

## 9<sup>th</sup> ICP Forests Scientific Conference FORECOMON 2021

### 37<sup>th</sup> ICP Forests Task Force Meeting

WSL, 7-12 June 2021

#### *WSL Covid-19 Protection Concept*

Peter Waldner & Andreas Zurlinden, WSL

### Introduction

In the view of the pandemic situation, the Swiss Federal Council decided on 26 May 2021 about adjustment of the protection measures that went into effect for Switzerland on 31 May 2021 and are valid for June (see Covid-19 Ordinances<sup>1, 2</sup>). The Cantons can take additional measures for their territory (e.g. Canton Zürich<sup>3</sup>). The WSL pandemic executive panel defines the implementation of the measures within WSL (basic protection concept events<sup>4</sup>, WSL Security Officer: Andreas Zurlinden, WSL).

### Validity

This protection concept covers the ICP Forests events from 7-12. June 2021, including the (1) Welcome Reception on 7 June 2021, (2) the Scientific Conference on 8-9 June 2021, (3) the Campus Excursions on 9 June 2021, (4) the Conference Dinner on 9 June 2021, (5) the Task Force Meeting on 10-11 June 2021, and (6) the Post-Conference Excursion on 11-12 June 2021. The concept however, does not cover the travelling to and from the conference, the accommodation and any private activities.

### Event Classifications and Responsibilities

The protection concept includes (1) general protection measures *valid for all events* and may include (2) additional specific protection measures valid for a specific event based on its classification. The concept designates for each event a person that is responsible to ensure that the protection concept is applied. The responsible person has the right to cancel the event at any time.

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<sup>1</sup> Covid-19 Ordinance Special Situation SR 818.101.26 (available DE/FR/IT, EN in translation)  
<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2020/439/en>

<sup>2</sup> Covid-19 Ordinance international person traffic SR 818.101.27 (EN):  
<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2021/61/en>

<sup>3</sup> Covid-19 Webpage Canton Zürich: <https://www.zh.ch/de/gesundheit/coronavirus.html>

<sup>4</sup> Basic protection concept events of the WSL ([version Nov 2020](#), will be adapted)

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<b><i>Event</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible person</i></b>
Welcome Reception:	Peter Waldner
Scientific Conference:	Marcus Schaub
Conference Dinner:	Marco Ferretti
Campus Excursions:	Maria Schmitt
Task Force Meeting:	Marco Ferretti
Post-Conference Excursion:	Peter Waldner

## **General Measures for all Events**

### **International person traffic**

Travelers from abroad are asked to follow the regulations of the Swiss Federal Council for international person traffic<sup>5</sup> (e.g. fill out the required electronic forms).

### **Health Conditions**

Only healthy persons that have none of the typical Covid-19 symptoms and do not have to follow a quarantine, according to the home and the host countries' rules, are allowed to participate.

### **Hand hygiene**

Wash or disinfect hands frequently (at arrival, before/after eating, before departure). Hand disinfection facilities are available at the campus and room entrances; washing facilities in the toilets (follow signs). Often touched objects, such as microphones, are to be disinfected frequently. Other objects at reasonable intervals.

### **Distance of 1.5 m/Ventilation**

There is an increased risk of infection if the distance of 1.5 m cannot be maintained for more than 15 minutes. Measures to keep a distance of 1.5 m are given a high priority, e.g. by appropriate seating and indicating person flow direction. Facilities without automated ventilating systems will be frequently ventilated by manually opening the windows.

### **Protective Mask and Eating/Drinking**

*Inside rooms, protective masks must be worn always, except during the time you are eating seated. Eating is only allowed seated at a table with a maximum of four persons per table. These tables need to have a spacing of 1.5 m or panels in between.*

*Outside, protective masks must be worn, if the distance of 1.5 m cannot be guaranteed (e.g. when viewing a small object together). In outside areas of restaurants, eating is only allowed seated with a maximum of six persons per table. Tables need to have a spacing of 1.5 m or panels in between.*

### **Traffic**

In public transport systems, the rules for the public transport facility need to be followed. *Protective masks must always be worn except for eating and drinking. In buses, passengers are not allowed to use the front door or to access the area around the driver.*

In WSL buses protective masks must always be worn. In addition, it is highly recommended to not eat inside the bus, but only outside during the stops. Strong ventilation for the vehicle during the stops is recommended.

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<sup>5</sup> Covid-19 Ordinance international person traffic SR 818.101.27 (EN):  
<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2021/61/en>

**Contact tracing**

The contact details of all persons present at any of the events will be collected at the registration desk and will receive a nametag only hereafter. Contact details of non-registered persons will be collected on the spot and communicated to the registration desk by the responsible person of the event.

Persons eating together at the same table, i.e. without protection masks, need to fill in their name in the green lists available on the eating tables. The green lists will be collected by the WSL canteen staff, the restaurant, or the responsible of the event.

**Testing facilities**

*Arrival:* The local hosts kindly ask all participants to make sure not to bring the Covid-19 virus to the meeting, by either (i) making a PCR test prior to air travels, (ii) making a self-test available for all Swiss citizens, (iii) being immune after a confirmed recovery, or (iv) being sufficiently vaccinated.

*During the meeting:* Self-test kits will be made available on demand for participants.

*Departure:* If required for traveling, you may make use the public facilities for PCR testing offered for CHF 137.- in the Canton Zürich<sup>6</sup> by test centers maintained by hospitals<sup>7</sup>, equipped pharmacies<sup>8</sup>, or in a doctor's office.

**Event specific measures****Post-Conference Excursion**

Post-Conference Excursion participants that are not yet fully vaccinated are kindly invited to do a self-test on 11 June 2021 when the excursion starts, preferably before departure at 14:00 CET.

We recommend to strictly follow the food hygiene rules (e.g. own drinking water bottle, etc., not forward touched food) during the outside walks too.

**Confirmation from WSL Security Officer**

Date, 2 June 2021

**Contact**

In case of questions, please contact [ICP\\_Forests\\_Conference@wsl.ch](mailto:ICP_Forests_Conference@wsl.ch).

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<sup>6</sup> Testing facilities in Canton Zürich (German Webpage):

<https://www.zh.ch/de/gesundheit/coronavirus.html#148908366>

<sup>7</sup> Test-centers on the list, e.g. 'Corona-Testcenter Kasernenareal', address: Militärstrasse 20, 8004 Zürich (about 800 m from Zurich main station), Phone: +41 44 416 12 12, Opening hours: Mo-Fr 8:45-18:00, Sa-So 8:45-16:30, [Online-Reservation](#) (recommended, but not always necessary).

<sup>8</sup> Pharmacies on the list, e.g. 'Amavita Apotheke Shopeville', address: Bahnhofpassage 15, 8001 Zürich (in the basement of the main train station 'Zürich HB'), Phone: +41 58 878 25 30, Webpage: [www.amavita.ch](http://www.amavita.ch), Opening hours: Mo-Fr 7:30-20:00, Sa/So 9:00-19:00.