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

Last updated: 31 December 2021

Federal Council decree of 17 December 2021

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<th>Measure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private gatherings and celebrations</td>
<td>Gatherings of up to 30 people are still allowed if everyone is vaccinated or recovered. However, there is a new regulation: as soon as one person is attending who is not vaccinated or recovered, the gathering is limited to a maximum of 10 people.</td>
<td>20.12.2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and trade and consumer fairs</td>
<td>For indoor events, the 3G rule (vaccinated, recovered or tested negative) no longer applies and access is now restricted to 2G (vaccinated or recovered). Event organisers can restrict access to 2G+ and thereby dispense with the mask-wearing requirement. Access to outdoor events for those aged 16 or over is also limited to people who are vaccinated or recovered (2G).</td>
<td>20.12.2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurants, bars and nightclubs</td>
<td>Restaurants, bars and nightclubs must restrict access to indoor areas to holders of a 2G certificate. If establishments wish to dispense with the requirement to be seated to eat or drink and the requirement to wear a mask when not seated, they must restrict access to those with a 2G+ certificate. 3G is no longer accepted in nightclubs and dance venues and access must be restricted to holders of a 2G+ certificate.</td>
<td>20.12.2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural and sporting leisure activities</td>
<td>Access to indoor cultural and sporting activities for those aged 16 or over is restricted to people who are vaccinated or recovered (2G). For activities where a mask cannot be worn (e.g. brass band rehearsals).</td>
<td>20.12.2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
access for those aged 16 or over must be limited to people who hold a certificate of vaccination or recovery as well as a certificate proving a negative test result (2G+).

| Tertiary education settings (e.g. universities, universities of applied sciences and professional education institutions) and continuing education and training | Access to certain courses and examinations in these settings is restricted to people who are vaccinated, recovered or have tested negative (3G). | 20.12.2021 |

| Working from home | Working from home is mandatory. | 20.12.2021 |

| Rapid antigen tests | Lab-based rapid antigen tests can also be used for both testing on entry and for early release from quarantine. | 18.12.2021 |

| Test costs | The costs of certain tests are covered by the federal government. Rapid antigen tests and pooled saliva PCR tests are covered, while individual PCR tests and antibody tests are not covered. The costs of individual PCR tests for those with symptoms, for close contacts and following positive pooled samples are still covered. | 18.12.2021 |

| Tests after entering Switzerland | People who are vaccinated or recovered no longer have to have a second test between days four and seven after arriving in Switzerland. | 18.12.2021 |

**Federal Council Decree of 3 November 2021**

| Further development of the COVID certificate | The Federal Council decided to introduce a ‘Swiss COVID certificate’. The validity of the COVID certificate for people who have recovered can thus be extended to 12 months in Switzerland. People with a current positive antibody test (serology) can also obtain a Swiss certificate. This is valid for 90 days in Switzerland only. The Federal Council also decided that the booster vaccination would be free, and that the test costs for people who have received their first dose would be covered by the federal government for six weeks from the initial vaccination beyond the COVID-19 Certificates Ordinance: Art. 1 let. a no. 2 and 4; Art. 7 para. 1; introductory sentence Art. 12 para. 1 let. c and para. 2; Art. 13 para. 2bis, 2ter and 3; Art. 15 para. 3; Art. 16 para. 3 and 4; Art. 17; Art. 18 para. 2–5; Art. 19 para. 1 let. b; Art. 21a, b, c; Art. 25 para. 2; Art. 29 para. 3; Annexes 1–4, 4a. | COVID-19 Ordinance 3: No. IV para. 2; |
### Test costs, test quality and tariff adjustment

The Federal Council decided that rapid antigen tests and pooled PCR saliva tests for people who have received an initial vaccination but have yet to obtain a COVID certificate would continue to be covered for a maximum of six weeks after the initial vaccination. It also stated that now only rapid antigen tests with a nose and throat swab would be accepted. This increases the reliability of the result and reduces the risk of infected people obtaining a certificate on account of a false negative. The Federal Council also adjusted cost coverage for rapid antigen tests by the federal government, lowering the amount covered from CHF 47 to a maximum of CHF 36.

