



Consular district: Kingdom of Thailand, Kingdom of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Visiting hours: Mo. - Fr. 09:00 - 11:30

Telephone enquiries: Mo. - Th. 08:00 - 16:45  
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**Bangkok, 17.03.2020**

## **Information about COVID-19 to the Swiss community in Myanmar / N° 1. / 17.03.2020**

Dear compatriots,

I am writing to you in my capacity of Head of the Regional Consular Center covering Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Thailand.

The spread of COVID-19 is a matter of concern for all of us. With this message, we would like to inform you on measures taken and point you to useful sources of information in Myanmar, Thailand and Switzerland. Should the situation change, we will once more reach out to you with updated information.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Yangon is operational and receives guests and clients during normal office hours. Please note that before accessing the lift, the reception of Vantage Tower will take your temperature and ask you to fill in the **form "Questionnaire 2019-nCov"**. The Embassy has furthermore introduced restricted service travels of staff and, as a team, is downscaling its presence at public events.

### **Recommendation for Swiss tourists / travelers abroad:**

On March 16, 2020, the Swiss government (Federal Council) declared an "extraordinary situation" over the coronavirus. The Federal Council advises to **avoid non-urgent travel abroad until further notice and to all Swiss citizens currently traveling abroad to go back to Switzerland**. We would like to underline the importance of this recommendation for the Swiss currently traveling abroad.

### **Situation and measures in Myanmar:**

The security and wellbeing of Swiss citizens living in and visiting Myanmar are the responsibility of Myanmar authorities. News has reached us that the **Myanmar Government** advises to avoid any public gatherings, ceremonies and festivals as well as holding of receptions and public events until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 including Thingyan. The restriction may be extended if necessary.

On March 15, 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar issued the Precautionary Measures for travelers visiting Myanmar to contain the spread of COVID-19. Please find the document enclosed. Be aware that the situation might change at short notice.

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**Transiting through Thailand is still possible at moment**, but with some restrictions to passengers who have recently traveled to China - including Hong Kong and Macao -, Iran, Italy and South Korea. Please consult the website of the [Department of Disease Control](#) of the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand for more information.

**Traveling in Thailand**: the Thai Government is introducing specific measures such as self-quarantine and health certificate to visitors based on their recent travel history. Since 13 March 2020, Switzerland has been put on a list of countries with “ongoing local transmission” of the COVID-19. This implies different measures for people arriving from Switzerland to Thailand, such as temperature screening upon arrival, self-monitoring for 14 days and regular reporting to the medical authorities.

**Recent measures in Switzerland**: the number of COVID-19 cases is rapidly growing in Switzerland. The Federal Council has categorized the situation as “extraordinary situation” in terms of the Epidemics Act. It invites all the population to adopt a responsible behavior and decided on March 16, 2020, to adopt new measures. The most important ones are the following:

1. Border controls at the borders with Germany, France and Austria have been introduced at midnight on (night between 16 and 17 March), as was already the case with Italy.
2. Instituting a ban on all private and public events and closing gathering places such as restaurants, bars, non-essential shops and leisure and entertainment venues until 19 April 2020. Only businesses providing essential goods to the population – such as grocery stores, bakeries, pharmacies, banks and post offices – are to remain open.
3. Ban on classroom teaching at all educational establishments as of 16 March 2020 until 19 April 2020.

All these measures are explained in detailed on the website of the [Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland](#). These measures can also be adapted in the future depending on the evolution of the situation.

**Other recommendations:**

Before any travel movement, you are strongly advised to consult the website of the authorities and the relevant airline. Additionally, we recommend that you contact the embassy or consulate of the country you are travelling to in order to find out about any special measures that are in place.

Allow me to mention some relevant sources of information to consult regularly:

From Myanmar authorities: [Ministry of Health](#) / [Ministry of Information](#) / [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

From Thai authorities: [Ministry of Public Health, Department of Disease Control](#)

From Swiss authorities: [Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland](#)

[WHO - World Health Organisation](#) and [WHO COVID-19 Situation Reports](#)

[International Air Transport Association, IATA](#)

Please also keep us up to date about any changes to your contact details, by informing us via the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok’s email address [bangkok@eda.admin.ch](mailto:bangkok@eda.admin.ch). If you are traveling, we recommend you to register on [Itineris](#) (*Travel Admin App*) so that you can easily be contacted by the relevant Swiss Embassy if needed.

As you may know, under the Swiss Abroad Act, every Swiss travelling or working abroad does so under his or her own personal responsibility. That said, we are of course here to assist you. We are constantly monitoring developments and remain in contact with all relevant authorities.

We are confident that with caution, mutual support and solidarity, we can handle the circumstances caused by COVID-19 in a thoughtful manner.

With my very best regards,

Pierre Chabloz  
General Consul

**Attachments:**

- Communication from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, 15 March 2020
- Embassy in Yangon form “Questionnaire 2019-nCov”