



Protection Concept Swiss Youth Hostels - COVID-19

Status December 20, 2021

The protection concept is binding for all Swiss Youth Hostels. The measures listed below must be observed by all hostels. The individual youth hostels supplement company-specific and cantonal measures which may have restrictive or facilitating effects. Any legal hygiene and protection guidelines already in force must continue to be observed (e.g. in the food sector and for the general health protection of employees). Furthermore, all provisions of the Ordinance on Measures apply during these special circumstances in order to combat the Covid 19 Epidemic.

For persons aged 16 and over, access only possible with Covid certificate:

In areas open to the public, access to the indoor area must be restricted to recovered or vaccinated persons aged 16 and over. Masks are required in areas with the 2G rule, except when seated. Areas with the 2G+ rule, such as the spa and indoor pool, are exempt from the mask requirement. The + stands for additionally tested or vaccinated or recovered within the last 4 months.

Access is not restricted in outdoor areas. Compliance with the minimum distance between the different groups of guests still applies.

The hostel ensures the best possible compliance with the FOPH guidelines within the sense of individual responsibility.

Legal Basis

- COVID-19 Ordinance on measures during the special situation to combat the COVID-19 epidemic
- Federal hygiene measures and distance rules

Industry sector basics

- Standards HI
- Standard protection concept for hotel operations under COVID-19
- Protection concept for the hospitality industry under COVID-19

Basic rules

The employer and hostel managers are responsible for implementing the measures.

- 1) All staff members wash their hands regularly.
- 2) Restaurant and bar areas where consumption takes place on site must only be accessible to the vaccinated and recovered. Masks are compulsory except when seated. In areas with 2G+, masks are not necessary, and consumption is also allowed while standing.
- 3) Wearing of a face mask in publicly accessible indoor areas of establishments and businesses.
- 4) Guests are not required to wear masks in outdoor areas.
- 5) The establishments ensure that the different groups of guests do not mix. This is ensured by upholding the distance rule (1.5 meters) between the different groups of guests. If appropriate protective measures (e.g. partition walls) are in place, the distance rule does not apply.
- 6) Food and drinks may only be consumed indoors by persons with a Covid certificate.
- 7) Employees and other persons must keep a distance of 1.5 meters to each other. When working at an unavoidable distance of less than 1.5 meters, employees should be exposed as little as possible by reducing the duration of contact and/or taking appropriate protective measures.
- 8) Regular cleaning of surfaces after use as required
- 9) If a person becomes ill at work, send them home and instruct them to contact their physician and to comply with the FOPH's recommendations.
- 10) Consideration of specific aspects of the work and work situations to ensure protection.
- 11) Inform employees and other persons concerned about the guidelines and measures and involve employees in the implementation of the measures.
- 12) Implementation of the guidelines in management in order to efficiently implement and adapt the protection measures.
- 13) Special regulations apply to the execution of events, which must be observed. The holding of dance events is prohibited.
- 14) For hostels with sports-, fitness- and/or wellness facilities, the especially defined protection concept of the Swiss Youth Hostels applies.

SJH – Standards, version December 20, 2021

- The hostel manager is responsible for regular checks on compliance with hygiene and distancing rules
- There is a thermometer for staff members to use on site
- Staff members stay home in case of any symptoms
- Notices have been posted in the employee area, informing employees to stay at home as soon as symptoms should occur
- Posters with BAG rules and regulations will be placed in clearly visible position in guest- and employee areas
- BAG rule flyers are available as hand-outs for the guests
- All staff members must keep minimum distance of 1.5 metres from the guests
- Guests and staff must wear a face mask in publicly accessible indoor areas.
- Mixing of different groups of guests must be avoided in the outdoor areas and on the general premises.
- Class camps and project weeks of schools are subject to the regulations for schools.

1. Hand hygiene

All people at the hostel regularly wash their hands and avoid touching objects and surfaces, whenever possible.

