



Singapore, 25.03.2020

Update on the COVID-19 situation

Dear compatriots,

Since my second letter to you of 17 March 2020, the COVID-19 epidemic has intensified even further, prompting many governments to take unprecedented steps against the spread of the virus. Singapore and Switzerland are no exception.

Since midnight of 23 March 2020, the Singapore Government is no longer allowing short-term visitors from entering into or transiting through Singapore. Furthermore, it is denying work pass holders and their dependents entry into Singapore unless they provide essential services, such as in healthcare and transport. Meanwhile, all Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and Long Term Pass holders returning to Singapore must comply with a 14-day Stay-Home Notice. The Singapore government has announced even further restrictions, such as the need to submit a health declaration upon arrival. For up to date information, consult the website of the [Immigration & Checkpoints Authority](#) and the [Ministry of Manpower](#).

The Swiss Federal Council, too, has stepped up its efforts. It decided to close schools, to ban private and public events, as well as to prohibit gatherings of more than five people. In tandem with the European Union, it has stopped issuing Schengen Visas, while maintaining entry bans for travellers from Italy, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, as well as all countries outside the Schengen area. Against the backdrop of a dramatic reduction of flight connections, the Federal Council has appealed to all Swiss travellers to return to Switzerland. It is assisting those who have found themselves unable to undertake the journey in many parts of the world.

The embassy is fully aware that these restrictions are affecting many of you, most immediately in your ability to travel. Some of you are encountering difficulties in returning to Singapore as Work Pass Holders. Others have to comply with 14 day Stay-Home Notices. Many tourists are requesting our assistance in finding a way to fly back to Switzerland from neighbouring countries. Together with the European Union and Norway, we have formally asked the Singapore government to assist us in finding ways for Work Pass Holders to be allowed to return to where they live and work, and to foresee special circumstances in which our travellers may still transit through Singapore in order to return to Europe.

Allow me to call for your help. Advise family or friends still currently travelling to register themselves via the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs [Travel Admin App](#) and consult [our website](#) or the FDFA's COVID-19 [newsfeed](#). We are also here to answer their enquiries by email (singapore@eda.admin.ch) or phone (+65 6468 5788).

Once again, I wish you and your family good health.

With my very best regards,

Fabrice Filliez
Ambassador