

A helping hand

Fighting the pandemic with the support of the Swiss Red Cross

In brief

The outbreak of the Coronavirus has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation, which is showing its devastating effects under its official name COVID-19. The Coronavirus can be detected in almost all regions of the world, globally more than 722'000 people are infected and more than 33'000 have died as a result until the end of March 2020. In Switzerland, more than 15,400 people have tested positive for the Coronavirus and more than 290 people have died¹. In this unusual situation, the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) provides rapid and uncomplicated support to the Swiss population.

Extraordinary challenges

In Switzerland, more and more people are getting infected with the Coronavirus. The Federal Council has categorized the situation in Switzerland as extraordinary and has adopted various measures to limit serious illness and not to overburden the health system. One measure is to stay at home. Persons aged 65 and over and all those with a pre-existing illness are particularly at risk and may fall seriously ill. These risk groups in particular should stay at home to avoid infection. As a result, these people are not able to obtain basic necessities.

Our partner

The SRC is the oldest and largest relief organisation in Switzerland, an established expert in the field of disaster relief and active throughout Switzerland and internationally. Health, integration and rescue are among the SRC's strengths.

The philanthropic solution

The SRC has planned various activities and has already partially implemented them, the following have top priority:

- Support of hospital staff: Samaritans support nursing staff by carrying out corona tests (in accordance with FOPH guidelines) in hospitals.
- Berne Test Centre: this is to be set up on the Berne Expo site to clarify suspected cases of corona and support hospitals
- Shopping service: Volunteers shop for people who belong to the risk group (over 65 years). In cooperation with Coop, deliveries to the doorstep are made possible at 20 locations in Switzerland.

The SRC is in a position to continually adapt the services to the current situation if this appears necessary and sensible.

The evidence

In its more than 150-year history, the SRC has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to act quickly and appropriately in various contexts and in around 30 countries worldwide. It is ideally positioned to play a significant role in the management of the pandemic.

The impact

All measures are important and, in accordance with the Federal Council's instructions, should help to keep infections low, relieve the burden on the health system and protect risk groups. Your support through the UBS Optimus Foundation should help to make various activities possible at more locations.



Source: SRK

Location	Schweizweit
Target group	Risk groups and patients
Partner	Swiss Red Cross
Total budget	TBD
Supporter	Swiss Federal Authorities
Duration	12 months
Project ID	49663

¹ [Federal Office of Public Health](#) (FOPH) [30.03.2020, 22:30 CET]