Measures	OK
Installation of hand hygiene stations in the Community areas	
All staff members wash their hands regularly with soap and water. This is particularly important when arriving at the workplace, between serving customers as well as before and after breaks. If this is not possible, hands must be disinfected.	
Always wash hands before setting tables	
All staff members wash or disinfect their hands before handling clean dishes and cutlery.	

2. Covid certificate

In indoor restaurant and bar areas where consumption takes place on site, access is restricted to the vaccinated and recovered for anyone aged 16 and over. No access restrictions apply to the outdoor areas.

Measures	OK
The establishment must check the Covid certificates and identity of the guests upon entry, at the table or when serving the food at the latest. Masks are required until the guests are seated at the table.	
Consumption is only allowed when seated except in designated areas with 2G+.	
Guests must be made aware of the Covid certificate requirement, access control and any data processing.	
The certificates are only valid with proof of identity (ID, passport etc.). The Covid certificate is checked by means of the «Covid Certificate Check» app, or by checking on the smartphone. The person checking the Covid certificate compares the name and date of birth on the proof of identity (with photo) with the information on the Covid certificate. Persons under 16 years of age are not required to show a Covid certificate.	
Data from the certificate check is not stored.	
Youth hostel employees are not required to have a Covid certificate.	
Certificates are required in the following areas of the youth hostels: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In all indoor public areas except direct access to the reception.• Indoor events (private events such as weddings, seminars, cultural events such as concerts, theatre, sporting events):• Indoor sports areas such as wellness and fitness areas, indoor pools, etc.	

Accommodation in youth hostels alone does not fall under the certificate requirement.	
Guests who do not consume on site (take-away) do not have to show a certificate. They are required to wear masks indoors and to keep their distance	
No certificate requirement applies in the outdoor area.	
The certificate can generally be stored, especially for vaccinated or recovered persons with personalised subscriptions for access control to wellness and fitness areas and indoor swimming pools. It is the responsibility of the operator to check the validity of the (integrated) certificate (namely with regard to a possible revocation) by means of a periodic check.	
The valid Covid certificate is checked at check-in for the duration of the stay. Only those guests who have a corresponding pass issued by the reception are admitted to the areas where a certificate is required.	

3. [Face masks](#)

Wear a face mask in publicly accessible indoor areas of establishments and facilities.

Measures	OK
Masks are required in all indoor areas except when seated. Consumption is also only allowed when seated except in 2G+ areas.	
Masks are not mandatory in the outdoor areas. Guests without a Covid certificate who are in the outdoor area must wear a mask when they enter the indoor area (e.g. reception).	
The requirement to wear a mask also applies to the employees of the establishment.	
Wearing a face mask does not minimize other required protective measures. In particular the required distance must be maintained even when wearing a mask.	
Respiratory masks, hygiene masks and textile masks are all considered face masks which provide adequate protection.	
Children ages 0-11 years are exempt from the obligation to wear a mask, as are persons who can prove that they cannot wear a face mask for special reasons, namely medical reasons.	
Any person who does not comply with the obligation to wear a mask (where required) despite warnings and reminders is to be turned away.	

4. [Keeping groups of guests apart](#)

If access is restricted to people with a Covid certificate (mandatory indoors), the different groups of guests are allowed to mix. In outdoor areas, the establishment must ensure that the different groups of guests do not mix (1.5 metre distance between the groups of guests or partition walls).

Measures	OK
Children's play areas and playgrounds are allowed. The number of children is not limited. There are no minimum distances for children. Any toys must be easy to clean. Parents or the person in charge of supervision must keep their distance to other children and persons. Parents must wear a face mask indoors.	

[Restaurants and bars \(public and non-public\)](#)

Indoor measures	OK
Covered areas with more than half of the sides and/or more than half of the length of all sides closed are considered indoor.	
Indoor events up to a maximum of 30 people are permitted for vaccinated or recovered guests. The mask requirement is only waived when seated, except for with 2G+.	

