

Maintaining blood supply and safety during COVID-19 pandemic at the Blood Establishment

The Swiss Experience



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CMO Swiss Transfusion SRC



BLUTSPENDE SRK SCHWEIZ
TRANSFUSION CRS SUISSE
TRASFUSIONE CRS SVIZZERA



Agenda

- Brief introduction to our organization “Swiss Transfusion SRC”
- Start and evolution of the COVID-19 in Switzerland
- Swiss Transfusion SRC Action Plan to ensure blood product safety and supply
- Additional achievements
- Our experience in summary



Swiss Transfusion SRC

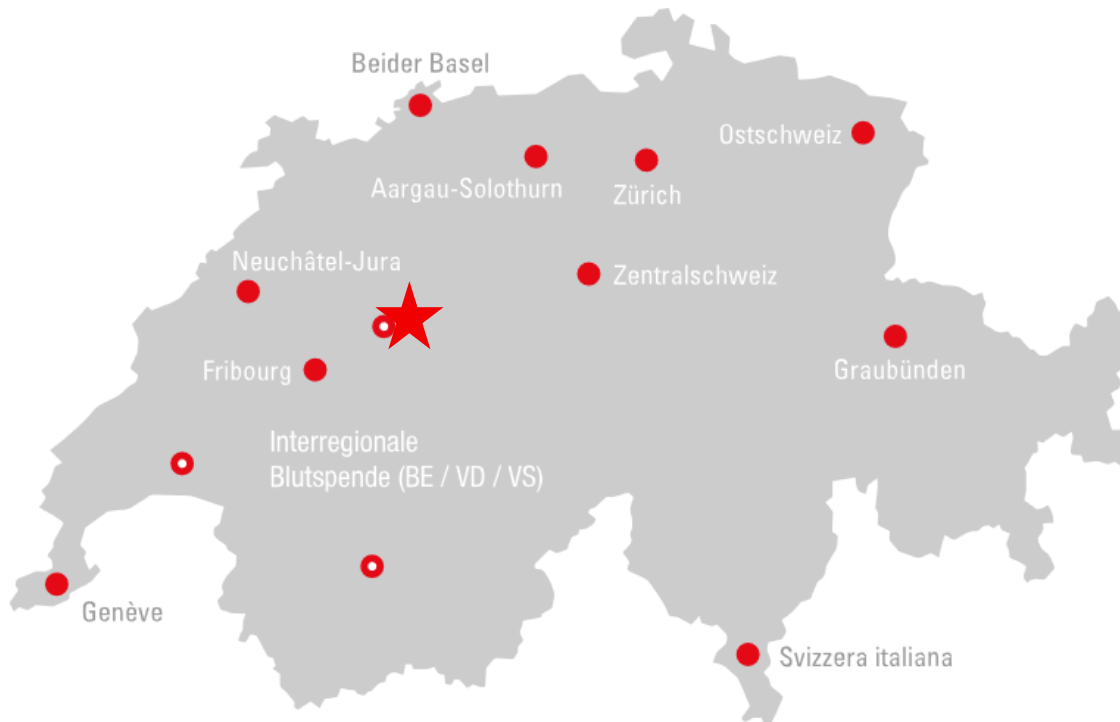
- Swiss Transfusion SRC is an independent non-profit organization and a Swiss Red Cross Institution
- Structured in an umbrella organization (B-CH AG) working hand-in-hand with 11 regional transfusion centers
- The Role of Swiss Transfusion SRC:

Secure the national blood supply

Manage the Blood Stem Cell donor registry

- President of the administrative board: Prof. Dr. Thomas Zeltner, MD

Blood service: Umbrella organization and 11 regional blood services



Facts & Figures 2019

- Ordered Blood Products:
 - 220'481 red blood cells
 - 28'405 plasma
 - 36'317 platelets
- Blood donations:
 - 247'812 whole blood
 - 16'367 apheresis



