Information for employers and job-seekers

Short-time work as a result of coronavirus

See separate file “short-time work”

Hygiene and conduct requirements by the Federal Office for Public Health for reopening businesses

The Federal Council is gradually easing the measures. As of April 27, 2020, hospitals can carry out all procedures and medical practices, hairdressing salons, massage practices, cosmetic studios, DIY stores, garden centers, florists and market gardens can start operations again.

While the measures are gradually being eased, everyone - businesses, employees and customers - is supposed to continue to observe the hygiene and conduct rules.

You can find important information on this on the Federal Office for Public Health website:

- New coronavirus: Measures, ordinance and explanations of the FOPH

Federal Protection Concept
(https://backtowork.easygov.swiss/)

The Federal Council has decided that as of April 27, 2020, certain businesses and stores may reopen, provided that they have a protection concept. If you are a trade association, click “model protection concept”, if you are an enterprise, click “standard protection concept”.

The obligation to draft a protection concept also applies to companies that did not have to interrupt their operations. If you already have a protection concept, you must check whether it meets the requirements of the model protection concept and make any necessary adjustments. You may also rephrase your protection concept according to the proposed pattern (see the document provided in Word format). If you do not have a protection concept yet, you must draft one and implement it. You will be given a reasonable period to make all these adjustments.

- Model protection concept (for trade organizations)
- Standard protection concept (for enterprises)
Health and safety at work

https://www.awa.zh.ch/arbeitsbedingungen-coronavirus

In the context of coronavirus, the duty of care of employers includes special obligations in addition to all measures of health and safety and occupational safety. The Federal Council and Federal Office for Public Health have issued more stringent measures for the protection of employees and other persons in the workplace environment.

Please consult the information leaflet for employers: Health and safety at work CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) (DE, FR, IT) of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). It affects both work situations in which employees have relatively little contact with infected persons and work situations, such as in the health sector, where more stringent and complex measures may be required.

Specific regulations apply to construction sites, which must be observed for the protection of employees. These regulations must be implemented immediately. Please consult with the checklist for construction sites on the SUVA website Protection of employees from coronavirus on construction sites (DE, FR, IT).

The Federal Office of Public Health’s (FOPH) recommendations for the working world (DE, FR, IT, EN) are aimed at employers and employed persons. These recommendations and the more stringent federal measures influence the working world.

For the pandemic preparedness for companies, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) provides the FOPH's pandemic manual, important questions & answers and templates for individual planning (in DE, FR, IT, partly in EN).

Obligation to report vacancies suspended until further notice

http://www.awa.zh.ch/stellenmeldepflicht

In connection with the coronavirus, the Federal Council has suspended the obligation to report vacancies as per immediately until September 25, 2020. The public employment agency happily keeps accepting job vacancy reports on a voluntary basis.
Current restrictions regarding work permits

http://www.awa.zh.ch/arbeitsbewilligung

Notification procedure EU/EFTA

Current restrictions due to the coronavirus

In March 2020, the Federal Council has decided to impose far-reaching entry restrictions in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. Entering Switzerland for the purpose of work is only possible in exceptional cases.

As announced in the media release of April 29, 2020, the Federal Council will gradually ease those entry restrictions. You can find the corresponding information in the Federal directive on implementation of the COVID-19 Ordinance of May 11, 2020.

Work permits

Current restrictions due to the coronavirus

The entry restrictions resolved upon by the Federal Council in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic continue to apply.

Initial easing for entry for the purpose of work is effective immediately. For the time being, the easing applies to the applications which were submitted before the entry restrictions entered into force.

All other applications for foreign nationals are still not accepted except for cases with regard to health care.

For further questions, please refer to the State Secretariat for Migration website, which provides ongoing information about the regulations in force.

Our hotline (043 259 49 49) is currently highly overloaded. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

- Information on current entry restrictions
- Media release of the Federal Council of Wednesday, April 29, 2020
- Federal COVID-19 Directives

Switzerland maintains entry restrictions to protect the population.
Unemployment Insurance Fund Canton of Zurich: Availability

https://www.awa.zh.ch/schalter-alk-geschlossen.html

The counters of the Unemployment Insurance Fund Canton of Zurich will remain closed at all from March 13 until further notice due to operational measures in connection with the coronavirus.