Outdoor measures (without restricted access)	OK
Covered areas with more than half of the sides and/or more than half of the length of all sides closed are considered indoor.	
In outdoor areas of restaurants and bars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> groups of guests are to be placed at the individual tables in such a way that the required social distancing of 1.5 metres between the individual groups of guests is maintained; or effective barriers are to be placed between the groups of guests (e.g. partition walls). The maximum number of people meeting outdoors is 50. 	

Lodging/Accommodations

Measures	OK
For independent single travellers, accommodation in a dormitory is only possible with a Covid certificate. Guests without a Covid certificate stay in private rooms at regular rates and do not have access to the general facilities (such as lounge area/restaurant) in the building.	
For self-contained groups, there are no restrictions on accommodation in dormitories. The safety concepts issued by the group management apply.	
The establishment must ensure that the distance of 1.5 metres between groups of guests can be maintained in the dormitories .	
Should partition walls be installed, there is no minimum distance to be honored.	

5. Keeping distance

Staff members and others keep 1.5 meters distance between each other. For duties at an unavoidable distance of less than 1.5 meters, staff members should be exposed as minimally as possible by reducing the duration of contact and/or implementing appropriate protective measures.

There is no physical contact between the guest and the staff. This does not apply to medical emergencies.

The establishment advises guests of hygiene and protection measures. In case of non-compliance, the establishment will make use of its domiciliary rights. The establishment is not responsible for compliance with hygiene and protection measures in public spaces.

Indoor measures	OK
There is no longer any need to keep a distance between the groups of guests, though this is recommended.	
The establishment shall ensure that waiting guests can maintain the minimum distance of 1.5 metres from other guests if their Covid certificate has not yet been checked.	
In the reception area with both guests with and without a certificate, the establishment must ensure that the minimum distance between groups of guests can be maintained.	
The company ensures that the minimum distance of 1.5 meters is maintained in recreational rooms, changing rooms and other staff rooms.	

Outdoor measures	OK
A distance of 1.5 metres must be maintained between the groups of guests to the front and to the side «shoulder-to-shoulder» and a distance of 1.5 metres from table edge to table edge to the back «back-to-back». If there is a partition wall between the groups of guests, the minimum distance does not apply.	
With extra-long tables or counters, more than one guest group may be placed at them, provided that the minimum distance of 1.5 metres between guest groups is maintained. With partition walls, the minimum distance does not apply.	
The minimum distance is also recommended within the guest group. The establishment must ensure that different groups of guests do not mix.	

The establishment must ensure that waiting groups of guests can maintain a minimum distance of 1.5 metres from other groups of guests.	
The establishment shall place notices in waiting areas to ensure that the distance of at least 1.5 metres between groups of guests is maintained and, where necessary, to direct the flow of people.	
Generally, no minimum distances apply for guests or staff when moving from one place to another.	
The distance between different groups of guests may be reduced if appropriate barriers are installed.	
Where guests do not place their orders at the table but at the counter (e.g. take-away, self-service, bar), the 2G rule applies and guests are to be made aware of the distance rules by means of posters.	
Establishments with a buffet concept must draw guests' attention to the distancing rules between groups of guests with posters. Sufficient space must be kept free in front of the buffet.	

Work with unavoidable distance under 1.5 m

Consideration of specific aspects of work and work situations in order to ensure protection. The mask requirement can be waived for employees who present a Covid certificate.

Measures	OK
No physical contact between guests and staff members except medical emergencies. Shaking of hands is strictly to be avoided.	
If the minimum distance of 1.5 meters to the guest cannot be maintained, separating elements are to be used.	
If the distance of 1.5 meters cannot be maintained in the served restaurant, the contact duration is reduced to an absolute minimum. In addition, masks are compulsory indoors.	
2 People working next to each other for an extended period of time, keep a distance of 1.5 meters, turn their backs and work in a staggered manner AND wear hygiene mask.	

6. Cleaning

Regular cleaning of surfaces and objects after use as required, especially if they are touched by numerous people.

