



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Singapore, 02.06.2021

Update on the COVID-19 situation

Dear compatriots,

Following the [speech](#) by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Monday, allow me to address you once again in relation to Covid-19. It is precisely a year ago that I wrote you the last time on the pandemic. Just as then, as you are thinking about the upcoming summer break, I hope this letter may be of assistance as you plan your weeks ahead. As you know, Singapore has imposed a mix of old and new sanitary restrictions. I highlight the ones that are likely most relevant for you.

First, [since 8 May 2021](#), inbound travellers from basically any foreign destination are required, on top of multiple Covid-19 testing, to serve an extended stay-home notice in an assigned hotel room of no less than three weeks, independently of whether or not any or all of the travellers have been vaccinated. Also, if you have permanent resident status, you are [now required](#) to undergo pre-departure PCR testing before embarking a plane to Singapore.

Second, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority [no longer processes](#) requests to enter or re-enter Singapore, effectively closing borders to travellers without Singapore citizenship or permanent resident status. It is unclear when processing of requests will resume. At the embassy, we have received several reports of Swiss citizens caught by surprise, unable to embark on their journey to Singapore.

Third, the Ministry of Education [required schools](#) to switch to home-based learning. This has put a further strain on teachers and families, already adjusting to the return to home office. I am relieved that the Swiss School was able to reopen this Monday, but I am also aware of the extra effort this required for the school to adjust. I seize this opportunity to applaud the Swiss School staff for their exemplary commitment to bring children back for the end of the school year.

Unfortunately, since we do not know at what pace border restrictions will be relaxed, a timely return to Singapore is fraught with uncertainty. I fully recognize that this is testing our patience. Once again, some of you remain unable to return to Singapore. Once again, receiving inbound new staff may be delayed or face complications. Once again, hopes to visit family and friends in Switzerland or elsewhere have been tempered.

That said, Singapore authorities are doing their best to contain Covid-19 and return to some normalcy. Following the announcement of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, there is some hope that restrictions will be gradually relaxed after 13 June. Vaccinations and routine testing are ramping up. I encourage you to take advantage of an opportunity to get vaccinated. Pending clarifications on the recognition of vaccination certificates, I encourage any of you that are travelling to carry the paper document that was given you upon vaccination.

As in the past, I have been in regular contact with Singapore authorities – bilaterally and together with the EU delegation and its member states – to convey our disquiet, make the case for the removal of uncertainties and of course to explore the easing of restrictions. Together with other ambassadors, I did as much during a recent exchange with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The counter of the embassy operates normally according to the existing schedule. My team and I stand ready to provide assistance to you and seek solutions wherever possible.

As the situation is evolving rapidly, please continue to check regularly our embassy [website](#) and [facebook](#) presence for updates, along of course with the official online portals of the Singapore government and, in relation to the situation in Switzerland, the website of the [Federal Office of Public Health](#). You may wish to know for example that on 26 May, the Swiss Federal Council [announced](#) that it will no longer require vaccinated inbound air travellers to undergo a PCR test, starting 31 May 2021.

I wish you and your family good health, and a lot of strength in these difficult times. I am looking forward to address you at the latest again on the occasion of our 1st of August celebration, hopefully with better news.

With my very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fabrice Filliez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fabrice Filliez
Ambassador