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## **Ordinance on Measures to Combat the COVID-19 epidemic in International Travel (COVID-19 Ordinance on International Travel)<sup>1</sup>**

of 23 June 2021 (Status as of 21 March 2022)

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*The Swiss Federal Council,*

on the basis of Articles 41 paragraphs 1 and 3 and 79 paragraph 1 of the Epidemics Act of 28 September 2012<sup>2</sup> (EpidA),<sup>3</sup>  
*ordains:*

### **Section 1 Purpose and Subject Matter**

#### **Art. 1<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> This Ordinance aims to prevent the cross-border spread of the Sars-Cov-2 coronavirus.

<sup>2</sup> It regulates the following for persons entering Switzerland from a country or region with a variant of the virus of concern:

- a. the recording of contact data in accordance with Article 49 of the Epidemics Ordinance of 29 April 2015<sup>5</sup> (contact data) and any other health data required;
- b. the test and quarantine requirement;
- c. the enforcement of quarantine.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> ...<sup>7</sup>

RU 2021 380

<sup>1</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 17 Sept. 2021, in force since 20 Sept. 2021 (AS 2021 563).

<sup>2</sup> SR 818.101

<sup>3</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 3 Dec. 2021, in force since 4 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 814).

<sup>4</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 17 Sept. 2021, in force since 20 Sept. 2021 (AS 2021 563).

<sup>5</sup> SR 818.101.1

<sup>6</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 16 Feb. 2022, in force since 17 Feb. 2022 (AS 2022 98).

<sup>7</sup> Repealed by No I of the O of 16 Feb. 2022, with effect from 17 Feb. 2022 (AS 2022 98).

## Section 2 Countries and Regions with a Variant of the Virus of Concern

### Art. 2

<sup>1</sup> Categorisation as a country or region with a variant of the virus of concern requires proof or the presumption that in this country or region a variant of the virus is widespread:

- a. that carries a higher risk of infection or causes a more severe form of the disease than the variants of the virus that are present in Switzerland; or
- b. that escapes detection and for which there is no defence through pre-existing immunity to the variants of the virus present in Switzerland (immune evasive).<sup>8</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The list of countries and regions with a variant of the virus of concern that is immune evasive or the immune evasive status of which is unclear is provided in Annex 1 number 1.

<sup>3</sup> The list of countries and regions with a variant of the virus of concern that is not immune evasive is provided in Annex 1 number 2.

<sup>4</sup> Regions on the border with Switzerland which have close economic, social and cultural ties with Switzerland may be exempted from inclusion in the lists mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 even if they meet the requirements set out in paragraph 1. The regions deemed to be border regions are listed in Annex 1a.<sup>9</sup>

## Section 3 Recording Contact Data

### Art. 3<sup>10</sup> Persons subject to the requirement

<sup>1</sup> The requirement to record contact data pursuant and where necessary to record health data applies to all persons entering Switzerland from a country or region specified in Annex 1.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>2</sup> An exemption to the requirement under paragraph 1 applies to persons who:

- a. carry goods or passengers across the border in terms of their professional activities;
- b. travel through Switzerland without a stopover.

<sup>8</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 3 Dec. 2021, in force since 4 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 814).

<sup>9</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 1 Oct. 2021, in force since 4 Oct. 2021 (AS 2021 591).

<sup>10</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 19 Jan. 2022, in force since 22 Jan. 2022 (AS 2022 19).

<sup>11</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 16 Feb. 2022, in force since 17 Feb. 2022 (AS 2022 98).

**Art. 4** Obligations of persons subject to the requirement

<sup>1</sup> The persons specified in Article 3 must record their contact data before entry as follows:

- a. online by means of the platform for recording contact data for travellers<sup>12</sup> provided by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH); or
- b.<sup>13</sup> on the paper passenger locator forms provided by the FOPH, in duplicate.

<sup>2</sup> Persons who enter Switzerland but not as a passenger with a travel operator pursuant to Article 5 and who record their contact details on a passenger locator form must retain the form for 14 days.<sup>14</sup>

**Art. 5** Obligations for travel operators

<sup>1</sup> Coach or airline operators carrying passengers specified in Article 3 internationally shall ensure that passengers provide their contact data in accordance with Article 4 paragraph 1.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>2</sup> They shall send the contact data under Article 4 paragraph 1 letter b to the FOPH on request within 24 hours.

<sup>3</sup> They shall retain the contact data for 14 days and thereafter destroy the data.

<sup>4</sup> They shall send the FOPH on request within 48 hours lists of all cross-border coach journeys or flights that they have scheduled for the following month.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>5</sup> They shall send the contact data under Article 4 paragraph 1 letter b and the lists under paragraph 4 via the platform for travel operators<sup>17</sup> provided by the FOPH.

**Art. 6** Duties of the FOPH and the cantons

<sup>1</sup> The FOPH shall ensure that the contact data is available in order to enforce the provisions on the quarantine requirement under Article 9. It shall also ensure that the data is forwarded immediately to the cantons responsible for the persons entering Switzerland.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>2</sup> As soon as it is notified that a person infected with Sars-CoV-2 has entered Switzerland, the FOPH shall take the following measures:

- a. It shall request the travel operator to provide the contact data recorded on paper relating to the persons who entered Switzerland at the same time as the person infected with Sars-CoV-2.

<sup>12</sup> The platform for recording contact data for travellers can be accessed at <https://swissplf.admin.ch>

<sup>13</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 3 Dec. 2021, in force since 4 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 814).

<sup>14</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 17 Sept. 2021, in force since 20 Sept. 2021 (AS 2021 563).

