

## Update on the COVID-19 epidemic for ChiroSuisse members

March 15, 2020

Dear members of ChiroSuisse, dear colleagues

The Executive Board of ChiroSuisse has followed the development of the COVID-19 epidemic very closely and is aware of the serious concerns that our members are confronted with. We have provided you with relevant information from the authorities in three e-mails within the last two weeks. In the light of the increasing seriousness of this crisis the Executive Board held an extraordinary meeting tonight.

### Current situation:

- The crisis is still categorized as "special" in terms of the Epidemics Act. Most directives in order to prevent the spread of the corona virus are still taken on a cantonal level. This may change anytime if the federal council decides to escalate to the category "extraordinary".
- As the number of infections is rising very quickly the national and cantonal authorities are constantly adapting their directives and recommendations. The current directives vary from canton to canton.
- The cantons of Ticino, Baselland, Jura, Neuchatel and Graubünden have so far decreed the most far reaching lockdowns, including all restaurants, hotels, most shops, bars, clubs, fitness centers, theaters, etc.
- As of today no canton has explicitly decreed the complete lockdown of a category of health care providers that chiropractors would fall under.

### The Executive Board of ChiroSuisse has today taken the following decisions:

- A task force has been formed that will coordinate all issues around the COVID-19 epidemic. Jean-Pierre Cordey and Serafin Leemann are co-leading this task force. All communication will be coordinated by Charlotte Schläpfer and the department "internal communication".
- ChiroSuisse will publish all relevant information for members on its website under the link [www.chirosuisse.ch/de/corona](http://www.chirosuisse.ch/de/corona). It will contain a section with FAQ. The information will be updated on a regular basis as required. Please visit this page daily.
- At this point in time the Executive Board of ChiroSuisse makes the following imperative recommendations to its members:
  - Follow the directives and recommendations given by the national as well as your cantonal health authorities very closely by visiting their website on a daily basis:
    - National:
      - D: <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/de/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/information-fuer-die-aerzteschaft.html> > Vorgehen in der Praxis
      - F: <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/fr/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/information-fuer-die-aerzteschaft.html> > Prise en charge au cabinet
    - Cantonal:
      - Links to all cantonal authorities can be found here: <https://www.srf.ch/news/panorama/liste-der-quellen-hier-informiert-sich-srf-news-ueber-das-coronavirus>

- At a minimum you must take appropriate measures to make sure that all directives are strictly followed in your clinic. Especially:
  - hygiene measures (hand hygiene, disinfection of treatment table and equipment)
  - “social distancing” (reducing situations where people in your clinic meet at a distance less than 2m)
  - sending sick patients and/or staff home
  - (wearing masks is only recommended in exceptional cases: (see: [PDF in German](#) / [PDF in French](#) / [PDF in Italian](#)))
- As we are health care professionals involved in a discipline where real emergencies are the exception, the Executive Board advises all members to consider taking voluntary steps (before they are decreed by authorities) such as:
  - reducing patient visits to acute / urgent problems
    - establishing screening procedures where
    - appointments with all vulnerable patients (e.g. with co-morbidities or over the age of 65) are cancelled
    - all patients are systematically asked to confirm that they do not have any symptoms like cough/fever, etc before entering the clinic.
    - all patients are systematically requested to wash or disinfect their hands before entering the clinic.
    - etc.
  - preparing for closing down your clinic temporarily
  - any other measures that you personally can think of to reduce the risk of transmission

In our last e-mail we informed you about possibilities to compensate for the expected economic loss. We will provide you with further information later on.

You will be updated on the activities of the "task force COVID-19" and on further decisions taken by the Executive Board.

We wish you all good health and the confidence that we will go through this crisis together and come out stronger.

Best wishes!

Thomas

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