General

Measures	OK
Surfaces in WC facilities that come into contact with hands are regularly cleaned and disinfected. A cleaning protocol is mandatory.	
Disposable cloths are preferred for the cleaning work. If cloths are in use, they must be changed regularly. Exception is cleaning of rooms. These cloths must be exchanged after each room.	
All surfaces must be cleaned regularly.	
Sufficient bins must be provided, especially for the disposal of tissues and face masks.	
Bins are emptied regularly.	
Work clothes are regularly washed with standard detergent.	
Operations ensure a regular and sufficient air exchange in work and guest rooms (e.g. airing for approx. 5 to 10 minutes every hour). In rooms with running air conditioning and ventilation systems, air recirculation should be avoided if possible (fresh air supply only).	

Accommodation / General public areas

Measures	OK
Keys and/or key cards are disinfected upon check-in and check-out	

Food & Beverage outlets

Measures	OK
Staff uses personal work clothes only. For example, aprons and cooker hoods are not shared.	

7. Sick at work

Measures	OK
In the event of symptoms of illness, employees are to be sent home and instructed to contact their physician and to comply with the FOPH's recommendations (vgl. www.bag.admin.ch/isolation-und-quarantäne). Further measures follow on the instructions of the cantonal medical service.	
For employees of companies that have a testing plan in place (weekly on-site testing) and offer testing to the staff working on-site at least once a week, the contact quarantine does not apply to their professional activities.	

8. Special work situations

Taking into account specific aspects of work and work situations in order to ensure protection.

Measures	OK
Face masks are frequently exchanged, respectively washed, depending on usage. Hands must be washed before putting on the mask and after taking it off and disposing of it. Disposable masks must be disposed of in a closed waste bin.	
Disposable gloves are changed after one hour and disposed of in a closed waste bin.	
The hostel shall disinfect the check-in books regularly or provide disinfectants and disposable wipes.	
Open dishes are only served under a spit guard on the buffet.	
The protective measures (especially the minimum distance of 1.5 meters) also apply to the delivery and removal of goods and waste.	

9. Information

Informing employees and other affected persons about the guidelines and measures and involving employees in the implementation of the measures.

Measures	OK
The hostel informs the employees about their rights and protective measures including in particular the information of employees who are particularly at risk.	
The establishment shall display the protective measures in the entrance area according to the FOPH. Guests are to be made aware in particular of the scope of the Covid certificate, the distance recommendation, the wearing of face masks, and the avoidance of mixing groups of guests.	
The hostel regularly instructs employees about the hygiene measures taken and how to deal safely with guests.	
Staff shall be trained in the use of personal protective equipment (e.g. hygiene masks, gloves, aprons) so that the materials are correctly put on, used, cleaned or disposed of. The training can be verified.	
The staff is trained in the professional application of surface disinfectants, as not all surfaces are alcohol resistant and surface changes can occur. It is also recommended to cover the floor covering at hand disinfectant stations.	
The establishment must instruct its employees on how to check the Covid certificates.	

The hostel informs the employees transparently about the health situation within the hostel. noting that health data are particularly sensitive data.	
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10. Management

Implementation of the specifications in management to efficiently implement and adapt the protective measure and appropriate protection of particularly vulnerable persons.

Measures	OK
The hostel provides hygiene articles such as soap, disinfectant, disposable towels and cleaning agents in sufficient quantities. It checks the stock regularly and refills it. If necessary, it offers hygiene masks, face visors and gloves.	
The contact person for occupational safety (safety officer of the company) checks the implementation of the measures.	
Operators must present their protection concept to the responsible cantonal authorities on request and grant them access to the facilities, operations and events.	

11. Other protective measures

Measures	OK
For cross-sector services, the protection concepts of the respective sector apply.	
The hostel will inform the guests about the hygiene and protection measures. In the event of non-compliance, the establishment will make use of its domestic authority. The hostel is not responsible for guests' compliance with the hygiene- and protective measures in public areas.	
Cantonal regulations are implemented by the respective facilities in accordance with the appendix.	