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Cross border health measures under the Swiss pandemic preparedness plan



CAPSCA Meeting in Paris
November 7-9, 2026
Swiss Federal Office of Public Health

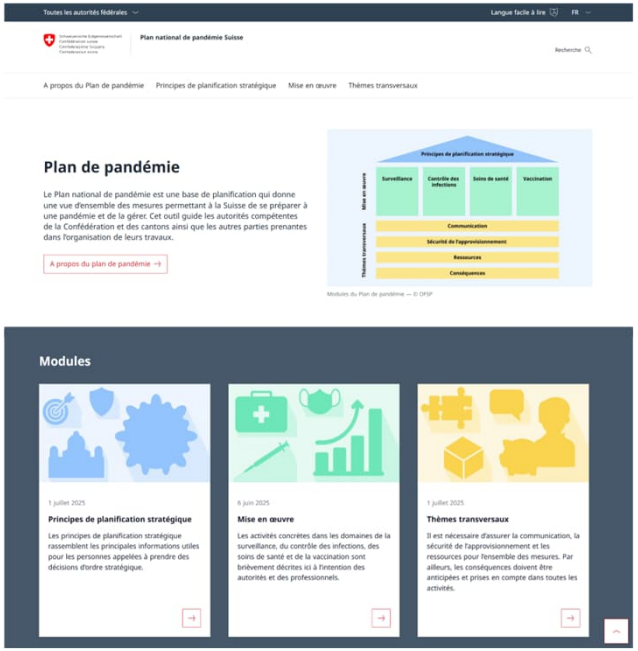
Gisèle Jungo

Swiss Pandemic Plan: www.pandemieplan.admin.ch/fr

2018



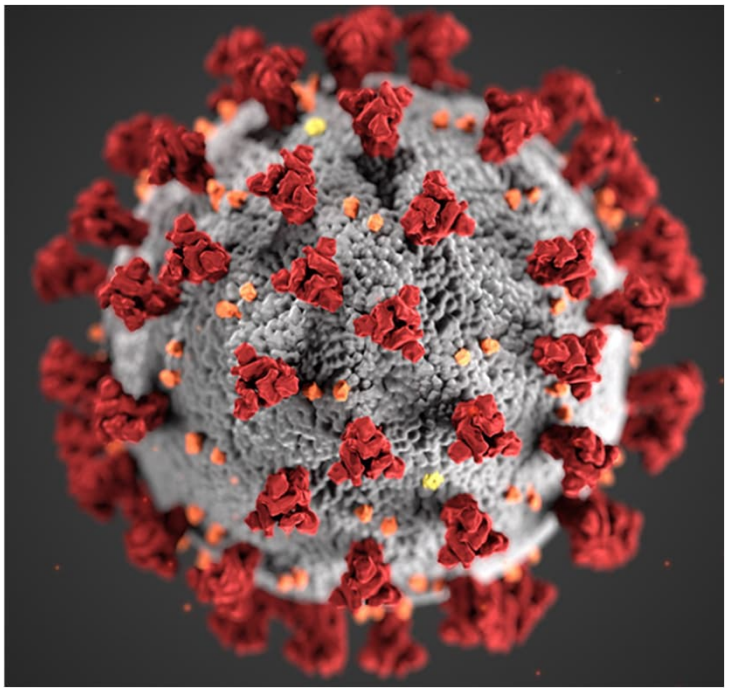
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Structure of the Pandemic Plan

- **Protect public helath**, whilst taking into account the social and economic implication
- This main objective is achieved through **nine operational sub-objectives.**

National and international cooperation
Early detection and risk assessment
Governance
Prevention and risk reduction
Safeguard healthcare provision
Containment or mitigation
Minimising the impacts
Maintaining and restoring functionality
Communication and dialogue



Cross border measures in the Pandemic Plan



- Pandemic preparedness and management: consider **national and international aspects**
- International factors: e.g. **passenger traffic and border crossings**
- Prevent **introduction and spread of pandemic pathogens** through international travel
- **Infected travellers** as a potential transmission risk
- **Identify, assess, and respond** to public health risks
- **Raise travellers' awareness** of exceptional situations
- **Encourage precautionary measures** and appropriate conduct
- **Adapt communication** to different cultural and linguistic backgrounds

