CERN’s response to Covid-19 and the next steps
Highest priority: protect the health of CERN personnel and everyone on site while

- taking effective measures proportionate to the risk
- allowing the continued, safe operation of the facilities
- keeping CERN up and running as far and as long as possible

All recommendations and measures have been decided from the outset following this approach.

More generally, they also contribute to our collective responsibility towards society as good citizens.
Main lines of action since the beginning (21 Jan)

- Awareness raising and communication:
  - Posters and TV screens on hygiene measures
  - Dedicated webpage set up on 29 Jan (open also to the public): https://hse.cern/news-article/coronavirus-information-measures-and-recommendations
    information, useful links and call lines, recommendations and measures. Updated as needed.
  - Several mails to full CERN community (up to 18,000 people) and part of it (e.g. > 65 years)
  - Information and Q&A video-session with personnel today

- Activate support and management structures to face the emergency

- Continuous monitoring of the virus spread

- Consultation with expert authorities (Host States and beyond):
  - Federal Office of Public Health (OFSP) in Switzerland
  - Ministry of Health in France
  - Geneva cantonal medical authorities
  - World Health Organization (WHO)
  - Other intergovernmental organisations in Geneva with globally-mobile communities as CERN’s.

- Implementation of measures proportionate to the level of risk and based on available evidence and expertise
Emergency management organisation

Directorate (DG and Directors)

Enlarged Directorate (DG, Directors, Department Heads)

Technical Working Group
(Chair: HSE Deputy Department Head. Members: HSE, HR, IR)
Tasks: monitoring, consultation with health authorities, information-sharing, preparation of short/long-term scenarios decision by (Enlarged) Directorate

Crisis Management Team

- Technical WG: put in place on 14 February.
- “Covid-19 response team”: Technical WG + members of ED as needed; meets daily since 24 Feb. President of Staff Association invited for some meetings.
- Crisis Management Team (CMT): expert group (+DG) to address crises (fire, terrorist attack, epidemic, etc.). Annual training + exercise of “real cases” with external expert consultant.

CMT called twice since beginning of Covid-19:
7-8 March: following first confirmed case of infected person at CERN
15 March: to initiate Stage 3 and CERN’s transition to “safe mode”
The 3 stages of the epidemic

Stage 1
A Host State or WHO discourage the travels to or from an area outside the Host States being affected by an outbreak of a contagious disease.
Virus is far from CERN → monitor situation, general recommendations, prepare for first case(s) of infection
21 Jan → 8 March

Stage 2
A Host State declares part of its territory, but far from Geneva, Vaud, Ain or Haute-Savoie, as affected or menaced by an outbreak of a contagious disease.
Virus approaches CERN (first confirmed case) → avoid/mitigate circulation → reduce number of people on site
9 March → 15 March

Stage 3
A Host State declares an area comprising Geneva, Vaud, Ain or Haute-Savoie as affected or menaced by a contagious disease.
Virus circulates in the areas close to CERN and/or inside CERN → put lab in “safe mode”
15-20 March → until further notice

Note: preparation for the various Stages started from the beginning

We are now in Stage 3: as of Sunday 15th, and following recent evolution of the epidemic in Host States
Dedicated website put in place on 29 Jan (open also to public): 
https://hse.cern/news-article/coronavirus-information-measures-and-recommendations
Initially included:
-- useful links (e.g. WHO first recommendations)
-- numbers to call at CERN and in Host States
Updated regularly with new information, recommendations and measures.
Link to FAQ page (open only to CERN community) as of end Feb:  https://hse.cern/content/faq-covid-19

Stage-1 recommendations:
- Hygiene measures and social distancing
- People who feel unwell should stay home
- Tele-work encouraged for “vulnerable” people (with health problems)
- People coming from “risk zones” (China, Northern Italy, South Korea, etc.) should consider tele-work and joining meetings remotely, and should avoid restaurants at peak hours, for 14 days after their arrival

Stage-1 measures:
- Official CERN travels to countries with “risk zones” must be cleared by Department Heads (note: travels to “red zones” are not possible by definition of “red zone”) 
- People coming from “risk zones” (China, Northern Italy, South Korea, etc.) should not send their children to CERN’s Kindergarten for 14 days after their arrival
- As of 3 March, all CERN guided tours suspended.
Stage-2 measures: flatten the curve

Stage 2 triggered by first confirmed case at CERN

Keyword: maximize social distancing → reduce activities and people on site to those strictly necessary, with the hope to keep the lab up and running as long as possible.
Stage-2 measures (9 March → 15 March)

