

BRIEFING

ON THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

Geneva, Palais des Nations

6th November 2020

Awilo Ochieng Pernet, Switzerland
Chairperson, Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting

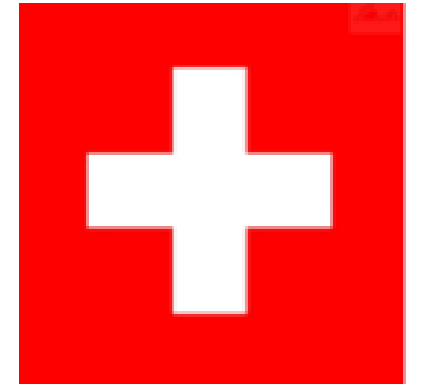


OUTLINE

- **Swiss legal framework for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**
- **Switzerland and the Protocol on Water and Health**
- **Importance of the Protocol on Water and Health for the pan-European Region**



Swiss Legal Framework on WASH



- The Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation
- Several Acts and Ordinances



In Switzerland's federal system, **water management is implemented by the Cantons.**

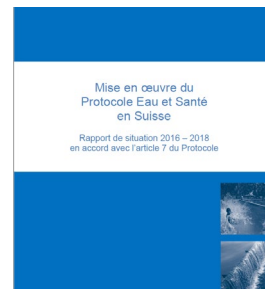
- **Water suppliers:** Generally, the **Communes** supply the water, based on the powers delegated to them by the Cantons.
- **Coverage of water supply:** Switzerland is often referred to as “Europe’s water tower” and drinking water is supplied to nearly 100% of the population in the country.
- **Sanitation:** Wastewater is collected and treated in almost all parts of the country by 750 large wastewater treatment plants and 3,500 small plants.

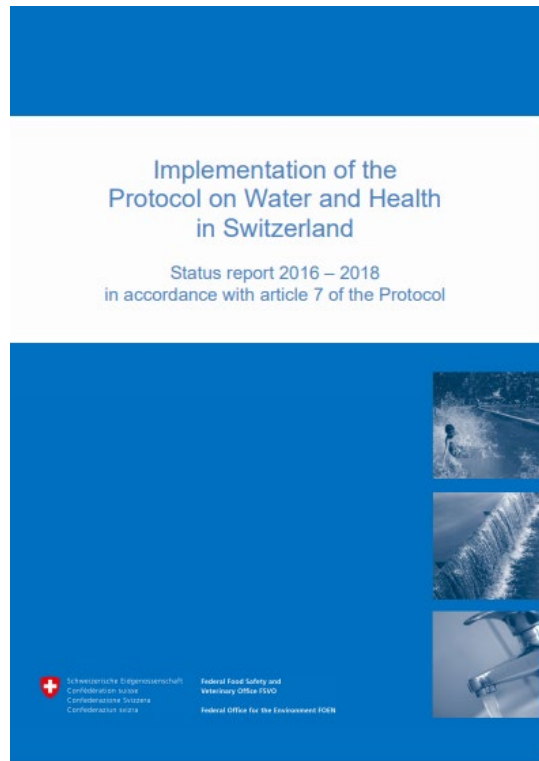


Switzerland is a Party to the Protocol on Water and Health since 2006



- Switzerland is a member of the Bureau of the Protocol.
- Switzerland chairs the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting of the Protocol.
- Switzerland has set national targets in line with the requirements stipulated in Article 6 paragraph 2 of the Protocol.
- These targets contribute towards upholding the commitments made by Switzerland to ensure access to drinking water and the provision of sanitation.





Preamble

The Protocol on Water and Health is an international instrument aimed at improving water management to reduce and prevent the spread of water-related diseases. Good management of the entire water cycle is vital to ensure that water intended for human consumption is of good quality and does not endanger consumers' health. The implementation of this Protocol, which has been ratified by Parliament, is primarily the responsibility of the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) and the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). These two bodies work closely together in this field and inform the public on the progresses made every three years.

This report shows many facets of water management that can affect human health in various ways. This holistic approach shows that many groups are involved in ensuring that the guarantees required by the Protocol are fulfilled. Only concerted action among these groups will allow solutions to be found to the current issues related to drinking water and sanitation.

This report has been made possible thanks to the cooperation between the cantonal inspection authorities and the water suppliers. In a decentralised system like the one in Switzerland, it is these organisations which have the relevant information to enable an objective evaluation of the situation. We would like to express our sincere thanks for their active participation.

This report also looks to the future. It contains a list of objectives showing the intentions of groups responsible for drinking water and sanitation regulation in the years to come.

