Coronavirus: severe restrictions to Swiss rail travel

The Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) has issued recommendations for public transport in Switzerland. They are expected to be valid until 26 April. Rail and road services will be greatly reduced as a result of the current situation. All information can be found here.
Before each journey please consult the online timetable. Buy your tickets electronically if possible (via the website or the app).

Given the coronavirus situation, SBB is refunding tickets as a goodwill gesture.

You would like to refund your tickets? Please check our website www.sbb.ch/erstattungen. For more information 0848 44 66 88 (CHF 0.08/Min).
Current information on rail services

Switzerland’s public-transport offer will be reduced step by step as of Thursday, 19 March 2020. The switch to the new, reduced timetable will take until the middle of next week. The online timetable will be updated continuously. SBB and PostBus recommend that you check the timetable in good time on www.sbb.ch or in the SBB Mobile App. The rail service situation is being continuously monitored. Here you can find a summary of all up-to-date information.

- Core public transport provision and connections to essential locations such as hospitals and food shops will be maintained. There will however be cancellations, delays and missed connections. The online timetable will always be kept up-to-date.

- Service on tourist routes that do not connect settlements as well as extra and heritage services have been cancelled.

- Late evening connections at weekends will be suspended. No replacement transport will be provided. Long-distance trains will generally run hourly rather than half-hourly. The first and last connections on weekdays are not affected by these restrictions, as they are important for providing connectivity for Switzerland and its regions.

- Regional Services: Regional train and bus services which currently run every 15 minutes will run half-hourly from Thursday; services which currently run half-hourly will run hourly. No 15-minute frequencies will thus be provided from now on. This does not include the first and last connections of the day – which will be offered to enable early and late shifts, for example in the health service. Additional S-Bahn trains at peak times (06:00 to 09:00 and 16:00 to 19:00) and night services at weekends will not run.

Public transport offer between Switzerland and neighbouring countries severely reduced

International long-distance services will only run to border stations. Passengers will have to change there to continue their journey abroad. The details are as follows:

- EC trains towards Italy will terminate at Chiasso and Brig.

- ICE trains towards Germany will terminate at Basel SBB.

- The Zürich HB–Stuttgart EC will terminate at Schaffhausen.

- TGV Lyria trains will terminate at Basel SBB and Genève.

- Railjet services to Austria have been suspended.

- All Nightjet overnight services have been suspended.

- Zürich-München EC trains and IC buses have been suspended.

Unfortunately, not all connections can be guaranteed. All border stations will be served by core long-distance and regional services. Trains from border stations will continue to run on the Swiss sections of their routes as long as they are not affected by changes to the national long-distance service offer.

Cross-border regional trains, such as for example the Léman Express in the Geneva area, will continue to run, since they serve an important role in connecting agglomerations close to the border. In line with regional services within Switzerland, these trains will generally run half-hourly rather than every 15 minutes from Thursday.
Please check the online timetable

These measures constitute the largest timetable change which has ever been implemented in such a short time frame. In particular during the first few days of the new timetable, connections may often be missed, as the Swiss public transport system needs to adapt to the reduced frequency. Switzerland’s transport companies would like to apologise to the passengers affected. If passengers miss a connection, their tickets will remain valid with no restrictions.

Please check the online timetable.

SBB supports the recommendations of the Confederation

The latest recommendations of the Federal Office of Public Health are preliminarily valid until 26 April 2020. The office has given SBB AG a mandate to impose orders for all rail services and implement them in agreement with the Federal Office of Transport. PostAuto Schweiz AG (PostBus) has the same mandate for all public transport by road. The health measures recommended by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) for protection against the coronavirus remain in force. The FOPH recommends that passengers using public transport:

- maintain distance from other people if possible when waiting at stations or stops
- avoid travelling at peak times as far as possible. Peak time is from 06:00 to 09:00 on weekdays and in the evenings from 16:00 to 19:00. It may differ depending on the route and train.
- maintain distance from other people as far as possible and follow the hygiene rules and behaviour recommendations.
- if you have symptoms of a respiratory illness (e.g. coughing and fever), please do not use public transport as far as possible.

SBB supports the recommendations of the Federal Office of Public Health and expects personal responsibility from customers and flexibility from employers.

Coach-specific occupancy forecasts are available for SBB trains: on the online timetable, pictogrammes show the expected occupation of each individual coach. These are forecasts. This information helps you to plan your journey and to use quieter trains.

Health is SBB’s top priority

Before the new coronavirus reached Switzerland, SBB’s internal core pandemic task force was preparing for the eventuality that the situation would deteriorate; this work was always done in agreement with the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and other government bodies.

The following measures have been implemented to protect staff:

- If passenger numbers are low, Travel Centres and points of sale may be closed and/or opening hours may be modified. Information will be provided directly at the locations affected.
- From Saturday 14 March 2020, catering services on trains (dining cars and at-seat service) will be suspended entirely.
- Long-distance services will continue to be run with train crew on board. Ticket checks will be reduced significantly with immediate effect. Passengers are still required to have tickets.
The FOPH's instructions on behaviour apply when using SBB services. The FOPH recommends that general hygiene measures be observed, since current knowledge suggests that coronavirus is transmitted from person to person by direct contact, i.e. by coughing, sneezing, etc. Therefore:

- wash your hands regularly with soap and water or an alcoholic hand wash. [How to do it properly Instructions.](#)

- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with the crook of your elbow or a paper tissue.

- In case of fever and coughing, stay at home.

- Always maintain a two metre distance to other people if possible, for example when waiting in a queue. The purpose of social distancing is primarily to protect older people who are particularly at risk.

- Avoid shaking hands

- Only go to a doctor’s surgery or an emergency department after making contact by phone

The FOPH is reminding people of these basic rules with an information campaign.

Further information about the coronavirus and recommendations, for example regarding behaviour, in particular regarding travel abroad, can be found on the FOPH’s website.

- Link to [FOPH](#)

The FOPH has set up an infoline for queries from members of the public: 058 463 00 00.