



Changes to the national measures for containing the coronavirus in Switzerland since December 2020

Federal Council decision of 6 January 2021

Measure	Explanation of measure	In force since	Legal basis and details in
Revocation of cantonal exceptions regarding opening of businesses and opening hours	The following rule no longer applies: A canton can open restaurant, club and leisure establishments or extend opening hours if certain epidemiological conditions are met.	9.1.2021	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance of 19 June 2020: Art. 7 para 2–6 is revoked

Federal Council decision of 21 December 2020

Measure	Explanation of measure	In force since	Legal basis and details in
United Kingdom and South Africa: quarantine	All persons who have arrived in Switzerland since 14 December 2020 from the United Kingdom or South Africa must go into quarantine and report to the cantonal authorities.	21.12.2020	COVID-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures: Art. 3 para. 1 letter d
United Kingdom and South Africa: entry ban	A fundamental entry ban applies for foreigners wishing to enter Switzerland from the United Kingdom or South Africa.	21.12.2020	COVID-19 Ordinance 3: Art. 4 para. 1 letter b and c

Federal Council decision of 18 December 2020

Measure	Explanation of measure	In force since	Legal basis and details in
Restaurants and bars closed	Catering businesses are to be closed. Only company canteens, school canteens and restaurants for hotel guests are permitted to remain open. Takeaways and	22.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 5a

	delivery services are still permitted.		
Cultural, entertainment and recreational facilities closed	Cultural, entertainment and recreational facilities are closed. This includes cinemas, museums and exhibition halls, reading rooms in libraries and archives, casinos and amusement arcades, concert halls and theatres, and also indoor areas of botanical gardens and zoos and any of their outdoor areas that cannot be freely accessed.	22.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 5d para. 1 letter a
Sports and wellness facilities closed	Sports and wellness facilities are closed. This includes sports and fitness centres, artificial ice rinks and swimming pools. The following remain open: ski areas (subject to cantonal authorisation) and other facilities in open terrain, equestrian sports facilities and facilities in hotels provided they are only accessible to hotel guests.	22.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 5d para. 1 letter b
Relaxation of measures possible in individual cantons	Cantons which register a favourable development in the epidemiological situation can opt to relax certain restrictions and allow restaurants and sports facilities to open, for example. Of particular importance here are the R-number, which must be below 1, and the 7-day incidence, which must be below the Swiss average. Sufficient hospital capacity must also be available.	22.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 7 para. 2 introductory sentence and letters b and c plus 3–6
Further restriction on the number of people in shops	Further restrictions are being imposed on the number of people allowed in non-food shops at a time.	22.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Annex, paras. 3.1 ff.
Extended use of rapid tests	Rapid antigen tests and other forms of rapid test may also be done on people who do not meet the FOPH criteria (asymptomatic individuals). Rapid tests can then form an integral part of precautionary measures for hospitals and old-people's homes or at the workplace. Rapid tests must always be done by trained medical personnel.	21.12.2020	COVID-19 Ordinance 3: Art. 24 ff.

Urgent recommendation: stay at home	The population is called upon to stay at home. People should keep their social contacts to a minimum and refrain from non-essential journeys and outings.	-	-
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Federal Council decision of 11 December 2020

Measure	Explanation of measure	In force since	Legal basis and details in
Restricted opening hours for catering businesses	Catering businesses must remain closed between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. Exceptions apply for catering operations in hotels (for hotel guests only), for take-away establishments and on public holidays: on 24 December and New Year's Eve, closing time is not until 1 a.m.	12.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Article 5a para.1 letter b
Restricted opening hours for public businesses and	Public businesses and establishments must close between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.	12.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 5a ^{bis}

establishments			
Ban on events	Public events are prohibited. Exceptions include, in particular, religious celebrations (up to a maximum of 50 people), funerals attended by family and close friends, parliamentary assemblies and political demonstrations.	12.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 6
Limited group size for recreational activities	Amateur sports and cultural activities are now only allowed in groups of up to five persons. Activities (excluding competitions) are still permitted for children and young people below the age of 16.	12.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 6e and Art. 6f

Federal Council decision of 4 December 2020

Measure	Explanation of measure	In force since	Legal basis and details in
Requirements for ski areas and winter sports resorts	The ski areas require authorisation from the canton and must submit a set of strict precautionary measures. In all closed means of transport, such as cabins and gondolas, only two thirds of the seats/standing spaces may be occupied. Masks are mandatory on all mountain railways and cable cars, as well as on ski lifts and chairlifts. A mask must be worn when queuing, and physical distancing must be observed. Restaurant guests in ski areas are only permitted to enter a restaurant if a table is free for them. Larger winter sports resorts must draw up precautionary measures to govern the flow of people within the resort in particular.	9.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 5b and Art. 5c
Further capacity restrictions for businesses	Requirements for precautionary measures: in businesses where several people can move around freely (e.g. shops), at least 10 m ² of space must be available for each person. For smaller businesses with a surface area of up to 30 m ² , at least 4 m ² of space is required for each person.	9.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Number 3 in the Annex
Communal singing	Apart from within the family circle and in compulsory schools, communal singing is prohibited both outdoors and indoors.	9.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 6f para. 3
Additional rules for restaurants	In restaurants, contact details must be collected for one guest per guest group or per table. Physical distancing must be observed between different guest groups. In addition, closing time will be extended from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. on New Year's Eve.	9.12.2020	COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Article 5a para. 1 letter c ^{ter}

Recommendation for private gatherings	It is strongly recommended that private gatherings be limited to two households.	-	-
Recommendation to work from home	Increased recommendation for people to work from home.	-	-