We hope that the presented items will give readers a good overview of all the work being done to ensure sustainable water and sanitation management in Switzerland.

Stephan Müller FOEN
Water Division
Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Michael Beer
Food Safety and Nutrition Division
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO)

Close collaboration between the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office and the Federal Office for the Environment and other relevant Federal Authorities as well as close cooperation with the Cantonal Authorities, the Communes and the Water Suppliers.



<https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/suche.html#water>



COVID-19 Prevention in Switzerland and Hand Hygiene

Federal Office of Public Health FOPH > Diseases > Infectious diseases: Outbreaks, Epidemics, Pandemics > Current outbreaks and epidemics > Coronavirus

Coronavirus: Protect yourself and others

New coronavirus Last update: 17

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

More important than ever: stop the rise in infection numbers.

- Keep a distance.** (Icon: two people with arrows between them)
- Wear a face mask if it is impossible to maintain that distance.** (Icon: two people, one wearing a mask)
- It is required to wear a mask in publicly accessible establishments and indoor spaces as well as on public transport.** (Icon: a face mask)
- Work from home if possible.** (Icon: a laptop)
- Wash your hands thoroughly.** (Icon: hands being washed with water droplets)
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow.** (Icon: a person coughing into their elbow)
- Do not shake hands.** (Icon: two hands shaking with a red X over it)
- Ventilate rooms several times a day.** (Icon: an open window)
- Spontaneous gatherings of more than 10 people in public places are banned.** (Icon: a group of people with a red X over it)
- If you experience symptoms, get tested immediately and stay at home.** (Icon: a person with a stethoscope)
- To enable contact tracing, always provide your complete contact information.** (Icon: a network of people)
- To break infection chains, download and activate the SwissCovid app.** (Icon: a smartphone with a signal icon)
- If you test positive, if you have had contact with a confirmed case: quarantine.** (Icon: a house)
- Only visit a doctor's office or an accident and emergency department after making an appointment by phone.** (Icon: a stethoscope)

www.foph-coronavirus.ch

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation

Bundesamt für Gesundheit BAG
Office fédéral de la santé publique OFSP
Ufficio federale della sanità pubblica UFSP
Uffiz federal da sanadad publica UFSP

QR code for SwissCovid app

Neues Coronavirus Last update: 17

SO SCHÜTZEN WIR UNS.

Nouveau coronavirus

VOICI COMMENT NOUS PROTÉGER:

Nuovo coronavirus

COSÌ CI PROTEGGIAMO

New coronavirus

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Nov coronavirus

USCHIA ANS PROTEGIN NUS.

Hand Hygiene Icon: A large icon showing hands being washed with water droplets, marked with a green checkmark.

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QR code for hand hygiene information



COVID-19 Outreach in various languages

Swiss Federal Office of Public Health - Covid-19 Downloads in various languages

Info sheet

-  Rregullorja e Covid-19 mbi masat në fushën e qarkullimit ndërkombëtar të personave (Albanian) (PDF, 1 MB, 10.07.2020)
-  مرسوم كوفيد 19 حول الإجراءات بخصوص النقل الدولي للركاب (Arabic) (PDF, 129 kB, 14.07.2020)
-  COVID-19. Հվեյցարական Կանոնադրություն միջազգային ուղևորափոխադրումների ոլորտում միջոցառումների վերաբերյալ (Armenian) (PDF, 76 kB, 14.07.2020)
-  Beynəlxalq səmnişin daşımaları tədbirləri haqqında Covid-19 ilə bağlı sərəncam (Azerbaijani) (PDF, 2 MB, 10.07.2020)
-  Пастанова у дачыненні Covid-19 аб мерах на міжнародных перавозках пасажыраў (Belarusian) (PDF, 1 MB, 10.07.2020)
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-  Regulamento COVID-19 sobre medidas relativas à circulação internacional de pessoas (Portuguese) (PDF, 1 MB, 20.07.2020)
-  Regulamentul Covid-19 privind măsurile valabile în cazul deplasărilor internaționale (Romanian) (PDF, 1 MB, 10.07.2020)
-  Распоряжение по Covid-19 о мерах на международных перевозках пассажиров (Russian) (PDF, 2 MB, 10.07.2020)
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Poster

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-  COVID-19. Հվեյցարական Կանոնադրություն միջազգային ուղևորափոխադրումների ոլորտում միջոցառումների վերաբերյալ (Armenian) (PDF, 133 kB, 14.07.2020)
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Recommendations for a Safe Re-opening: Legionella Prevention

Coronavirus – rincer à fond les installations d'eau potable avant la réouverture des locaux au public

Berne, 23.04.2020 - Dès le 27 avril 2020, les premiers établissements, comme les cabinets paramédicaux et les salons de coiffure, de massage ou de beauté, reprendront leurs activités. Les centres sportifs, les écoles et d'autres suivront. Souvent les installations d'eau potable n'y ont guère été utilisées durant plusieurs semaines, ce qui favorise la prolifération de microorganismes comme les légionelles. Ces dernières peuvent provoquer une pneumonie sévère (appelée légionellose). Il est donc impératif de bien rincer les installations d'eau potable avant leur remise en service.

