



Singapore, 05.03.2020

## On the COVID-19 situation

Dear compatriots,

The spread of COVID-19 is a matter of concern for all of us. Thanks to the efficient and effective efforts of the Singapore government, the situation in Singapore seems to be stabilizing. However, the spread of the virus in other parts of the world has prompted Singapore's Immigration & Checkpoints Authority to issue new restrictions for travellers with recent travel history to mainland China, South Korea, northern Italy\* and Iran, and it has announced a number of additional mandatory measures. In Switzerland, the Federal Council has categorised the situation as "special" in terms of the Epidemics Act. It banned large-scale events involving more than 1000 people, at least until 15 March 2020.

As of now, there are no travel restrictions for entry into Switzerland. However, the Federal Office of Public Health in Switzerland has recently listed Singapore as one of the "affected areas" in which continued transmission of the virus from person to person is taking place or can be suspected. On that basis, it has recommended precautionary health measures during and after travel to Singapore. Many cantons, public and private institutions as well as private companies in Switzerland have taken additional precautionary measures for visitors and guests who have stayed in one of the affected areas. The embassy is aware that this situation creates uncertainties for travellers to Switzerland and is in contact with the competent authorities in Bern in this respect.

Please note that travellers from Singapore may face precautionary measures or even travel restrictions in other countries. 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.

Against this background, we recommend that you follow the information and recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Immigration & Checkpoints Authority of Singapore, and, if you intend to travel to Switzerland, the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health. Allow me to mention some relevant sources of information:

- [Ministry of Health, Singapore](#)  
[Official push notifications via WhatsApp](#)  
MoH general enquiry hotline: +65 6325 9220
- [Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, Singapore](#)
- [Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland](#)
- [World Health Organization, WHO](#)
- [International Air Transport Association, IATA](#)

To complement the above, we update our [embassy website](#) on a regular basis, mainly indicating the sources that we use to keep ourselves informed about the evolving situation. Please also keep us up to date about any changes to your contact details, by informing us via the embassy's email address [singapore@eda.admin.ch](mailto:singapore@eda.admin.ch).

I take this opportunity to convey to you that the embassy has confidence in the effective way the Singaporean authorities handle the COVID-19 situation and safeguard health and public safety. They also take determined action in enforcing necessary measures. We advise you to cooperate and comply with their instructions.

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, the embassy team is of course here to assist you. We are constantly monitoring developments and remain in contact with all relevant authorities, both in Singapore and Switzerland.

I am 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Filliez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fabrice Filliez  
Ambassador

\*Refers to eight administrative regions in northern Italy: Aosta Valley, Piedmont, Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol.