

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention

United Nations Environment Programme

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POPRC-17

COVID PACKAGE – IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND PROTOCOLS

We look forward to welcoming you to POPRC-17. Our focus remains on delivering a safe, successful in-person and online POPRC-17. The safety and security of everyone at POPRC-17 is of utmost importance.

The information provided below is applicable to all the participants attending the POPRC-17 meeting physically at the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG).

1. Requirements for entering Switzerland

From Saturday, 22 January 2022, persons who have been vaccinated or who have recovered from COVID-19 will no longer be required to present a negative PCR (not more than 72 hours old) or rapid antigen test (not more than 24 hours old) before entering Switzerland. However, **persons who are not vaccinated** or who have not recovered from COVID-19 **will still have** to take the tests to enter the country.

2. COVID-19 measures at the venue

We have put in place a range of measures to help protect participants and staff.

- A **Swiss COVID certificate will be required to enter the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG)**. The COVID certificate provides documentary evidence that you have had a COVID-19 vaccination or have recovered from the disease.
- As it takes few days to obtain a Swiss COVID certificate, please apply for the certificate **at least one week before** your trip to Switzerland. Information on how to apply for a Swiss COVID Certificate can be found at: <https://smc02.hug.ch/surveys/?s=WA39AEN9T3CYMK9W>.
- Travellers who already have an EU Digital COVID Certificate or a certificate that is compatible with the EU Digital COVID Certificate do not need to apply for a Swiss COVID certificate as these are also recognized in Switzerland (see [Entering Switzerland](#) for more information).
- You can download the App “**Swiss COVID Certificate**” on App Store or Google Play and scan the QR code to load up your certificate on your mobile phone.



- You can also download the “SwissCovid App” which supports contact tracing, by establishing whether close contact has taken place and giving rapid notification if there is a potential risk of infection.



- Access to the CICG will also be possible with a proof of a negative PCR (valid for 72 hours) or a rapid antigen test (valid for 24 hours). **A testing facility for rapid antigen tests will be available at the CICG daily from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. and from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.**
- Other specific safety and health measures at the meeting venue will be put in place such as:
 - Mandatory use of face masks;
 - 1.5 meter physical distancing;
 - Daily rapid antigen self-testing (see section 3 below);
 - Hand sanitizer stations throughout the venue;
 - Signage to assist participants.
- If you develop any cold- or flu-like symptoms **while in the premises**, you should request assistance from the Secretariat or the UN Safety and Security Service (112 from any fixed line phone on the premises).
- If you develop any cold- or flu-like symptoms **while in Geneva**, please inform the Secretariat and please avoid coming to the venue.
- The Secretariat contact is **Ms. Maria Cristina Cardenas-Fischer** (Phone: +41 79 477 0886 (also on WhatsApp or Signal); Email: maria-cristina.cardenas@un.org).

3. Daily rapid antigen self-tests

A self-test kit containing five self-tests will be provided to all participants at the registration desk on the first day of the meeting. Participants are requested to self-test daily from the second day at their hotel before coming to the venue (see below information on what to do in case of a positive test).

4. Positive COVID-19 test

If you tested positive from the self-test, please return to or stay at your hotel, undertake a PCR test or a rapid antigen test, and go into isolation. Please follow the instructions of the on-site nurse if you tested positive at the venue.

- Book an appointment online for a PCR test with a COVID-19 testing center in Geneva at: <https://www.onedoc.ch/en/covid-testing-center/geneva>.
- The closest pharmacy to the CICG that has a testing facility is the Faust Pharmacie: <https://faustpharm.ch/>. There is one test centre located close to the airport (Joinville): <https://www.m3-test.ch/coronarisk>.
- For more information on where to get tested, visit <https://www.ge.ch/en/covid-19-get-tested>.
- Please follow the [instructions on isolation](#) (see section 5 below).

5. Isolation or quarantine

A person with a confirmed or suspected infection must stay at the hotel and avoid all contact with other people. The following rules apply:

- People who have tested positive for infection with COVID-19 must go into **isolation**. Please follow the [instructions on isolation](#).
 - **Duration of the isolation period** will be determined by the test result and the symptoms:
 - **You have tested positive:** Usually the isolation period can be lifted at the earliest after **five days** if you have had no symptoms for at least 48 hours, or the symptoms you do have do not require you to remain in isolation.
 - **You have tested negative:** You can end isolation 24 hours after your symptoms disappear.
 - **You were not tested:** You can end isolation 48 hours after your symptoms disappear, provided at least five days have passed since the first symptoms appeared.
 - **You had no symptoms at the time you were tested:** the isolation period can be lifted five days after the test provided you do not have any symptoms that require you to remain in isolation.
- People with an increased likelihood of infection must go into **quarantine**. As of 13 January 2022, quarantine measures are to be taken if you share a household with, or have been in comparable regular and close contact with someone who has tested positive, or if you have been in a country with a variant of concern in the last 10 days before entering Switzerland. Please follow the [instructions on quarantine](#).
- More information about isolation and quarantine is available at: <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/isolation-und-quarantaene.html>.

6. Symptoms

Please monitor your symptoms and get tested if you develop the following symptoms. There is a very wide range of symptoms caused by the new coronavirus. The most common symptoms are:

- Respiratory illness symptoms (sore throat, cough (usually dry), shortness of breath, chest pain);
- Congestion, runny nose;
- High temperature;
- Sudden loss of sense of smell and/or taste;
- Other symptoms may include headache, general weakness, feeling unwell, aching muscles, skin rash, gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomachache).

In case of severe symptoms such as difficulty in breathing, very rapid respiration, confusion, drowsiness, **please contact emergency services: “144” for Switzerland, “15” for France.**

7. Essential phone numbers and COVID-19 hotlines

The Secretariat contact:

Ms. Maria Cristina Cardenas-Fischer: Phone: +41 79 477 0886 (also on WhatsApp or Signal); Email: maria-cristina.cardenas@un.org.

Country	Contact	Phone number	Time	Note
Switzerland	COVID-19 HOTLINE GENEVA	+41 800 909 400	9:00-21:00/ 365 days	General information (health and other) from the Republic and Canton of Geneva
	COVID-19 HOTLINE GENEVA	+ 41 22 427 88 00	24h/365 days	https://www.ge.ch/covid-19-se-proteger-proteger-autres
	COVID HOTLINE CANTON OF VAUD	+41 800 316 800	8:00-18:00/ 365 days	https://www.vd.ch/toutes-les-actualites/hotline-et-informations-sur-le-coronavirus/
	EMERGENCY	144	24h/365 days	
France	TELEPHONE PLATFORM COVID-19	+33 800 130 000	24h/365 days	Free platform for information on COVID-19. NO medical advice. https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus
	EMERGENCY	15	24h/365 days	