



INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 IN SOUTH KOREA

Dear fellow Swiss citizens in Korea,

I hope that you and your families in Korea and in Switzerland are doing good in these challenging times of COVID-19 and I revert to you once more in order to share with you important information on health, travel, connectivity and border crossing issues.

As we all know, the Republic of Korea responded determinedly from the very beginning of the crisis and in put in place a comprehensive and efficient crisis management. Strict measures such as closing down of schools and universities, introduction of social distancing rules and COVID-19 hygiene etiquette, transparent real-time information sharing, containment as well as systematic screening, testing and tracing strategies were speedily implemented and have been recognized by open democracies as global benchmark in COVID-19 crisis management. The Korean authorities continue to adapt and further strengthen the methods to combat the pandemic by applying tighter border controls and quarantine measures to travelers from Europe and the USA. Thanks to these unprecedented efforts, the Korean authorities truly made an important contribution to combatting COVID-19.

In Switzerland, the federal and cantonal authorities also reacted swiftly. In addition to measures already in place, such as closure of restaurants, bars, schools and most shops, the Swiss government has taken further preventive action to combat the virus. The Federal Council has temporarily suspended the entry of foreigners into Switzerland and called Swiss residents to stay at home and act responsibly. Gatherings of more than five people are prohibited, the supply of essential protective gear and medical goods to hospitals and health centres has been ramped up dramatically.

This Embassy is constantly communicating through its homepage and facebook account as well as direct messages addressed to all of you, whether you are Swiss citizens registered with the Embassy or tourists traveling or students studying in Korea. Given the uncertainties caused by COVID-19, the Swiss government has strongly recommended all Swiss tourists travelling abroad to return promptly to Switzerland. Please be aware that this international health crisis is having a serious impact on all airlines and many air routes have been suspended worldwide and that there are fewer and fewer options to return from Korea to Europe. As far as Swiss residents in Korea are concerned, we recommend that you stay in Korea, avoid international and domestic travel and stay at home.

In order to protect your health as well as the health of other citizens and especially health workers, I urgently request you to follow the instructions of the Korean health authorities by the letter. The fight against this epidemic is the responsibility of all of us; each of us can really make a difference. It is our duty as guests in Korea to act responsibly and in solidarity with our Korean hosts. I therefore ask you all to fully abide by the rules and instructions of the Korean authorities.

For further information, please click on the following link <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/korea-republic/en/home/representations/embassy.html>

It goes without saying that the Embassy remains at your disposal to answer any questions you may have, via e-mail at seoul@eda.admin.ch and the phone number 02 739 95 11.

I thank you in advance for your continued efforts and wish you and your loved ones to stay safe and healthy during these challenging times!

Warm regards,

Dr. Linus von Castelmur 리누스 폰 카스텔무르

Ambassador of Switzerland / Embassy of Switzerland in the Republic of Korea

Seoul, 30.03.2020

77 Songwol-gil
Jongno-gu
Seoul 03165

Phone: 0082 2 739 95 11, Fax: 0082 2 737 93 92
seoul@eda.admin.ch, www.eda.admin.ch/seoul