### Federal Council decree of 27 October 2021

#### Exceptions to the requirement of authorisation for medicinal products

Under the Therapeutic Products Act, medicinal products may only be authorised temporarily in Switzerland if no authorised, alternative or equivalent medicine is available. At present, it is important that COVID-19 vaccines in particular from a wide range of different manufacturers and using different technologies are available, but the requirement in the Therapeutic Products Act is currently an obstacle to this. The Federal Council therefore decided

| Art. 26 para. 1; Art. 27a para. 10bis; Annex 1a; Annex 6 |
| COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 3 para. 2 bis; Art. 10 para. 3; Art. 32a; Annexes 1 and 2 |
| COVID-19 Ordinance on International Transport Measures: Annex 2 |
| Health Insurance Benefits Ordinance, HIBO: Art. 12a let. n |
| Epidemics Ordinance, EpV: Art. 64d |
Changes to measures, status: 19 April 2020

Federal Council decree of 13 October 2021

| Vaccination drive | A vaccination week is launched, from 8 to 14 November. Additional mobile advice and vaccination centres are intended to make it easier for people to get vaccinated. The federal government also finances advisers deployed by the cantons to deliver much needed-information on vaccination to people who are not yet vaccinated. This vaccination drive costs the federal government CHF 96.2 million. |

Federal Council decree of 1 October 2021

| Change to the coverage of test costs | The coverage of test costs for COVID certificates is limited to the period up to 10 October 2021. However, free testing is to be specifically promoted for certain groups: on the one hand, until the end of November 2021 the federal government is to fund tests (rapid antigen tests and pooled saliva PCR tests) for people who have received a first dose of vaccine but have yet to receive a COVID certificate. On the other, anyone aged under 16 can still access free tests. In addition, the federal government will cover the costs of issuing certificates for repeat testing. |

| National COVID certificate application platform and alternative documents to certificates | The COVID-19 Certificates Ordinance is amended so that all the relevant requirements concerning the National COVID certificate application platform are set out in an ordinance. The Federal Council also decides to establish a legal basis for the uniform charging of a share of the cost of COVID-19 certificates throughout |

| COVID-19 Ordinance 3: Art. 26a para. 1 let. c; Annex 6 |
| COVID-19 Certificates Ordinance: Art. 19 para. 1ter |
| COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 3 para. 2bis; Annex 1 |

| COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 3 para. 2bis; Annex I no.. 2 let.. e; |
| COVID Certificates Ordinance: Art. 1 let. g; Art. 7 para. 4 and 5; Art. 11 para. 1; |
Switzerland (charging of a fee) (Art. 26a para.3).

### Federal Council decree of 17 September 2021

| **International passenger transport** | Repeat testing for arrivals who are unvaccinated or have not recently recovered from COVID-19: people entering Switzerland will have to present a negative test on entry and have another test in Switzerland between day four and day seven. The result of this second test must be reported to the cantonal authority. | COVID-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport: Art.1, Art 2 para. 4, Art. 3 para. 1 and para. 2 let. c and d, Art. 7 para. 4 let. c and cbis, Art. 4 para. 2, Art7-10; Art. 11 heading and para. 1 introductory section and let. a, Art. 11a, Art. 12 para. 3, Annex 2 |
| **Obtaining a COVID certificate for people who were vaccinated or recovered from COVID abroad.** | From 20 September, anyone who received a vaccine authorised by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) abroad and who is resident in or travelling to Switzerland can apply for a Swiss COVID certificate. This allows those who were vaccinated or recovered abroad, e.g. tourists, to participate in normal life. | COVID-19 Certificates Ordinance Art. 7 para. 1 and 3; Art. 10 para. 6; Art. 11 para. 2; Art. 13 para. 1, 2bis and 2ter; Art. 23 para. 2; Annexes 1, 2 and 5 |

### Federal Council decree of 8 September 2021

| **Restaurants and bars** | Access to indoor areas of restaurants and bars where food and drink are consumed requires a valid COVID certificate for those aged 16 or over. There are no longer any restrictions regarding the size of groups, distance/barriers between groups, collection of contact data or mandatory seating. | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 12 para. 1 and 2 |
| **Cultural and sports activities** | For cultural and sports activities in indoor areas, those aged 16 or over must hold a valid COVID certificate. This excludes activities that are held in a separate room in an association or other permanent group involving a maximum of 30 people who are | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 20 let. d |
| Events | To access indoor events, those aged 16 or over must have a valid COVID certificate. For outdoor events, the certificate requirement applies from 500 people (without mandatory seating) or 1,000 people (with mandatory seating). Exemptions apply for permanent groups of up to 30 people in certain additional settings or at religious gatherings. | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 14 and Art. 14a |
| Cultural, sporting and recreational facilities | If visitors do not only have access to outdoor areas, those aged 16 or over must hold a valid COVID certificate to access establishments such as swimming pools, zoos, museums, cinemas etc. | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 13 para. 2 |
| Trade and consumer fairs | For fairs that do not take place exclusively outdoors, a COVID certificate applies for those aged 16 or over. If more than 1,000 persons are in attendance on any one day, the organiser must obtain authorisation from the competent cantonal authority. The organiser must also implement a precautionary measures plan. | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 18 |
| Work | Employers can now verify that their employees hold a certificate if this serves the purpose of ensuring appropriate precautionary measures or implementation of a testing plan. | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 25 para. 2bis and 2ter |
| Universities | The cantons or universities can now stipulate a certificate requirement for Bachelor’s and Master’s programmes. In this case, there is no mask-wearing requirement and no 2/3 occupancy limit. For other events at universities, such as continuing education and training courses, the rules on events continue to apply. | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 19a |

