Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and the WHA 73.1 Resolution on Covid-19 Response

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1. Water, sanitation and hygiene in Switzerland

I. Swiss legal framework for WASH

II. Covid-19 prevention in Switzerland and hand hygiene

III. Recommendations for a safe re-opening: legionella prevention
I. Diversified Legal Framework on WASH

- The Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation
- Several Acts and Ordinances

In Switzerland’s federal system, water management is implemented by the Cantons.

- **Water suppliers:** Generally, the Communes supply the water, based on the powers delegated to them by the Cantons.

- **Coverage of water supply:** Switzerland is often referred to as “Europe’s water tower” and drinking water is supplied to nearly 100% of the population in the country.

- **Sanitation:** Wastewater is collected and treated in almost all parts of the country by 750 large wastewater treatment plants and 3,500 small plants.
Switzerland is Party to the Protocol on Water and Health since 2006

- Switzerland is a member of the Bureau of the Protocol.
- Switzerland chairs the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting of the Protocol.
- Switzerland has set national targets in line with the requirements stipulated in Article 6 paragraph 2 of the Protocol.
- These targets contribute towards upholding the commitments made by Switzerland to ensure access to drinking water and the provision of sanitation.
II. Covid-19 Prevention in Switzerland and Hand Hygiene

“Frequent and correct hand hygiene is one of the most important measures to prevent infection with the COVID-19 virus.”
WHO/UNICEF, April 2020
Covid-19 Outreach in Various Languages

Swiss Federal Office of Public Health - Covid-19 Downloads in various languages

New coronavirus: Downloads in various languages

How to protect yourself and others: here you can find a series of posters, videos and instructions to download and share. They are available in a wide range of languages, incl. the languages of Switzerland’s migrant population.

- ‘Protect yourself and others’ campaign
- Posters
- Videos
- Information in various languages
- Instructions on isolation in various languages
- Instructions on quarantine in various languages
- Watching Videos from Diaspora TV
- Corona-Helpline of HEKS/EPER, available in 10 languages
- migesplus platform
- Ordering information material

Information in various languages

Hygiene rules and how to behave in various languages

The rules on hygiene and social distancing that we need to observe to protect ourselves from becoming infected with the coronavirus, are available as videos and fact sheets in a variety of languages.

- Koronavirusi i ri (Albanian) (PDF, 320 kB, 12.06.2020)
- იურიდიული გამოცემა (Amharic) (PDF, 375 kB, 12.06.2020)
- گزارش الکترونیکی (Arabic) (PDF, 424 kB, 12.06.2020)
- კორონავირუსია (Georgian) (PDF, 304 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Az új koronavírus (Hungarian) (PDF, 282 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Koronavírusról szóló videó (Hungarian) (PDF, 284 kB, 12.06.2020)
- 新冠病毒 (Mandarin Chinese) (PDF, 376 kB, 12.06.2020)
- دورس کرونا ویروس (Persian) (PDF, 437 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Novy koronavirus (Polish) (PDF, 231 kB, 29.04.2020)
- Novo coronavirus (Portuguese) (PDF, 359 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Noul coronavirus (Romanian) (PDF, 327 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Нов коронавирус (Russian) (PDF, 327 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Novi virus korona (Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian) (PDF, 323 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Nový koronavirus (Slovak) (PDF, 316 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Fayraska corona ee cusb (Somali) (PDF, 284 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Nuevo coronavirus (Spanish) (PDF, 323 kB, 16.06.2020)
- මුවිස්ක සුපිරියය අනාගතම (Tamil) (PDF, 400 kB, 16.06.2020)
- ཨོ་གུས་བུ་གནས་ (Tibetan) (PDF, 306 kB, 09.06.2020)
- אושרי קורונה (Tigrinya) (PDF, 417 kB, 12.06.2020)
- Yeni Corona Virüs (Turkish) (PDF, 322 kB, 12.06.2020)

Corona-Helpline of HEKS/EPER, available in 10 languages

Phone: 0800 266 785

Albanian/shqip
Arabic/عربية
Bosnian-serbian-croatian/bosanski-srpski-hrvatski
Persian/Dari – فارسی/داری
Kurdish/kurdî
Spanish/español
Swahili/kuSwahili
Turkish/türkçe
III. Recommendations for a Safe Re-opening: Legionella Prevention

Coronavirus – rincer à fond les installations d’eau potable avant la réouverture des locaux au public


Dans les bâtiments et les locaux ouverts au public, les installations d’eau potable doivent absolument être rincées à fond avant cette date ou avant leur remise en service. Concrètement, il s’agit d’ouvrir tous les robinets – d’êviers, de lavabos, de douches, de raccordements d’eau, etc. – et de laisser couler l’eau pour un rinçage complet.

https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/fr/home/dokumentation/nsb-news-list.msg-id-78885.html

La Société Suisse de l’Industrie du Gaz et des Eaux www.svgw.ch
2. WHA 73.1 Resolution on Covid-19 Response and the Protocol on Water and Health as a tool for its implementation in the pan-European Region
COVİD-19 response

7. CALLS ON Member States,¹ in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic:

(4) to take measures to support access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and infection prevention and control, ensuring that adequate attention is paid to the promotion of personal hygienic measures in all settings, including humanitarian settings, and particularly in health facilities;

The provision of safe water, sanitation and hygienic conditions is essential for protecting human health during all infectious disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
Water, sanitation and hygiene in the pan-European Region

While most people in the pan-European region have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, unfortunately

- **16 million people still** lack access to basic drinking-water services, of which over 3 million rely on surface water for direct consumption

- **More than 31 million people** lack access to basic sanitation, including 314’000 who still practice open defecation.

Using the mechanism of the Protocol to translate the WHA Resolution and to achieve its objectives

• The Protocol is a powerful instrument to translate the WHA Resolution and to achieve its objectives

• The Protocol offers an accountability framework through its target setting and reporting mechanisms

• Several guidance documents and tools have been developed under the Protocol which support the effective implementation of the WHA Resolution and which also play an essential role in achieving the relevant SDGs in the pan-European region.
Thank you for your attention