<sup>15</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 19 Jan. 2022, in force since 22 Jan. 2022 (AS 2022 19).

<sup>16</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 19 Jan. 2022, in force since 22 Jan. 2022 (AS 2022 19).

<sup>17</sup> The platform for passenger transport operators can be accessed at <https://swissplf.admin.ch>

<sup>18</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 19 Jan. 2022, in force since 22 Jan. 2022 (AS 2022 19).

- b. It shall establish the identity of the persons who were in close contact with the person infected with Sars-CoV-2 on the basis of contact data recorded online and the contact data in accordance with letter a.
- c. It shall forward the processed contact data immediately to the cantons responsible for the persons entering Switzerland.

<sup>3</sup> The FOPH may delegate its duties under paragraphs 1 and 2 to third parties. In doing so, it shall ensure that data protection and data security are guaranteed.

<sup>4</sup> The FOPH or the third parties shall destroy the data one month after the entry of the persons concerned.

<sup>5</sup> The cantons shall destroy the data one month after they have received the same from the FOPH or from third parties.

## Section 4 ...

Art. 7<sup>19</sup>

## Section 5 Requirement for Persons entering Switzerland to be tested, to quarantine and to report

Art. 8<sup>20</sup> Test requirement

<sup>1</sup> Persons aged 6 and over entering Switzerland from a country or region specified in Annex 1 must be able to show a negative test result. The requirements for tests and proof of testing are regulated in Annex 2a.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Persons who are unable to provide proof of a negative test under paragraph 1 on entering Switzerland must immediately undergo one of the following tests on entry:<sup>22</sup>

- a. a molecular-biological analysis for Sars-CoV-2; or
- b.<sup>23</sup> a Sars-CoV-2 rapid test for specialist use in accordance with Article 24a paragraph 1 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3 of 19 June 2020<sup>24</sup> unless it is based on a sample taken solely from the nasal cavity or on a saliva sample;
- c.<sup>25</sup> a laboratory immunological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 antigens in accordance with Article 19 paragraph 1 letter c of the COVID-19 Certificates Ordinance of 4 June 2021<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> Repealed by No I of the O of 16 Feb. 2022, with effect from 17 Feb. 2022 (AS 2022 98).

<sup>20</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 17 Sept. 2021, in force since 20 Sept. 2021 (AS 2021 563).

<sup>21</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 16 Feb. 2022, in force since 17 Feb. 2022 (AS 2022 98).

<sup>22</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 3 Dec. 2021, in force since 4 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 814).

<sup>23</sup> Amended by Annex No 2 of the O of 17 Dec. 2021, in force since 18 Dec. 2021

(AS 2021 881).

<sup>24</sup> SR 818.101.24

2bis ...<sup>27</sup>

3 ...<sup>28</sup>

4 ...<sup>29</sup>

### **Art. 9**<sup>30</sup> Quarantine requirement

<sup>1</sup> On entering Switzerland, persons who in the ten days before entry have stayed in a country or region listed in Annex 1 must travel immediately and directly to their home or to other suitable accommodation. They must remain there without leaving at any time for 10 days following their entry (quarantine on entry).<sup>31</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Where a person has entered Switzerland from a country or region that does not have a variant of the virus of concern, the competent cantonal authority may take account of the duration of the person's stay in that country or region when calculating the time to be spent in quarantine.

<sup>3</sup> Persons required to quarantine on entry who have entered Switzerland from a country that is not specified in Annex 1 number 1 may leave quarantine within 10 days provided they undergo either a molecular-biological analysis for Sars-CoV-2, a Sars-CoV-2-rapid test for specialist use in accordance with Article 24a paragraph 1 of COVID-19 Ordinance 3 of 19 June 2020<sup>32</sup> or a laboratory immunological analysis for Sars-CoV-2 antigens in accordance with Article 19 paragraph 1 letter c of the COVID-19 Certificates Ordinance of 4 June 2021<sup>33</sup> and the result is negative. The test may be carried out at the earliest on the seventh day of quarantine. The competent cantonal authority may, in justified cases, suspend the early termination of quarantine.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>3bis</sup> The persons mentioned in paragraph 3 may leave quarantine in order to be tested. When doing so, they must wear a face mask and maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres from other persons.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Persons who leave quarantine early pursuant to paragraph 5 must wear a face mask and maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres from other persons when outside their home or accommodation until the point in time at which quarantine under paragraph 2 would have ended.

<sup>25</sup> Inserted by Annex No 2 of the O of 17 Dec. 2021, in force since 18 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 881).

<sup>26</sup> SR 818.102.2

<sup>27</sup> Inserted by No I of the O of 3 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 814). Repealed by No I of the O of 19 Jan. 2022, with effect from 22 Jan. 2022 (AS 2022 19).

<sup>28</sup> Repealed by No I of the O of 19 Jan. 2022, with effect from 22 Jan. 2022 (AS 2022 19).

<sup>29</sup> Inserted by No I of the O of 3 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 814). Repealed by No I of the O of 16 Feb. 2022, with effect from 17 Feb. 2022 (AS 2022 98).

<sup>30</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 17 Sept. 2021, in force since 20 Sept. 2021 (AS 2021 563).

<sup>31</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 3 Dec. 2021, in force since 4 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 814).

<sup>32</sup> SR 818.101.24

<sup>33</sup> SR 818.102.2

<sup>34</sup> Amended by Annex No 2 of the O of 17 Dec. 2021, in force since 18 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 881).

<sup>35</sup> Inserted by No I of the O of 3 Dec. 2021, in force since 4 Dec. 2021 (AS 2021 814).