As of 9 March:
- CERN official travels suspended (exceptions for essential operational and strategic reasons)
- Access to CERN sites by people coming from “risk zones” (China, Northern Italy, some French regions) forbidden for 14 days after their return to the Geneva area.
- In-person meeting with > 100 people canceled
- Meetings with ≤ 100 people:
  -- attendance should be tracked
  -- no attendance by people from “risk zones”
  -- remote connection encouraged
- Helpline with CERN Medical Service set up to answer calls: +41 22 766 7777

As of 11 March:
- All CERN Clubs activities on site suspended
- CERN Exhibitions and CERN Shop closed

As of 16 March: implement as fast as feasible
- Tele-work for CERN employees (staff, fellows, students) if activity/function allows
- Access to CERN by users and visiting scientists restricted to those considered essential for critical on-site activities.
- Access to CERN by “vulnerable” persons (> 65 years or health problems) forbidden
In addition

Reinforced cleaning
(restaurants, door handles, bannisters, light switches, elevators’ buttons, etc.)

HR procedures and assistance to personnel: e.g. students who want to go back to their countries; vulnerable people; remunerated special leave for MPA

Hostel’s ramp-down

Discussions with contractors (access to site by workers from “risk zones”; telework; work on construction sites outside fenced perimeter, etc.)

Preparation of “laisser passer” in the event of borders closure by CH and France

Kindergarten (with Staff Association)

Preparation for tele-work (training, tools, etc.)

Etc. etc.
Current situation

1 confirmed case
A staff tested positive on 7 March
→ Triggered CMT and transition from Stage 1 to Stage 2 (together with the outbreak in Italy)
Car plate, access badge, mobile phone and cameras allowed to trace movements of the infected person (Data Privacy issues had been cleared during Stage 1).
Close contacts (~ 10 people) identified quickly and asked to self-isolate (14 days)

2 suspected++ cases
A contractor’s employee and a fellow, last weekend
Not confirmed as only serious cases tested in France and CH → follow-up as if confirmed
Close contacts identified → Asked to self-isolate (14 days)
Immediate closure and cleaning of concerned workshops and labs

France moved to Stage 3 on Saturday, and Switzerland is close to it.
→ Sunday 15th we decided to move to Stage 3
Stage 3: towards safe-mode configuration

Activities on-site will be limited to those essential for safety and security of site and equipment → very similar to CERN annual closure → have lot of experience on how to implement it

Minimum personnel on site (security, fire brigade, site maintenance, IT support, stand-by, piquets, etc.)

All other personnel on telework (if compatible with their activity) or remunerated special leave

Departments prepared activity continuity plans: 100% continuity in many cases (IT and computing!)

Currently working on:
- controlled shut-down of activities (LS2, workshops, etc.), equipment, non-essential services
- assisting personnel to transition to safe mode smoothly (e.g. students and MPA who want to repatriate, new arrivals on CERN contracts, day-care of kids of fire brigade, etc.)

Expect to complete transition to safe mode by Friday 20 March at the latest!
New coronavirus

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Keep your distance.
For example:
- Protect the elderly by keeping a safe distance.
- Keep your distance from others in a queue.
- Keep your distance at meetings.

STILL IMPORTANT:

- Wash your hands thoroughly.
- Avoid shaking hands.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or the crook of your arm.
- Stay at home if you have got a high temperature and a cough.
- Always call ahead before going to the doctor's or the emergency department.

www.foph-coronavirus.ch
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

WHO IS CONSIDERED VULNERABLE?

People who are older than 65 years.

People who are already suffering from one of the following conditions:
- Diabetes
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Chronic diseases of the respiratory tract
- Cancer
- An immune deficiency due to a condition or therapy.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE SHOULD FOLLOW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Go shopping outside of peak hours, if possible.
- Avoid large events and gatherings, confined spaces, large crowds and places where you are not able to keep a security distance of at least 1 to 2 meters.
- Delay non-necessary travels.
- Avoid public transportation as much as possible.
Final remarks

CERN stays OPEN in virtual mode. CERN is safe for those of you who have to work on site provided they respect the hygiene measures and social distancing.

→ Activities must and will continue insofar as possible in virtual mode.

→ Meetings, seminars, regular contacts with supervisors, training, etc. are strongly encouraged and supported.

→ All CERN’s support services (HSE, HR, SMB, IT, etc.) will continue to function. They will assist you with your questions and needs. In particular, they will help with health and administrative issues.

→ Communications and update of the situation will continue through the dedicated webpage, emails, etc.

Once roll-out to safe mode is complete, we will evaluate the impact on CERN’s scientific programme (LS2, accelerator schedule, HL-LHC, etc.) and other activities. But the immediate priority is your health and well-being.
I am sure we can transform this very difficult period into an occasion for thinking, planning, learning, helping those who are in need, and being supportive to each other.