Federal Council decree of 23 June 2021
| Events with a COVID certificate requirement | For events where admission is limited to people with a COVID certificate, apart from the requirement for precautionary measures there are now no longer any restrictions; this also applies to large-scale events (large-scale events require cantonal authorisation). | 26.06.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 15 |
| Events without a COVID certificate requirement | Measures have also been eased for events without a COVID certificate requirement (up to a maximum of 1,000 people). However, there are still rules governing capacity use, and in indoor settings governing distancing, mask-wearing and consumption of food and drink, as well as the collection of contact data. | 26.06.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 14 |
| Requirement to wear a mask | The requirement to wear a mask outdoors has been lifted; this applies among other things to publicly accessible establishments and leisure facilities, as well as to outdoor public transport areas. | 26.06.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 5 and 6 |
| Restaurants and bars | There is no longer any limit on the number of people in groups of guests. | 26.06.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 12 |
| Sports and culture | There is no mask-wearing or distancing requirement for cultural and sporting activities, and no distinction between amateur and professional. In indoor settings contact data must be collected if access is not restricted to people with certificates, and from 5 people upwards a precautionary measures plan must be created and implemented. | 26.06.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 20 |
| Nightclubs and dance venues | Nightclubs and dance venues may open again if admission is restricted to those with a COVID certificate. | 26.06.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 13 |
| Work | The requirement to work from home has been lifted and replaced with a recommendation to work from home; working on premises is no longer tied to repeat testing. | 26.06.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 15 |
The general requirement to wear a mask at work has also been lifted.

| Schools | The limits have been lifted on the number of people attending classroom teaching at higher training and continuing education establishments, universities and universities of applied sciences, likewise without a requirement to do repeat testing. There is basically a requirement to wear masks indoors and a limit of 2/3 capacity for classroom teaching. Compulsory and upper secondary schools are no longer governed by the Special Situation Ordinance, and are now exclusively under the authority of the cantons. | 26.06.2021 |

**Federal Council decree of 26 May 2021**

<p>| Events with an audience or spectators | For events with an audience or spectators, limits of 100 people (indoor spaces) and 300 people (outdoors) now apply. | 31.05.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6 para 1bis |
| Events without an audience or spectators | Events with a maximum of 50 people are possible again subject to restrictions. | 31.05.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6 para 1bis |
| Private gatherings with a maximum of 30 or 50 people | Limits for private gatherings raised to 30 (indoors) and 50 (outdoors). | 31.05.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6 para 2 |
| Indoor areas of restaurants open | Indoor areas of restaurants and bars are open again | 31.05.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 5a |
| Thermal baths and spas | Thermal baths and spas are permitted to open again. | 31.05.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 5d |
| Sports: activities for adults | Now a maximum of 50 people (amateurs) may do sport together. Spectators are permitted. | 31.05.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6e |
| Culture and the arts: activities for adults | Maximum size of groups raised to 50 people. Amateur performances are possible again | 31.05.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6f |
| Tertiary education establishments (universities) and providers of higher training and continuing education | Limit of 50 people for classroom teaching lifted. The proviso is that a test policy, approved by the canton, of targeted and repeat testing is in place. | 31.05.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6d para 2 letter c |
| No requirement to work from home for | For businesses with a test policy as per Art. 3d para 3 (e.g. test | 31.05.2021 | COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 3d para 3 |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor restaurant seating areas open</td>
<td>Seated outdoor areas of restaurants, bars and takeaway establishments are open again.</td>
<td>19.04.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 5a para 2 letter b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events with up to 15 people possible again</td>
<td>Events with a maximum of 15 people are possible again subject to restrictions.</td>
<td>19.04.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6 para 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events with an audience or spectators</td>
<td>Events with an audience or spectators are possible again subject to restrictions. The maximum number of people attending the event is limited to 100 outdoors and 50 indoors.</td>
<td>19.04.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6 para 1bis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening of publicly accessible recreational and entertainment</td>
<td>Indoor areas of publicly accessible recreational and entertainment establishments are open again provided that the mask-wearing requirement can be adhered to. However, indoor areas of publicly accessible spa facilities and leisure pools remain closed.</td>
<td>19.04.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 5d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports: activities for adults (amateurs)</td>
<td>Sporting activities involving individual people or groups of up to 15, including competitions without spectators, are possible again. DISTANCING AND Mask-wearing requirements apply. Contact sports are still prohibited in indoor areas and are permitted outdoors only with masks.</td>
<td>19.4.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6 para 1 letter g in conjunction with Art. 6e para 1 letter b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and the arts: activities for adults (amateurs)</td>
<td>Cultural activities involving individual people or groups of up to 15 are possible again, but not performances before an audience. Distancing and mask-wearing requirements apply.</td>
<td>19.4.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6 para 1 letter g in conjunction with Art. 6f para 2 letters b, c and d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom teaching at tertiary education and continuing education</td>
<td>Classroom teaching is again permitted for up to 50 attendees at tertiary education and continuing education establishments. Distancing and mask-wearing requirements apply.</td>
<td>19.04.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing mask-wearing requirement at sociomedical institutions</td>
<td>In such institutions a reduction in the mask requirement may be allowed for vaccinated people or whose who have recovered from COVID-19.</td>
<td>19.04.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 3b para 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exemption from contact quarantine requirement at establishments</td>
<td>In certain circumstances people working at establishments where there is repeated, targeted testing are exempt from the contact quarantine requirements for the work setting.</td>
<td>19.04.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 3b paras 3 to 6</td>
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### Federal Council decree of 19 March 2021