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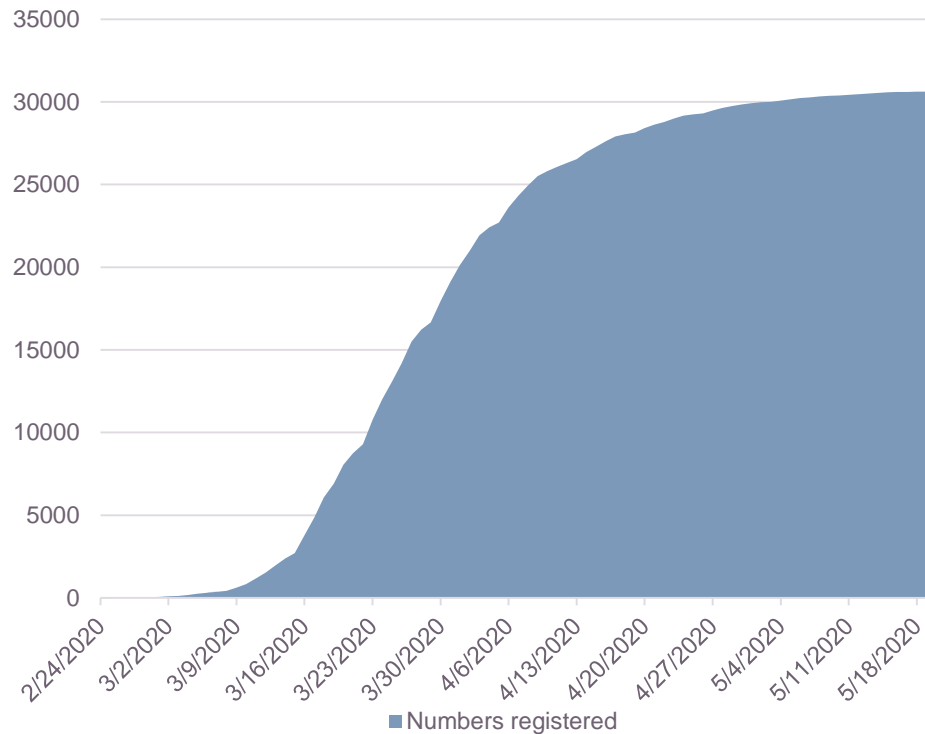
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Transfusion Swiss Red Cross Contingency Interventions

| Federal Council | SoHo Action (Labile Blood Products) |
|---|--|
| On 25 February 2020: First confirmed case of COVID-10 in Ticino | 26 February: Emergency Meeting / first immediate action plan |
| 27 February: 4 cases in Geneva and Grisons imported from Italy | 28 February: First guidance documents |



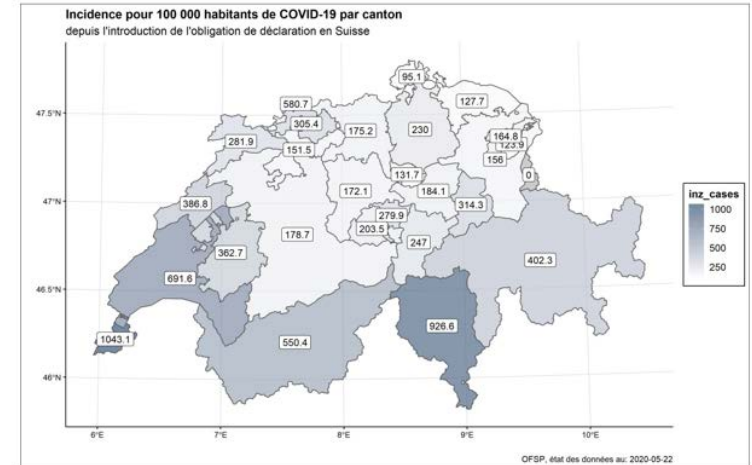
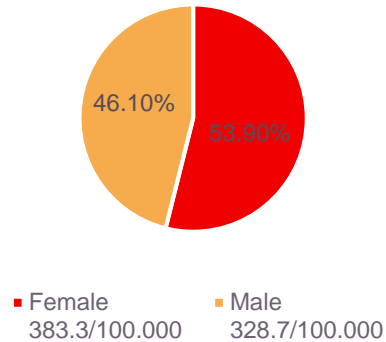
Start and evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in Switzerland



