



## Swiss winter 2020/2021 under Covid-19 circumstances – FAQ's

### **Do you know if all ski resorts plan to reopen this winter? Do you know if any will remain closed?**

At the moment, all ski resorts in Switzerland should be operating this winter. To our knowledge, there are no ski resorts that are not preparing for the season. As it has become known in the Swiss media, the only exception so far is the small and for the entire Swiss winter tourism less relevant resort "Fideriser Heuberge", which will be closed during the upcoming winter season.

This "pause" of Fideriser Heuberge is an individual case. It results primarily from the local conditions/its business model. In this ski area, besides sledging, gastronomy and group business are of utmost importance and it is precisely in these areas that the operators identified an increased risk, which led them to interrupt all operations.

### **Will travelers be able to ski in Switzerland this winter?**

Today, we believe that all ski resorts in Switzerland will be able to open and run their season. Always in compliance with protection concepts. Of course, this is subject to be influenced by future pandemic developments.

### **How will Swiss Covid-safety measures impact the skiing experience?**

In the area of outdoor activities, there is currently no obligation to wear a mask, including for snow sports practice. Skiing itself should therefore continue to be a lot of fun. For all sectors such as accommodation, gastronomy, transport etc., concepts have been developed by the respective national associations, which comply with official regulations. A summary overview and further links can be found [in 12 languages on MySwitzerland.com](#).

### **Did Switzerland implement any additional Covid measures for winter?**

Switzerland already has experience with protection concepts in mountain areas. The summer season was successful from a safety aspect, protection concepts in hotels and mountain railways are effective and, fortunately, no Corona hotspot (source of multiple infections) was detected in resorts. Precautionary measures will also apply during the upcoming winter. The Swiss Mountain Railways (SBS) and the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) are currently consulting on further refinement of the design, such as details regarding the compulsory wearing of masks.



### **Mountain Railways: can cantons introduce specific restrictions?**

Various ski resorts are located in more than one canton (Andermatt, Sörenberg, Engelberg etc.), and the local traffic does not know any cantonal borders. Different cantonal regulations, especially in the area of transportation, would make travel within Switzerland much more difficult. Currently, cantons can decide to implement their own protection measures. However, in the area of transportation, there is a national rule: [wearing a mask is mandatory in all public transport](#). This measure also includes mountain railways and cable cars (in a closed environment) but not ski- or chairlifts (open-air environment).

### **What innovations do ski resorts offer in connection with Covid19?**

The following mountain railways offer a kind of pandemic insurance or compensation for selected tickets:

- [Topcard](#) (Arosa-Lenzerheide, Laax, Davos Klosters)
- [Adelboden Lenk](#) (*in German and French only*)
- SkiArena Andermatt-Disentis-Sedrun
- [4-Vallées](#)
- Saas-Fee
- Skipass Surselva (Obersaxen-Mundaun, Brigels)
- Graubünden Card

(list incomplete)

### **What about the operation of ski rental centers?**

Swiss sports retailers are regrouped in the association ASMAS, which has created protection concepts, which are very similar to general measures applied in the retail trade.