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private gatherings indoors: max. 10 people</td>
<td>Private indoor gatherings and events with friends and family are again permitted with a maximum of 10 instead of only 5 people.</td>
<td>22.3.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6 para 2 first sentence</td>
</tr>
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### Federal Council decree of 12 March 2021

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testing campaign</td>
<td>Testing strategy extended: The federal government will pay the costs of all rapid tests, also for people without symptoms. Once reliable self-tests are available, everyone is to be able to obtain five self-tests a month from pharmacies.</td>
<td>15.3.2021</td>
<td>Art. 23a, Art. 24 and Art. 26 in conjunction with Annex 6 Covid-19 Ordinance 3</td>
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### Federal Council decree of 24 February 2021

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private gatherings outdoors: max. 15 people</td>
<td>Private outdoor gatherings and events with friends and family are again permitted with a maximum of 15 people.</td>
<td>1.3.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6 para 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening of shops, museums and libraries</td>
<td>All shops can open for business again. Museums, and reading rooms at archives and libraries, can open again.</td>
<td>1.3.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 5d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening of outdoor areas of recreational and sports facilities</td>
<td>Outdoor areas of zoos, botanical gardens and recreational facilities are accessible again. Also accessible again are outdoor sports facilities such as ice rinks, tennis courts, football grounds and athletics stadiums.</td>
<td>1.3.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 5d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures eased for children and young people</td>
<td>The federal government extends the range of activities possible for children, adolescents and young adults (born 2001 or after): All practices, rehearsals and training for cultural and sports activities are permitted without restriction. Performances and competitions are also permitted provided there is no audience. Singing together is permitted, also in choirs and music lessons. Concerts are allowed provided there is no audience (e.g. with video streaming). Open children’s and youth activities are permitted. Youth clubs are open.</td>
<td>1.3.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 6e and 6f, Art. 5d, Art. 6g</td>
</tr>
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### Federal Council decree of 27 January 2021

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of additional test costs</td>
<td>To better protect vulnerable people and tackle outbreaks of infection early on, the federal government will also cover the costs of tests for people without symptoms.</td>
<td>28.1.2021</td>
<td>Ordinance 3 on Measures to Combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Art. 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of shortening quarantine</td>
<td>Quarantine can be ended early if the person affected has a rapid antigen test or molecular biological analysis (PCR test) from day 7 onwards and the result is negative.</td>
<td>8.2.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 3e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering Switzerland: providing contact data</td>
<td>Almost everyone who enters Switzerland must provide their contact details in advance. There is a new electronic form for incoming travellers for this purpose.</td>
<td>8.2.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures: Section 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering Switzerland: negative PCR test</td>
<td>On entry the following people must be able to provide proof of a negative PCR test: 1) people entering from states and areas with an increased risk of infection and 2) people who enter by air.</td>
<td>8.2.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures: Section 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed penalties: offences explicitly listed</td>
<td>Violations of measures to combat the epidemic are explicitly listed as criminal offences and can in some cases be punished with fixed penalties. The penalties range from CHF 50 to CHF 200 depending on the offence.</td>
<td>1.2.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, Art. 13 Fixed Penalties Ordinance (CC 314.11) Annex 2 numbers 16001 to 16006 and 17001 to 17002</td>
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### Federal Council decree of 13 January 2021

