



### **Update on re-entry permits for long-term visa holders**

Dear fellow Swiss citizens in Korea,

On May 25, the Embassy of Switzerland in Seoul informed you that the Republic of Korea has decided to **temporarily suspend the waiver of re-entry permits for long-term visa holders**. Although the intended effect of the measures seems rather questionable, the Korean authorities see this step as an effort to curtail the inflow of COVID-19 infections from abroad.

The new regulations, which entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, have raised many questions and concerns. Following interventions of Embassies and Chambers of Commerce asking for clarifications and amendments, the Korean government eventually decided to slightly adapt the procedure, but it did not revoke it as requested.

For your convenience, and on an indicative basis only, we are glad to share with you the main amendments accepted by the Korean authorities:

- *A registered foreign national who temporarily departs Korea for **less than three weeks for the purpose of business, journalism, or academic activities** is eligible to be issued a medical examination exemption certificate by a local Immigration Office before his/her departure. The exemption certificate is valid only if he/she re-enters Korea within three weeks after the departure date.*
- *A written medical certificate shall be issued not earlier than 48 hours, excluding holidays, prior to the return trip date for Korea. **Under inevitable circumstances**, it may be issued **within 72 hours prior to the departure date, excluding holidays**.*
- ***Under inevitable circumstances**, a medical certificate written in a language other than **English or Korean can be accepted** if submitted with a complete English or Korean translation and a Certificate of Translation. Notarization is not required for the translation.*

As these measures can change at any time, we invite you to check regularly the following official links:

[http://www.immigration.go.kr/immigration\\_eng/1832/subview.do](http://www.immigration.go.kr/immigration_eng/1832/subview.do)

<https://www.hikorea.go.kr>

It goes without saying that the Embassy remains at your disposal to answer your questions, via e-mail at [seoul@eda.admin.ch](mailto:seoul@eda.admin.ch) and the phone number +82 2 739 95 11.

Despite COVID-19, I wish you and your families a relaxing holiday season in Korea, Switzerland or elsewhere. Wherever you go, please continue to observe strict COVID-19 etiquette and stay safe and healthy during these challenging times.

Best regards,

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Ambassador of Switzerland  
Embassy of Switzerland in the Republic of Korea

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