



## **New Coronavirus – Information for the foreign-language people of Switzerland**

Excellency  
Madam, Sir

Switzerland currently finds itself in an extremely serious situation. The rate of infection with the new coronavirus continues to rise rapidly. Many people are falling ill. While some only experience mild symptoms, they are still infectious. The disease can also be life threatening. Some people are also at especially high risk of becoming seriously ill if they contract the disease.

The Federal Office of Public Health has been running a high-profile campaign entitled 'Protect yourself and others' to raise public awareness. The most important rules on hygiene and social distancing have been communicated widely on posters and flyers, and in adverts on TV and in print media, in an effort to contain or at least slow the spread of the new Coronavirus. This is imperative in order to gain time so that the federal government's measures to protect the population can take effect.

It is a matter of great importance to us that our message should reach everyone living in Switzerland. We would therefore be extremely grateful for your assistance in passing on this message and ensuring that your compatriots have access to this important information.

Continuously updated information on the coronavirus can be found on the following official channels of the Federal Office of Public Health:

**Campaign:** [www.foph-coronavirus.ch](http://www.foph-coronavirus.ch) (German, French, Italian, English)

**FOPH website:** [www.foph.admin.ch/new-coronavirus](http://www.foph.admin.ch/new-coronavirus) (German, French, Italian, English)

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/BAG\\_OFSP\\_UFSP](https://twitter.com/BAG_OFSP_UFSP) (German, French, Italian)

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/swiss.public.health> (German, French, Italian)

**Factsheets in a range of languages:** [www.bag-coronavirus.ch/downloads](http://www.bag-coronavirus.ch/downloads) (Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Georgian, Kurdish, Mandarin, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian, Slovakian, Somali, Spanish, Turkish, Hungarian; these factsheets will follow: Farsi, Dari, Pashtu, Polish, Tamil, Tibetan, Tigrinya)

**Videos on various topics on YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/bagofspufsp/videos>:

Videos with information for the hard of hearing; 'self-isolation'; 'The situation is serious'; 'Keep your distance'; 'What's the purpose of the measures against the coronavirus'; Rules on hygiene and social distancing 'How to protect yourself and others', etc. (Ge, Fr, It, En)

**Information in easy-to-read-language** (Ge, Fr, It, En):

<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/leichte-sprache.html>

**Information in sign language** (Ge, Fr, It, En):

<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/gebaerdensprache.html>

**Further information in various languages from other organisations can be found at:**

**Diaspora TV (via Facebook):** [www.facebook.com/Diaspora-TV-Switzerland-247193432357291/](https://www.facebook.com/Diaspora-TV-Switzerland-247193432357291/);

[www.facebook.com/watch/Diaspora-TV-Switzerland-247193432357291/2233447803629744/](https://www.facebook.com/watch/Diaspora-TV-Switzerland-247193432357291/2233447803629744/) (Video on hygiene rules and social distancing in 11 languages)

[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIVTMuEP71Gj4K9yxsZDUg33JUwMAodQV](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIVTMuEP71Gj4K9yxsZDUg33JUwMAodQV)  
(Video 'The situation is serious' in 19 languages)

**Migesplus:**

[www.migesplus.ch/themen/coronavirus-de](https://www.migesplus.ch/themen/coronavirus-de) (De)

[www.migesplus.ch/fr/sujets/coronavirus-fr](https://www.migesplus.ch/fr/sujets/coronavirus-fr) (Fr)

[www.migesplus.ch/it/temi/coronavirus-it](https://www.migesplus.ch/it/temi/coronavirus-it) (It)

[www.migesplus.ch/en/topics/coronavirus-en](https://www.migesplus.ch/en/topics/coronavirus-en) (En)

Thank you very much for your assistance in this effort.

**Federal Office of Public Health FOPH**

Communicable Disease Division

Berne, 9th April 2020