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<tr>
<td>Closure of shops selling goods that are not day-to-day necessities</td>
<td>Shops and markets must close, with the exception of shops and open-air markets providing day-to-day necessities. These goods are defined in the ordinance (Art. 5e para. 2 and Annex 2). The restrictions on opening hours for these shops and markets have been lifted. The restrictions on opening hours remain in place for businesses providing services.</td>
<td>18.1.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 5e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum of 5 people at private gatherings</td>
<td>A maximum of 5 people may take part in gatherings of family and friends. This number includes children.</td>
<td>18.1.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 6 para 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum of 5 people at</td>
<td>Gatherings in public areas are likewise limited to a maximum of 5 people. This</td>
<td>18.1.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance:</td>
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<td>gatherings in public areas</td>
<td>number includes children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compulsory homeworking</td>
<td>Employers are obligated to order homeworking anywhere where this is possible with reasonable effort on the basis of the type of activity.</td>
<td>18.1.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 10 para 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At work: compulsory mask requirement indoors</td>
<td>At the workplace masks must be worn wherever there is more than one person in a room or vehicle. It is no longer sufficient for there to be large distances between workspaces in the same room.</td>
<td>18.1.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 10 para 1&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of vulnerable people</td>
<td>There must be specific protection for employees who are in vulnerable groups. Depending on the circumstances this may mean a right to work from home or even exemption from the obligation to work.</td>
<td>18.1.2021</td>
<td>Covid-19 Ordinance 3: Art. 27a</td>
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**Federal Council decree of 6 January 2021**

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<tr>
<td>Revocation of cantonal exceptions regarding opening of businesses and opening hours</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>9.1.2021</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance of 19 June 2020: Art. 7 para 2–6 is revoked</td>
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**Federal Council decree of 21 December 2020**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom and South Africa: quarantine</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>21.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Ordinance on International Passenger Transport Measures: Art. 3 para. 1 letter d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom and South Africa: entry ban</td>
<td>A fundamental entry ban applies for foreigners wishing to enter Switzerland from the United Kingdom or South Africa.</td>
<td>21.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Ordinance 3: Art. 4 para. 1 letter b and c</td>
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**Federal Council decree of 18 December 2020**

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<tr>
<td>Restaurants and bars closed</td>
<td>Catering businesses are to be closed. Only company canteens, school canteens and restaurants for hotel guests are permitted to remain open. Takeaways and delivery services are still permitted.</td>
<td>22.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 5a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural, entertainment and</td>
<td>Cultural, entertainment and recreational facilities are closed. This includes</td>
<td>22.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes to measures, status: 19 April 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Explanation of measure</th>
<th>In force since</th>
<th>Legal basis and details in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted opening hours for catering businesses</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>12.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Article 5a para.1 letter b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted opening hours for public businesses and establishments</td>
<td>Public businesses and establishments must close between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.</td>
<td>12.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 5abis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ban on events</td>
<td>Public events are prohibited. Exceptions include, in particular, religious</td>
<td>12.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Federal Council decree of 11 December 2020**

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.

- -
celebrations (up to a maximum of 50 people), funerals attended by family and close friends, parliamentary assemblies and political demonstrations.  

**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.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for ski areas and winter sports resorts</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>9.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 5b and Art. 5c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further capacity restrictions for businesses</td>
<td>Requirements for precautionary measures: in businesses where several people can move around freely (e.g. shops), at least 10 m² of space must be available for each person. For smaller businesses with a surface area of up to 30 m², at least 4 m² of space is required for each person.</td>
<td>9.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Number 3 in the Annex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal singing</td>
<td>Apart from within the family circle and in compulsory schools, communal singing is prohibited both outdoors and indoors.</td>
<td>9.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Art. 6f para. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional rules for restaurants</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>9.12.2020</td>
<td>COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance: Article 5a para. 1 letter c&lt;sup&gt;er&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation for private gatherings</td>
<td>It is strongly recommended that private gatherings be limited to two households.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation to work from home</td>
<td>Increased recommendation for people to work from home.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>