



INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 IN SOUTH KOREA

Dear fellow Swiss citizens in Korea,

The coronavirus – COVID-19 – continues to spread in the Republic of Korea. The Korean Government raised the virus alert level to “red”, the highest level, on Sunday, 23 February 2020. Although nearly all major provinces or cities have reported some infections, most of the cases are situated in Daegu and its nearby county of Cheongdo which were designated as “disaster zones” by the administration.

Measures taken in Switzerland

Starting today, the Swiss government has taken the following measures to fight the coronavirus:

- From now until the end of April, public gatherings of more than 100 people are banned.
- Restaurants, bars and discos can no longer accommodate more than 50 guests. This will make it easier to respect the recommended social distance.
- Schools are closed until 4 April.
- Entrance to Switzerland from Italy is limited.
- The Federal Council is providing emergency aid of up to CHF 10 billion to cushion the economic impact of the pandemic quickly and without bureaucracy.

Measures taken by the Embassy of Switzerland in Korea

The Embassy implemented the following precautionary measures:

- Following the model of other Embassies and companies in Seoul, home office was introduced for some colleagues of the Embassy.
- Visiting hours and reachability through our phone central are maintained as usual. Nevertheless, visitors at the Chancery must wear masks and disinfect their hands at the entrance/counter.
- The chancery employees must work with masks and wear latex gloves when working at the counter.
- Limit physical contact, both inside and outside the Embassy: Keep your distance from colleagues (more than 1 meter)
- Limit meetings with external guests at the Embassy – instead, use phone conferences whenever possible
- No meeting of more than 7 persons in the conference room or multi-purpose room

Measures taken by the Republic of Korea

New immigration procedures are imposed on travelers arriving from all Schengen countries as of 16 March. They apply to any traveler who stayed in Europe in the last 14 days, regardless of their nationality, including Korean nationals. The step-by-step procedure at the airport is as follows: At the immigration: measurement of body temperature, submission of the filled-in questionnaire on health conditions. At arrival in Korea, a special procedure has been introduced:

- Travelers must submit a special quarantine report.
- Each traveler is requested to install a self-examination app on his/her mobile phone (the traveler enters the symptoms every day in the app, CDC collects the info; if the traveler does not enter the information, the government agent calls by phone)
- Verification of the contact point (the immigration officer calls the mobile; if the traveler does not have a mobile phone, he/she needs to submit contact points within the country).

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In general, do follow the health instructions recommended by the KCDC:

- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and running water for 30 seconds.
- Wear a mask when visiting a health care facility.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your sleeve when coughing.
- If you use a handkerchief, throw it away after use and wash your hands.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.
- Do not come into contact with people with symptoms such as fever or cough.

If you have fever or one of the respiratory symptoms, it is advisable to follow these steps:

- Call the KCDC call centre at 1339 (24 hours a day) or
- Area code + 120. (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)
- Ask to be referred to a designated test center.

Be aware that some doctors' offices refuse to see patients with fever or respiratory symptoms in order not to risk contamination. In the case of these symptoms, you must contact 1339 for a referral.

The Embassy will continue to follow the situation closely. Thank you very much for your cooperation and for following the advice of the local authorities during this challenging time. Stay safe and healthy!

Best regards,

Marie-José Borghini
Consul & Head of Chancery

Seoul, 16.03.2020