Confirmed cases in Switzerland

By Geographical Distribution

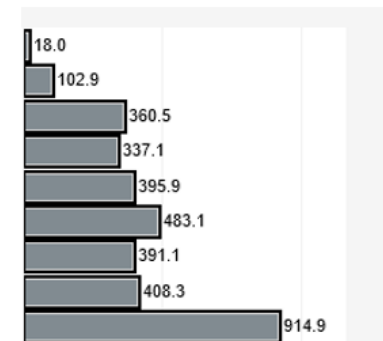
By Gender



By Age Group

Deaths in Switzerland by age group^[105]

| age | confirmed cases | deaths | mortality rate |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|----------------|
| 0–9 years | 151 | 0 | 0 % |
| 10–19 years | 845 | 0 | 0 % |
| 20–29 years | 3789 | 0 | 0 % |
| 30–39 years | 4089 | 5 | 0.12 % |
| 40–49 years | 4756 | 4 | 0.08 % |
| 50–59 years | 6161 | 34 | 0.55 % |
| 60–69 years | 3630 | 114 | 3.14 % |
| 70–79 years | 2867 | 320 | 11.16 % |
| ≥ 80 years | 4037 | 1084 | 26.85 % |



BAG Bundesamt für Gesundheit



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Action Plan

GET AND STAY INFORMED, GET READY, COMMUNICATE AND PROTECT

1. Ensure Blood Product **Safety** to protect recipients
2. Ensure **Supply**
3. Ensure Donor **Safety and Communication**
4. Ensure **Safety and Communication** of Personnel
5. **Communication** with Hospitals and Clinics



Get and stay informed

Creation of an Information and Data Collection Task Force

Sources: Literature, Documents (Reports, Guidance, Risk Assessments) and Exchanges with Experts and Colleagues

- Federal Office Public Health
- ECDC/CDC
- WHO
- European Blood Alliance Bi-Monthly Exchange meetings
- Emerging Infectious Disease Working Group
- FDA/AABB
- Expert Webinars
- Expert Consultations

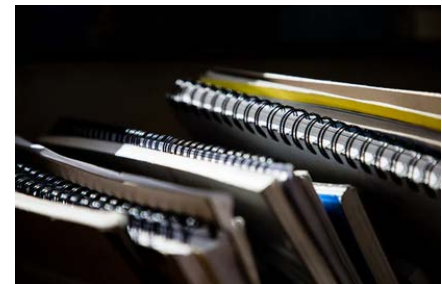
TASK



Output: Weekly updates with summaries and references of scientific, epidemic findings and implemented strategies



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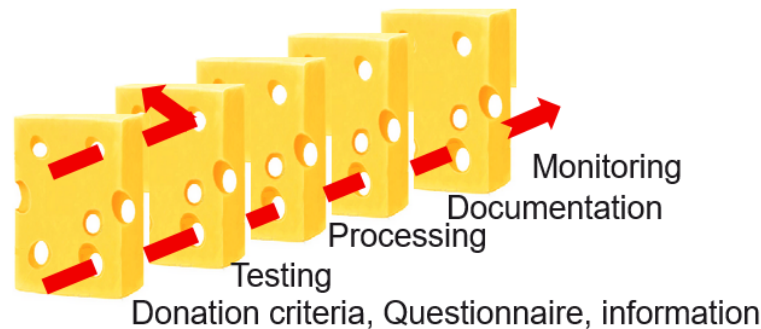
Ensure product safety

A- Identify and formulate the issue: Is SARS-COV2 transmissible through blood transfusion?

No reports of transmission of respiratory viruses (including coronaviruses) by transfusion or transplantation

Transmission remains **unknown**

Analyse the options of possible mitigation strategies:



Ensure product safety

A. Donor Selection Criteria Analysis:

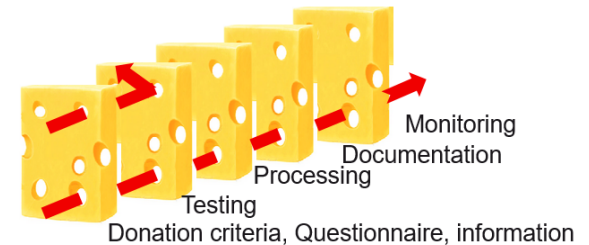
Pre-existing suitable donation criteria

- One month deferral if recent travel to affected areas (China, Hong Kong, Japan, Iran and Singapore)
- Deferral for 14 days after cold or flu symptom resolution

Newly adopted criteria

- Confirmed COVID-19 infection: deferral 1 month after symptom resolution
- Exposure through contact with persons with confirmed COVID-19 infection: deferral for 14 days
- Inventory of donors travelled to Italy (29 donors in total). None showed post donation symptoms.