Les mesures prises par le Conseil fédéral pour lutter contre la pandémie du coronavirus seront progressivement assouplies à partir du 27 avril 2020.

Dans les bâtiments et les locaux ouverts au public, les installations d'eau potable doivent absolument être rincées à fond avant cette date ou avant leur remise en service. Concrètement, il s'agit d'ouvrir tous les robinets – d'éviers, de lavabos, de douches, de raccords d'eau, etc. – et de laisser couler l'eau pour un rinçage complet.



<https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/fr/home/dokumentation/nsb-news-list.msg-id-78885.html>

Remise en service

Lors d'une remise en service, il faut laisser couler l'eau de tous les robinets au moins jusqu'à l'obtention d'une température constante. Il est important ici d'ouvrir simultanément plusieurs robinets pour assurer un courant suffisamment fort dans les conduites de distribution. Le rinçage se déroule séparément aussi bien pour l'installation d'eau froide que d'eau chaude. Il faut éviter ici la formation d'aérosols.

Après la remise en service, il faudrait vérifier si l'installation d'eau froide et d'eau chaude ne contient pas de légionelles.

Assistances complémentaires

En cas de besoin, il est possible de demander l'assistance d'un installateur sanitaire ou le cas échéant du distributeur d'eau local.

Liens Internet utiles

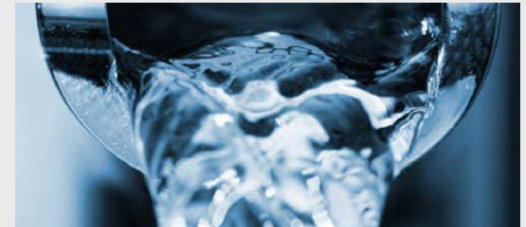
www.svgw.ch/Covid-19
www.bag.admin.ch/bag/fr/home.html
www.suissetec.ch/qualitedeleau

Éditeur
SSIGE, Grütlistrasse 44, case postale, 8027 Zurich
www.svgw.ch/FB-Corona

Fiche d'information relative au nouveau coronavirus

Avril 2020

Assurer l'hygiène dans des installations d'eau potable temporairement inutilisées à l'intérieur de bâtiments



Maintenir l'exploitation conforme à sa destination dans des installations d'eau potable temporairement inutilisées ou peu utilisées



suissetec

La Société Suisse de l'Industrie du Gaz et des Eaux www.svgw.ch



UNECE



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Importance of the Protocol on Water and Health in the pan-European Region

While most people in the pan-European region have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, **unfortunately**

- **16 million people still lack access to basic drinking-water services**, of which over 3 million rely on surface water for direct consumption
- **More than 31 million people still lack access to basic sanitation**, including 314'000 who still practice open defecation.

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/data-and-statistics>



WHA 73.1 Resolution on COVID-19 Response and the Protocol on Water and Health as a tool for its implementation in the pan-European Region

7. CALLS ON Member States,¹ in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic:

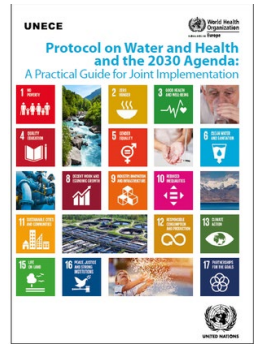
(4) to take measures to support access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and infection prevention and control, ensuring that adequate attention is paid to the promotion of personal hygienic measures in all settings, including humanitarian settings, and particularly in health facilities;

The provision of safe water, sanitation and hygienic conditions is essential for protecting human health during all infectious disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Protocol on Water and Health

- is a powerful instrument whose implementation contributes to achieving its objectives aimed at ensuring the supply of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for all;
- offers an accountability framework through its target setting and reporting mechanisms;
- supports the realisation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the relevant SDGs in the pan-European region;
- offers a practical framework for realising the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.



Thank you for your attention

