not sufficiently protect others against infection either. You should wear a hygiene mask or an industrially manufactured textile mask.

Travelling / Arrival in Switzerland

Since 6 July 2020, travellers arriving in Switzerland from certain areas have been required to go into quarantine for a period of 10 days.

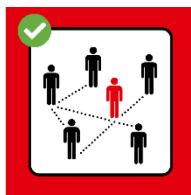
This measure is based on the COVID-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures and applies to persons entering Switzerland from countries or areas with an increased risk of infection with the coronavirus.

You must notify the competent cantonal authority within two days of your arrival in Switzerland and follow the instructions given to you by the authorities.

Anyone who evades quarantine, or who fails to comply with the duty to notify the authorities, is committing an offence under the Epidemics Act and is liable to a fine of up to CHF 10,000.



You will find the list of countries or areas with an increased risk of infection with the coronavirus, along with details of the cantonal agencies and exceptions from the quarantine requirements, here: www.bag.admin.ch/entry



Coronavirus tests and contact tracing break the chains of infection.

Why these two measures are so important

In order to live an almost “normal” life, anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should get themselves tested for coronavirus immediately – even if the symptoms are only mild. In addition to testing, it is also important that people provide their contact details, for example when going to a restaurant, so that they can be traced if necessary. This is because infected people may already be contagious, even if they still feel healthy. Testing and contact tracing can break the chain of infection.

If the coronavirus test is positive, the contact tracing process begins

- The cantonal authorities work with the infected person to try to identify all those they may have come into close contact with.
- The authorities notify the people concerned about the possibility of infection and what to do next.
- The individuals concerned have to go into quarantine for ten days following their last contact with the infected person, even if they have no symptoms.
- If no infection is detected during that time, the authorities lift the quarantine.
(www.bag.admin.ch/new-coronavirus-downloads)



SwissCovid App

With the help of the SwissCovid app for mobile phones we intend to contain the spread of the new coronavirus. The more people that use the SwissCovid app, the greater its contribution will be. Anyone who spends a certain amount of time in close proximity to a person who subsequently tests positive for the new coronavirus will be notified via the app that they may have been infected, and will be given advice on what to do next. The person's privacy remains protected at all times. Using the app is voluntary and free of charge. The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

SwissCovid app helps to break transmission chains more quickly

The SwissCovid app for mobile phones (Android/iPhone) will help to contain the new coronavirus. It complements the conventional contact tracing carried out by the cantons and thereby helps to break the chains of transmission. The SwissCovid app is available in the Apple Store and Google Play Store (available in German, French, Italian, Romansh, Albanian, Bosnian, English, Croatian, Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish and Tigrinya).

- [Google Play Store for Android](#)
- [Apple Store for iOS](#)

Using the SwissCovid app is voluntary and free of charge. The more people who install and use the app, the more effectively the app can help us to contain the new coronavirus.

How does the SwissCovid app work?

Install the SwissCovid app on your Apple or Android smartphone. All you then need to do is switch on Bluetooth and have your phone with you at all times.

When within Bluetooth range, the mobile phone exchanges random IDs (identification codes) with other mobile phones that have a compatible app installed. The random IDs are stored on the mobile phone for 14 days before being deleted automatically. Apps compatible with the SwissCovid app are similar apps from other countries (e.g. Germany's Corona-Warn app). The random IDs of those using apps from other countries are currently stored, but it is not possible to receive notifications via these apps.

How notification works

If a SwissCovid app user tests positive for the coronavirus, they receive a Covidcode from the cantonal authorities. The code allows them to activate the notification function in the app, thereby warning app users that came into close contact with the infected person in the period starting two days before that person first experienced symptoms of the disease. When the code is entered, the app notifies these other app users automatically. The identity of the person who triggered the notification is not revealed. However, it is possible that someone could work out the identity based on the date. The people who have been notified can then call the infoline number in the app and find out what to do next. Their privacy is maintained at all times. If a person who has been notified has already developed symptoms of the disease, they should stay at home, avoid contact with other people, and do the coronavirus check or call their doctor.

By working together in this way, we can all help to break the chains of infection.

Protecting privacy

Data about other users recorded by your mobile phone is only saved locally on the device. Neither the mobile phone nor the SwissCovid app sends any personal or location data to a central storage location or server. This means that no one can work out who you have been in contact with or where that contact took place.

Once the coronavirus crisis is over, or if the app proves to be ineffective, the system will be shut down.

I have received an alert from the SwissCovid app saying the possibility of infection exists. Can I demand a test?

Yes, once you have received an alert about the possibility of infection you can get a test for free.

This test is designed to identify people who are already infected but who do not yet have symptoms.

The test should be done no sooner than 5 days after the possible infection.

If the test is positive you will be contacted by the cantonal authority responsible with details of how to proceed. This helps contain the spread of the virus.

I have received an alert via the SwissCovid app about a possible infection. Will I still be paid my salary if I now stay at home because of this?

If you have been alerted to a possible infection, please call the SwissCovid infoline (if you receive an alert the phone number will be displayed in the app). The infoline will be able to give you advice on these matters.

Basically your employer is not obliged to continue to pay your salary if you stay at home because of an alert about the possibility of infection.

You are only entitled to continued payment of your salary if you are ordered by the cantonal authorities to go into quarantine.

**What is the novel coronavirus?
What is SARS-CoV-2, and what is COVID-19?**

The novel coronavirus was discovered in China at the end of 2019 on the basis of an extraordinary incidence of pneumonia in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. The virus, which was given the name SARS-CoV-2, belongs to the same family as the pathogens responsible for Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

On 11 February 2020 the WHO gave the disease caused by the novel coronavirus an official name: COVID-19, short for coronavirus disease 2019.

The information currently available suggests that it was animals that transmitted the virus to humans and it is now spreading from person to person. It probably originated in a fish and animal market in the city of Wuhan, which has since been closed by the Chinese authorities.

Further information:

www.foph-coronavirus.ch
www.bag.admin.ch/new-coronavirus
(German, French, Italian, English)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Bundesamt für Gesundheit BAG
Office fédéral de la santé publique OFSP
Ufficio federale della sanità pubblica UFSP
Federal Office of Public Health FOPH