

Dear compatriots,

I hope that wherever you are, you and your loved ones are doing well.

At this back-to-school period, my thoughts go to those of you who have had to find new solutions, often in a difficult context, to ensure the continuation of your children's studies. My thoughts also go to our compatriots and their families who are still waiting to resume their professional activities and lives in China.

In my last communication on the occasion of the Swiss National Day, I informed you of the Embassy's commitment to making it possible for Swiss nationals residing in China and stranded abroad to return and for international schools to resume their activities. Following a recent announcement by the Chinese Authorities, holders of a valid residence permit in China can apply for a visa free of charge at the Chinese Embassy in their country of residence for their return. Starting September 1st, travelers to China will have to carry a COVID test validated by the Chinese diplomatic or consular representation of their place of residence. For further information, please consult the following links:

<http://de.chineseembassy.org/det/sqyw/t1805882.htm>
<http://ch.china-embassy.org/ger/zytz/t1808779.htm>

In close cooperation with the SwissCham Beijing, the Embassy has facilitated the return of some Swiss nationals through charter flights organized by the German Chamber of Commerce. Furthermore, Switzerland has joined the efforts undertaken by the European Union and like-minded countries towards the Chinese authorities to improve and facilitate the return and travel of their nationals to China.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing and the Consulates General in Shanghai and Guangzhou manage the consular districts for all Mainland China (including the one of the Consulate General in Chengdu). In my capacity as Ambassador to China, I care to maintain a close link with our compatriots. In order to better shape the support provided by the Embassy and the Consulates, I would like to know the number of Swiss citizens and their family members still stranded abroad and waiting to return to China. If you are concerned, please respond via e-mail to the following questions:

- Are you or any member of your close family currently outside China?
- Do you and/or they intend to return to China?
- Are you facing difficulties to return (visa, flights, other) ?

If you have permanently left China, please inform the Swiss Representation where you are registered of your departure and your new address.

For Beijing and South West China : beijing.kanzlei@eda.admin.ch
For Shanghai and Yangtze Delta Region: shanghai@eda.admin.ch
For Guangzhou and South China : guangzhou@eda.admin.ch

For further information please check the following links :

www.eda.admin.ch/beijing
<http://ch.china-embassy.org/ger/>

Kind regards,

THE AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND

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