

**Embassy of India
Berne**

**New Coronavirus Situation
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is the current situation of Coronavirus in Switzerland?

- No. of confirmed cases : 3438 (as on 19.3.2020)
- No. of deaths attributed to coronavirus : 33 (as on 19.3.2020)

For updated information on coronavirus situation in Switzerland, please visit the official website of Federal Office of Public Health at <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home.html>

2. Is there any travel restriction for foreign travelers for entry into Switzerland?

Borders have been **closed** with Italy, Germany, Austria and France. Controls have been imposed on travel from Spain and all third countries outside the Schengen area and to ban entry from these countries, subject to certain exceptions. Exceptions include Swiss citizens, persons holding a residence or cross-border permit for Switzerland and persons who have to enter Switzerland for certain specific reasons. Persons transiting Switzerland and goods traffic will continue to be allowed. People will also be able to enter Switzerland in emergency situations.

For further details, please visit the official website of Federal Office of Public Health at <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home.html>

3. I am an Indian tourist. My Swiss visa is expiring shortly and due to travel restriction, I cannot return to India. What should I do?

Persons who are unable to leave Switzerland before expiry of their visa or residence permit due to the current situation may approach the relevant Cantonal Migration Offices of their stay and apply for visa extension. You may therefore approach the respective migration office. In case you face any problem, Embassy can issue a visa facilitation letter to the local authority.

In all such cases, Indian nationals are also advised to extend their medical insurance cover for appropriate duration.

4. I am a Swiss national. Can I travel to India?

Please note that presently there is a travel restriction to India for all travelers coming from EU, EFTA (including Switzerland), Turkey, UK, Philippines, Malaysia and Afghanistan. **No airline** can bring passengers from these countries to any Indian port from 18th March 2020 till 31 March 2020 until further orders. Diplomats, official, UN/International Organization Passport holders and Swiss nationals holding Employment and Project Visas are **exempted** and they are allowed to enter India.

The detained Travel Advisories issued by the Bureau of Immigration, Government of India, can be accessed at the following link:

<https://boi.gov.in/content/advisory-travel-and-visa-restrictions-related-covid-19-0>

In this regard, please also refer to FAQ issued by Government of India which is available on Embassy's website under the following link:

<https://www.indembassybern.gov.in/docs/1584601100faq-covid19.pdf.pdf>

5. I am an Indian national. Can I travel to India in the next few days?

The travel restriction mentioned in S.No.4 above also applies to Indian nationals.

6. I have heard that the travel ban imposed by Government of India for all passengers from Switzerland w.e.f. 18th March 2020 has been shifted to 22 March 2020. Is it true?

This is to clarify that the travel restriction imposed w.e.f 18 March 2020 for passengers from EU , EFTA, Turkey, UK, Philippines, Malaysia and Afghanistan is in place. From 22nd March 2020 to 29 March 2020, no scheduled international commercial passenger flight is allowed to land in India. The new travel restriction being imposed w.e.f. 22 March 2020 is in addition to travel restrictions already in place.

7. I am a Swiss national and an OCI Card holder. I am presently in Switzerland and have to visit India in the coming few days. What shall I do?

Please note that Visa free travel facility granted to OCI card holders who are not in India presently, has been kept in abeyance till **April 15, 2020**. This has come into effect from 1200 GMT on March 13, 2020 at the port of departure of any foreigner for onward journey to India.

Any foreign national (including OCI cardholder) who intends to travel to India for compelling reasons may contact the nearest Indian Mission for fresh visa.

8. Is there any travel restriction for Indian nationals for entry into Switzerland?

Please refer to travel restriction mentioned in S.No.2 above.

9. What are general visa restrictions imposed by Government of India after the outbreak of COVID19?

All existing visas issued to nationals of any country except those issued to Diplomats, Official passport holders, those in UN / International organizations, those on Employment, Project visas and those who are operating aircrew of scheduled commercial airlines, and who had not yet entered India, stand suspended w.e.f. 1200 GMT on March 13, 2020 till April 15, 2020.

Visas of all foreign nationals already in India remain valid. They may contact the nearest FRRO/FRO through e-FRRO module for extension/ conversion etc. of their visa or grant of any consular service.

10. I am planning an essential trip to Switzerland in the next few days/weeks. In case of emergency, whom do I contact? My son/daughter is studying in Switzerland. In case of emergency, whom should be contacted?

The Swiss official Coronavirus hotline is as under:

+41 58 463 00 00 (24 x 7)

The Embassy should be contacted on the following numbers:

+41 31 350 1130 (during office hours)

+41 76 776 36 88 (24x7)

+41 76 497 9164 (24x7)

All are advised to also keep track of Embassy's website and social media handles for any update in the matter.

11. Is there any travel restriction for a foreign diplomat for entry into India?

Diplomats, officials and those working in UN/International organizations are exempted from such restrictions on entry. However, their medical screening is compulsory.