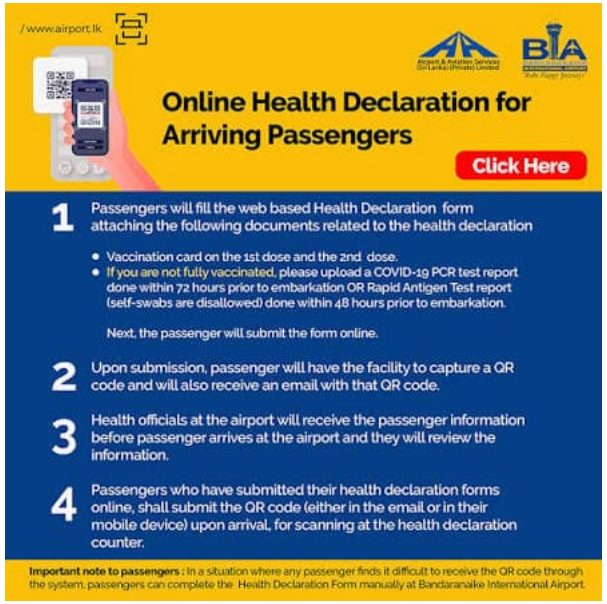
Cross border measures: shared responsibilities



- **Epidemics Act**: legal basis for measures on **international movement of persons**
- **Federal Council**: may **restrict entry or exit**
- **FOPH**: defines specific public health measures
- FOPH issues **recommendations and instructions**
- Regulations concerning **entry into the country**
- **Federal Office for Customs and Border Security**: monitors **entry regulations**
- Controls at **borders, airports, and railway stations**
- **State Secretariat for Migration** implements **migration and entry policy**
- **Cantons**: responsible for **contact tracing and quarantine enforcement**
- Monitor measures within their **jurisdiction**
- **Transport operators** (airlines, rail, bus): check **entry documents and test certificates**
- Implement **protective measures**, e.g. **mask-wearing**

Cross border measure: information to passengers

- Aim: **inform travellers** about international/national regulations
- Raise awareness of **precautionary measures and rules of conduct**
- **Screens**: flexible, quickly updated, rapid implementation, easy logistics and also in **baggage reclaim areas**
- **Posters**: general pandemic information at strategic airport locations



- **Leaflets**: information and recommendations in **multiple languages** and: **passive distribution** via dispensers or **active distribution**
- **Cabin crew**: distribute written information to passengers entering Switzerland
- **Cabin announcements** to communicate relevant information
- Information on **airport measures**: e.g. contact cards, health questionnaires and on **general infection prevention measures**

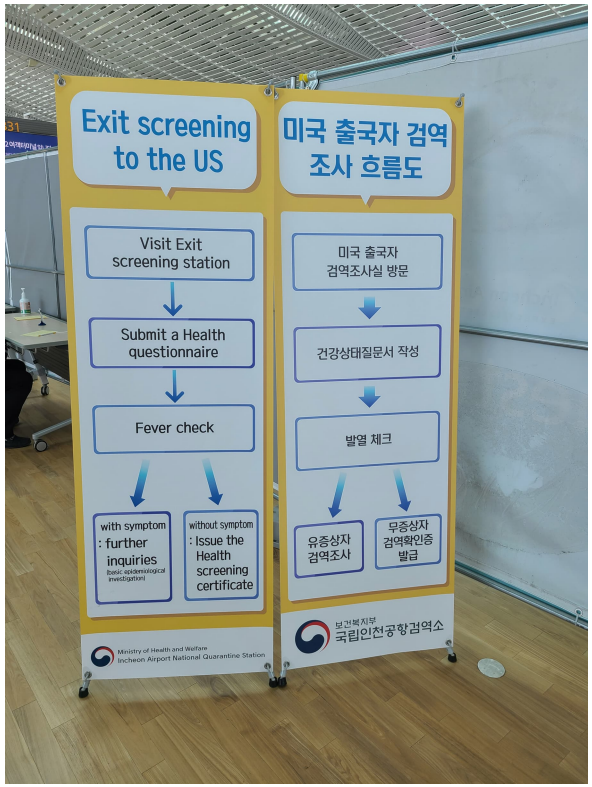
Cross border measure: contact tracing



- **Contact tracing for air passengers**: identify contacts of infected persons
- Aim: **rapidly inform affected passengers**
- Possible measures: **quarantine or testing**
- **National IHR Focal Point** information exchange with **foreign authorities**
- **Passenger lists**: identify close contacts after a confirmed infection
- Contact tracing based on **RAGIDA guidelines (ECDC)**
- **Contact cards**: record potentially exposed passengers
- Also used for passengers from **pandemic-affected countries/regions**
- During pandemics: **rapid increase in contact data**
- **Digital Passenger Locator Forms (dPLF)**: digital collection of passenger data
- **FOPH** receives data and forwards it to **cantons** and c**antons** use data for **contact tracing**

