

Detailed information on your entry to Switzerland and the attendance at the United Nations World Data Forum

We are very much looking forward to welcoming attendees wishing to participate physically in the upcoming UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) from 3 to 6 October 2021 in Bern, Switzerland.

To assist with the preparations of your trip we have compiled some of the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding visa related issues and health related issues with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note that this document is being updated regularly and therefore we do suggest to consult this document frequently. **Last update: 28 September 2021**

Some general information:

- An issued visa does not exempt you from any sanitary related measures put in place by the Swiss authorities;
- The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) is the only competent authority to any questions related to cross border entry into Switzerland. – www.sem.admin.ch;
- For the [latest updates on COVID-19 related travel restrictions to Switzerland](#) you may consult their homepage.
- **Please do also verify any potential re-entry restrictions of your home country before travelling to Switzerland to avoid quarantine**

FAQ to facilitate your entry to Switzerland and the attendance at the UNWDF

When am I able to start my preparations to physically participate in the UNWDF?

Upon receipt of your formal confirmation issued by the organizers you may start preparations for your physical participation and travel arrangements to attend the UNWDF in Bern, Switzerland.

Do I require a visa to travel to Switzerland?

In light of the current entry restrictions taken by the Swiss authorities in response to the coronavirus, persons subject to [visa requirements](#) are invited to submit their application in accordance with the usual procedures to the [Swiss representation responsible for the person's place of residence](#).

How do I apply for a Schengen visa?

Upon your registration you have indicated that you will require a visa to enter Switzerland. Shortly after your definite confirmation issued by the organizers you shall receive a letter of support issued by the host country which will be sent to your indicated email address.

With this letter you will have to

1. Book an appointment **as soon as possible** with the respective Swiss Embassy/Consulate in your home country/country of residence.
2. Submit your visa application. It is imperative that the visa application is submitted no later than 20 days before the planned departure date in order to ensure sufficient processing time.

Click this link to find the [Swiss representation responsible for the person's place of residence](#).

Which documents are required to request for a visa?

Please visit the website of the responsible Swiss representation for further information regarding the [rules of entry](#) into Switzerland, necessary documents (e.g. travel insurance, passport validity min. 3 months after leaving Switzerland, etc.) to request a visa and details to book an appointment.

Which countries are subject to entry restrictions?

Persons entering Switzerland directly from a Schengen State and the [following countries](#) have access without restrictions to Swiss territory (provided that other applicable entry requirements - visa, travel document, etc. - are met).

Third-country nationals who wish to enter Switzerland from a [State considered to be high-risk](#) subject to the principle of refusal of entry must demonstrate with supporting documents (e.g. mission order, explanatory note verbale and/or letter of invitation/support) the absolute necessity of his or her physical presence at the event in order to be granted entry on the basis of a hardship exception (these exceptional situations are described in section 1.5 of the Directive on the implementation of [Ordinance 3 COVID-19](#)).

How long does the visa procedure take?

The period for processing an application may take up to 20 working days.

Which documents are required to board the plane?

In light of the travel restrictions taken in response to the coronavirus, persons who are exempted from visa requirements must inquire about boarding requirements. If necessary, the Swiss representation responsible for the [person's place of residence abroad](#) may issue a laissez-passer, which confirms that the person fulfils the conditions for crossing the Swiss border in accordance with the conditions laid down in [Ordinance 3 COVID-19](#).

I am arriving by plane to Switzerland, what do I have to do?

Regardless from the country you are arriving and your vaccination status, you are required to fill in the required [Travel Form](#) under the following link before prior to your trip.

What are the current COVID-19 regulations to enter Switzerland from my country of residence?

To see the exact rules that apply for your personal situation when entering Switzerland, please consult the personal ["Travelcheck"](#).

I am fully vaccinated.

Provided that other applicable entry requirements - visa, travel document, etc. - are met, people who are fully vaccinated are exempt from health-related measures at the border such as testing and quarantine for twelve months from the time they are fully vaccinated¹. These exemptions apply to people who have been vaccinated with [WHO listing of vaccines](#).

How do I prove that I am fully vaccinated?

The vaccine must have been administered in full within the past 12 months. Proof of vaccination may take the form of a COVID-19 certificate. If the certificate has not yet been introduced, vaccination must be proven by another suitable document which contains the following information: Surname, First Names(s), Date of birth, date of vaccination, vaccine used.

I am not fully vaccinated, am I allowed to enter Switzerland?

Provided that other applicable entry requirements – visa, travel document, etc. are met when arriving to Switzerland by airplane or by other means of transport when travelling from a State where a virus variant of concern is circulating at any time prior to entering Switzerland, you need to present a negative PCR test (not older than 72 hours) or a negative rapid immunological test (not older than 48 hours) before boarding and upon request upon arrival. Then, 4-7 days after arrival (a few days after your arrival), you will need to get another PCR test or rapid antigen test in Switzerland. The result of this test must be reported to the cantonal authorities in the form of a COVID test certificate. You'll find the contact details in the section [Contact details of the cantonal authorities](#).

Attention: Quarantine may apply for [countries with a worrying variant](#). To find out more about this please pursue a [Travelcheck](#).

I am facilitator or panelist of a physical workshop/panel in Bern

If you are facilitating or have been invited to physically participate at a panel/workshop and you have resided in one of the [countries with a worrying variant](#) within the last 10 days prior to your arrival to Switzerland please do urgently contact the secretariat via email to: unwdf@bfs.admin.ch.

Health & Security onsite

The current measures in Switzerland to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic foresee access control to the conference venue where the UNWDF will be held.

¹ For the Janssen vaccine, the period of validity of the vaccination is 12 months from the 22nd day following the complete vaccination

The access to the venue will only be granted to participants...

- ...being able to present that they have been fully vaccinated with [WHO listing of vaccines](#).
- ...being able to present a negative PCR test (not older than 72 hours) or a negative rapid antigen test (not older than 48 hours).

For the ease and comfort of participants, which are not fully vaccinated, a testing center will be installed at the entrance of the venue. When entering the venue participants may pursue a rapid antigen test free of charge. In case of a negative result, they shall be granted access to the conference venue and the UNWDF.

In case of a positive result, participants must isolate immediately and will strictly have to [follow and apply all measures being put into place by the Federal Office of Public Health](#). All costs incurred to an isolation have to be borne by the participant. The UNWDF organizers will not cover any costs.

Please note that a limited number of tests may be pursued during a certain time-frame. Further details on the operations of the testing center shall be communicated at a later stage.