



POSITION OF THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG SWISS ABROAD ON THE NEW CORONAVIRUS

The COVID-19 disease, caused by the SARS CoV-2 coronavirus, can be traced back to China, where the virus was originally transmitted from animals to humans. Since the end of 2019, it has been proven that it can spread from one person to another, and is now present on all five continents.

The most common symptoms of an infection are a high temperature, coughing and shortness of breath. Although most people who contract the virus only experience a mild illness, it can have serious implications for those with weak immune systems and the elderly.

The Federal government has classified the current situation (as of 5 March 2020) as special in terms of the Epidemics Act and is working on containing the coronavirus's proliferation in Switzerland.

We as the FYSA are also taking this subject seriously and are in contact with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The health of children and the camp leaders are a top priority for the FYSA. We are aware of how children's and young people's camps in particular can be affected by viruses and diseases of all kinds, owing to their close living quarters and participants from across the world.

It is, however, difficult to predict how the situation will develop, and the Federal government is also taking decisions only a few weeks in advance. For this reason, we cannot yet provide an assessment of whether our summer camps in 2020 will go ahead or have to be cancelled. **We will continue to monitor the situation and, based on the recommendations of the Swiss authorities, decide whether to hold the camps no later than six weeks prior to their start (see GTCs). We will subsequently notify you of our decision by e-mail.**

If we have to cancel the FYSA summer camps in part or in full, we will of course reimburse your camp fee.

Any advance cancellation of camp attendance by parents will be handled in accordance with our [GTCs](#) until we have made our decision.

We highly recommend contacting your insurance company about your travel insurance (particularly the cancellation of your flight and accommodation) so that all those involved suffer as little financial damage as possible in the event of a cancellation.

We recommend you consult the website of the [Federal Office of Public Health \(FOPH\)](#) as a source of information about the progression of the coronavirus in Switzerland and how to deal with it.

On behalf of the Foundation Board and administrative office, we wish you and your family good health and an enjoyable spring.

On behalf of the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad,

Robert Reich
President of the FYSA

Loïc Roth
Office Manager of the FYSA