You can reach the call center on 043 258 10 00 / alk@vd.zh.ch during office hours.

Registration and consulting at the Regional Employment Center (RAV) by telephone

http://www.awa.zh.ch/rau-coronavirus

Since Monday, March 16, all Regional Employment Centers (RAV) are closed to job-seekers due to coronavirus. Registration and consultation over the phone.

- The booked consultation appointments and the courses of the RAV no longer take place. The RAV accept registrations and provide advice by telephone.
- Persons who are or become unemployed during the extraordinary situation declared by the Federal Council and who are entitled to daily allowances from the unemployment insurance fund may receive a maximum of 120 additional daily allowances. This measure is intended to prevent discontinuation of payments due to exhaustion of the maximum daily allowances as a direct result of the coronavirus as far as possible.

Obligation of job-seekers still in force

All job-seekers are still subject to all the following obligations:

- They must continue the job search.
- Concerning the submission of job search efforts, the staff consultants are in dialog with the job-seekers.
- In case of illness, the medical certificate must now be submitted only from the 10th day.

New registrations at the Regional Employment Center (RAV)

For new registrations, please contact the responsible RAV by telephone at the latest on the first day of your unemployment.

Find the responsible Regional Employment Center (RAV)

Telephonic consulting at the Office for Self-Employment


Due to the coronavirus, the Office for Self-Employment is closed to all job-seekers for on-site consultations until further notice. Booked consultation appointments will not take place.
Temporarily, consulting is available by telephone only on 043 259 66 36.
The information events of the Office for Self-Employment will also not take place until further notice.

**Office for Interinstitutional Cooperation (iiz) consults by telephone**


The Interinstitutional Cooperation (IIZ) office is closed to the public until further notice due to the coronavirus. The already arranged personal meetings on site and planned case team meetings will no longer take place in the intended form.

We can be reached by telephone and ask you to contact the responsible consultant (DE).

Find the responsible consultant


Please select your municipality, or for the city of Zurich "Zurich", to get to know your contact person in charge.

For iiz registration as well as for consulting regarding questions about social and occupational integration and inter-institutional cooperation, municipalities can also contact the iiz specialist of the cantonal social welfare office.

**IIZ specialist of the cantonal social welfare office** (DE)
Information for employees


**Unemployment**
If you have been dismissed or if you have received notice of dismissal:

- Contact your Regional Employment Centre (RAV)

[Registration and consultation at the Regional Employment Center (RAV)](https://vd.zh.ch/internet/volkswirtschaftsdirektion/de/themen/vd-corona/angestellte.html)

[Find the responsible Regional Employment Center (RAV)](https://vd.zh.ch/internet/volkswirtschaftsdirektion/de/themen/vd-corona/angestellte.html)

**Employees with caregiving duties and medically prescribed quarantine**

The following persons can request loss of earnings compensation:

- parents owing to school closures
- employees in quarantine prescribed by the physician

Extent: 80 percent of the income, max. CHF 196 per day, max. 10 days in case of quarantine

Contact: AHV compensation office, payment to entitled person

[Social Security Institution of the Canton of Zurich](https://www.zh.ch/kindererziehungsoffensive/corona-beratung/tagesgebendaempfanger.html)

[Other social securities](https://www.zh.ch/kindererziehungsoffensive/corona-beratung/tagesgebendaempfanger.html)

**Taxes**

- Extension of deadline for tax return: The Department of Finance has extended the statutory deadline for filing the 2019 tax return for natural persons until May 31, 2020.
- Adjustment of the provisional tax invoice for natural persons incurring loss of income: You can request the municipal tax office to adjust the provisional invoice for federal and municipal taxes.
- Extension of the payment deadline or payment by installments for final tax invoices
- Natural persons who are currently unable to pay due final tax invoices owing to the effects of the coronavirus: You can request an extension of the payment deadline or payment by installments.
- Regarding direct federal tax, provisional tax invoices can be deferred as well.

Contact the relevant tax office as needed:
• Municipal tax office: Federal and municipal taxes
• Cantonal tax office: direct federal tax

E-mail inquiries Cantonal Tax Office

**Social welfare**
If you get into financial distress: Immediately report to your residential municipality.

**Questions about support for employees?**
[Contact form](#)