Cross border measure: medical screening

- **Medical screenings** on **arrival or departure**
- Identify and **isolate potentially infectious passengers**
- Ensure **prompt medical care** for sick passengers
- **FOPH** decides on implementation of screenings
- Considers recommendations from **WHO, ECDC and HSC**
- Considers measures taken by **EU countries**
- Decisions depend on **pathogen characteristics** and **international epidemiological situation**
- **Health questionnaire** before, during or after the flight
- Questionnaire may lead to a **medical check/screening**
- Screening performed by **healthcare professionals**
- **Non-invasive** medical checks



International air traffic and the airport network

- **FOPH + border doctors + airport security officers**: responsible for measures in **international air traffic**
- **FOPH airport network** coordinates relevant airports
- National/intercontinental airports: **Basel-Mulhouse, Geneva, Zurich**
- European connections: **Bern-Belp, Sion, St Gallen-Altenrhein, Lugano**
- **Basel-Mulhouse**: located in France → subject to **French legislation**

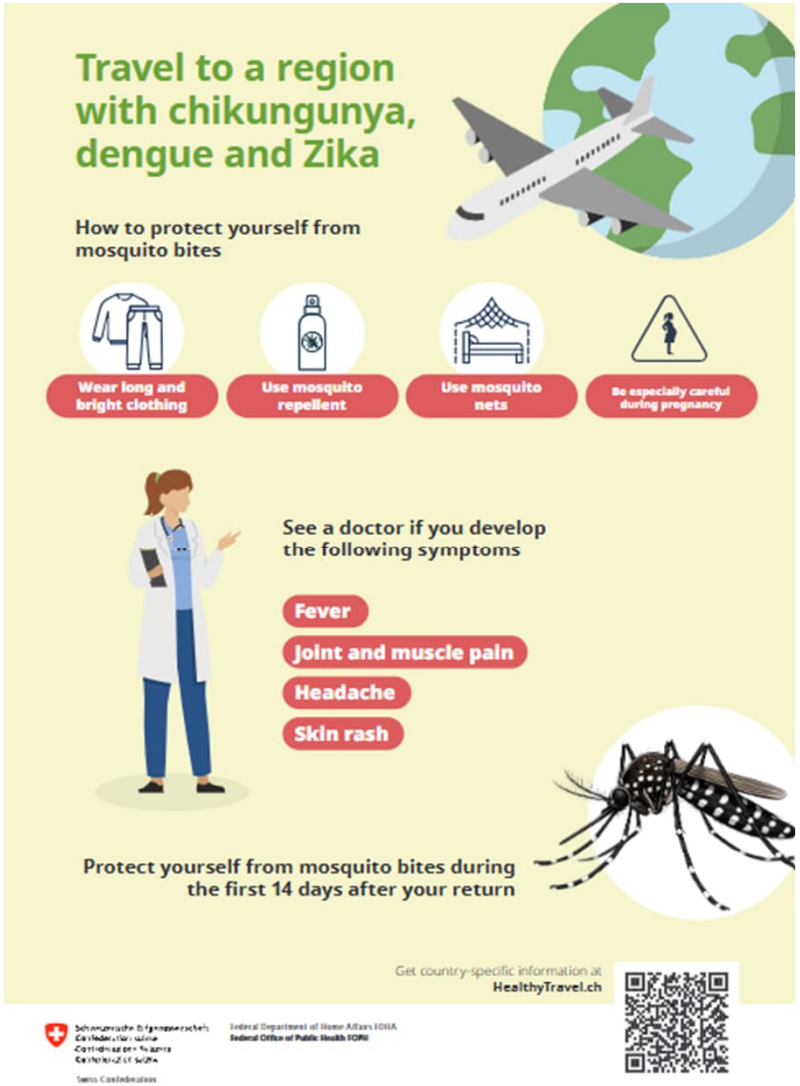


- **French authorities** responsible for health measures at Basel-Mulhouse
- Airports have **infectious-disease contingency plans**
- **FOPH** provides information on **airport measures**
- **Airport network** coordinates distribution of information

Cross border measure

Good example of collaboration

- **Poster and Screens** at Airports to sensitize passengers on risks of Chikungunya, dengue and Zika and how to protect during and after the travel
- Screens in **public transport** of the City of Basel
- **Social media** posts on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram
- From **June – September/October 2026**
- Canton Basel suggested displaying the poster in doctor's practices
- **Websites** of the FOPH and the Swiss Society of Tropical and Travel Medicine
- **Newsletter** of the Swiss Society of Tropical and Travel Medicine



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Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI
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