

# HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS MEETING

## COVID-RELATED MEASURES

### I – GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1 › This note has been prepared for delegations participating in person at the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM), which will take place from 14 to 15 December at the [International Conference Centre Geneva \(CICG\)](#) in Geneva, Switzerland. It complements more detailed information provided by the Swiss authorities, which is referenced below.
- 2 › In order to allow the relaxation of restrictions at the venue to allow food and beverages to be consumed onsite, which will accommodate the full schedule, a valid COVID certificate (with QR code) will be required to enter the premises, consistent with Swiss law. COVID certificates will be systematically verified at the access points. The verification will be conducted in strict observance of confidentiality.
- 3 › COVID certificates can be obtained with proof of vaccination, proof of having a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection (recovery) through a PCR test, or through a negative PCR test (valid for 72 hours) or a rapid antigen test (valid for 48 hours).

### II – HOW TO OBTAIN A COVID CERTIFICATE

- 4 › Please note that the EU digital COVID certificate or QR codes compatible with the European or Swiss system, are recognized in Switzerland. Those in possession of such a certificate do not need to apply for a Swiss certificate.
- 5 › Some certificates issued by States outside the European Union are recognized and compatible with the European and Swiss systems. However, vaccination certificates are only recognized if they have been issued for vaccinations with a vaccine authorized by the [EMA](#), or, under certain conditions, by the [WHO protocol for emergency use](#). These countries are listed in annex 5 of the [COVID-19 Certificates Ordinance](#).
- 6 › In order to apply for a Swiss COVID certificate, participants are requested to fill in an [online application form](#) available on the website of the Canton of Geneva.
  - For persons vaccinated abroad with a vaccine authorized by EMA, they are invited to apply as soon as possible to obtain a Swiss certificate. The current list of accepted vaccines includes: Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech, SpikeVax (Moderna), Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) and Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca)
  - For persons vaccinated abroad with a vaccine listed by WHO for emergency only, applications can be made as of Tuesday, 30 November 2021. These vaccines include: BBIBP-CorV (Sinopharm), Coronavac (Sinovac), CoviShield and Covaxin)
- 7 › Further detailed instructions may be found in the [information sheet on the Swiss COVID certificate](#).

### III – COVID TESTING CENTRES

- 8 › COVID tests are available to passengers at Geneva Airport, upon arrival and departure:
- the nasopharyngeal antigen test: result on site in 15 minutes;
  - the nasopharyngeal or salivary PCR test: treated in laboratory with a response within 12 to 36 hours, depending on the overall health situation.

For more information on the location of the testing facility, the opening hours and to make an appointment, please visit the [m3 Sanitrade website](#).

- 9 › Other useful resources for booking tests are:

<https://www.ge.ch/en/covid-19-get-tested/where-can-one-be-tested-geneva>  
<https://www.onedoc.ch/en/covid-testing-center/geneva>

- 10 › Advance booking is highly recommended. Participants should ensure that COVID certificates obtained through a PCR or rapid antigen test are valid for the full two days of the HLOM.

### IV – ADDITIONAL MEASURES

- 11 › Despite the relaxation of measures to allow the consumption of food and beverages on site, given the current COVID-19 health situation, UNHCR is committed to creating the safest possible environment and will therefore:
- maintain limited in-person participation
  - ensure adequate distancing
  - provide hand disinfection
  - limit the distribution of documents in the room
  - encourage the wearing of masks
- 12 › The CICG has also put in place [sanitary measures](#) to ensure the safety of visitors.
- 13 › Any participants that test positive for COVID-19, experience symptoms associated with COVID-19, or who have been in contact with a person who has tested positive (contact cases), should follow the relevant [Swiss regulations and health protocols](#). Please also notify the conference Secretariat immediately: [hqgovern@unhcr.org](mailto:hqgovern@unhcr.org).

### V – OTHER RESOURCES

- 14 › Delegates wishing to travel to Geneva should consult the [Swiss Federal Office of Public Health](#), the [COVID-19 information note on rules of entry for person expected in an official capacity by international organizations and permanent missions](#) and general information on [entry requirements](#) in the context of COVID-19.
- 15 › Depending on further developments in the health situation and Swiss rules, this note may be subject to change.
- 16 › [Overview of Swiss COVID certificate types](#).