



Fighting Strategy COVID-19

Switzerland

1. What is the COVID-19 fighting strategy of your government (National, local)?

All people except those from the Principality of Liechtenstein are not allowed to entry into Switzerland. Exceptions are possible, for example for people who live or work in Switzerland.

Meetings of more than five people are forbidden. If five or less people meet, they must keep a distance of at least two meters. Failure to this order will result in a fine. There is no curfew in Switzerland.

Classroom teaching at schools, universities and other educational establishments is prohibited.

All shops, restaurants, bars, entertainment and leisure facilities are closed.

Since 13 March only Hospitals may perform urgent surgeries and treatments. Visitors are not allowed in the hospitals.

As from, 27 April, the hospitals will allowed to restart with normal surgeries and carry out non-urgent treatments and operations.

2. What is the strategy towards the population (Mask wearing, containment ...)?

The Federal Council recommends wearing face masks in fully occupied trains. In Switzerland there is no mask obligation. All individuals with symptoms of acute respiratory disease with or without fever, muscle pain or loss of smell or taste are tested for Covid-19.

3. Are there enough masks for the population in your country?

Yes, there are enough masks. Starting next week, the government will supply one million hygiene masks daily for two weeks to leading retailers to support the sale of masks to the population.

4. Are there enough masks and personal protective equipment for health professionals?

At the moment there is enough material and the stocks are refilled continuously.

5. What is the biological screening strategy (Polymerase Chain Reaction – PCR, serological tests,)?

All individuals with symptoms of acute respiratory disease with or without fever, muscle pain or loss of smell or taste are tested for Covid-19. The Federal Office of Public Health in Switzerland still not advises rapid and serological tests. Only the so-called PCR test is reliable for the diagnosis of Covid-19.

6. Do you have enough biological screening tests?

Yes, there are enough. That also depends on the government's testing strategy.

7. Do you have enough beds for inpatients? (intensive care and other)

About two thirds of COVID 19 beds haven't been used in the whole German-speaking Part of Switzerland since the beginning of the crisis. In the Italian and French Part of Switzerland, all the beds have been used at any time, but there have always been enough beds, to deal with the epidemic.

8. Do you increase the number of intensive care beds in your country?

Switzerland has a total of 82 hospitals, clinics and hospital groups with intensive care units, with between 950 and 1000 beds. Due to the corona crises the capacities of beds have been expanded to 1200. Around 800 to 850 of these have respiratory equipment.

9. Do you have enough human resources to manage the epidemic?

Yes, we have enough human resources to manage the epidemic so far.

10. Do you have guidelines for good practices between healthcare teams and physicians in the context of the COVID-19 crisis?

Owing to the rapid spread of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), an extraordinary situation has been declared, and acute hospitals will therefore be confronted with a massive influx of patients. Initially, this can be absorbed by the restriction of elective procedures the transfer of patients to intermediate care units (IMCUs), an increase in ventilator-equipped beds, and the avoidance of personnel-intensive treatment options. However, if insufficient resources are available, rationing decisions will become necessary, placing considerable burdens on medical staff. This makes it all the more important that uniform criteria for intensive-care unit (ICU) admission and continued occupancy should be applied throughout Switzerland. The present guidelines provide the necessary basis. The guidelines will be adapted by the issuing authority if experience in practice and new scientific findings so require. The latest version is available at: www.sams.ch/en/coronavirus.

11. What are the main challenges for hospital managers during the COVID-19 crisis?

It is important to be present to keep calm and to make clear decisions. In the Bülach hospital we make sure that the crisis management team broadly supported by all relevant bodies and specialist areas, in particular the Communications Department. We meet for half an hour every morning to discuss the daily situation. It's very structured. There is a good mood. We can solve problems in only one day, for which it would have taken us months before. Address the problem, get opinions, discuss, decide, and continue until next day 95 percent of orders are already fulfilled. For example, we were able to comply with the mask obligation in the whole hospital until the following day to settle.

12. Other important information?

Although of course no one had wanted this crisis to happen, it paradoxically is an almost exciting situation than it used to be. The employees are enormously motivated and the commitment is huge. The social distance is preached, but actually a moving together in the figurative sense happens. We don't have long discussions, we work together very quickly and without complications across all departmental

boundaries, we pull ourselves together and adapt flexibly to situations. One is sociable with each other, they encourage each other.