B. Testing: No large scale screening test available



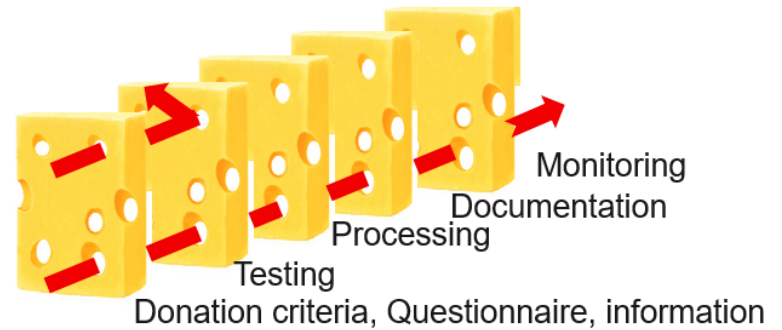
Ensure product safety

Processing:

Routine PI of PC available since 2011

Routine PI of 1/3 of FFP

no PI for RBC



Documentation:

Donors received Information sheets

- COVID-19 Symptoms
- Website link to Federal Office of Public Health recommendations

Message: Self quarantine if symptoms occur

- Call RBSD immediately if symptoms occur within 14 days of donating blood (enables release stop or recall of products)

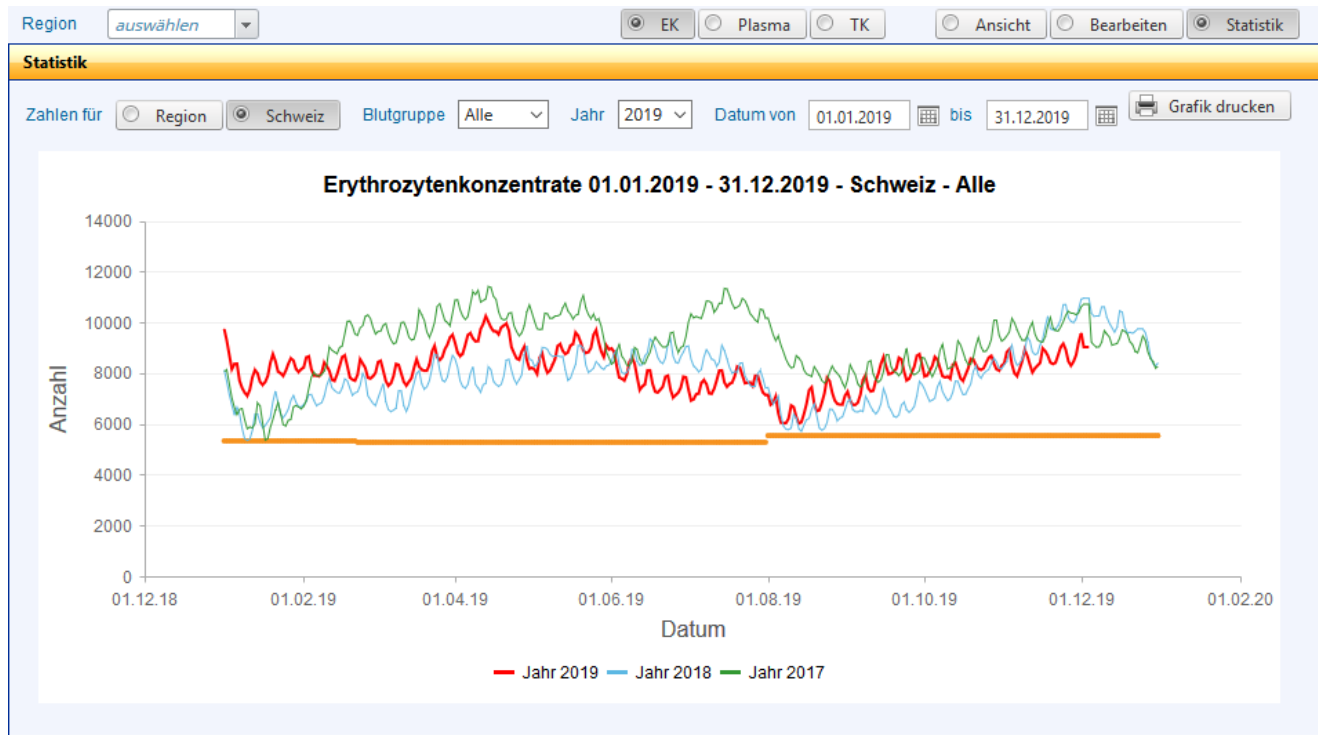
Monitoring development:

- Adapt decisions according to developments



Ensure blood supply

National overview of blood stock: Digital Tool



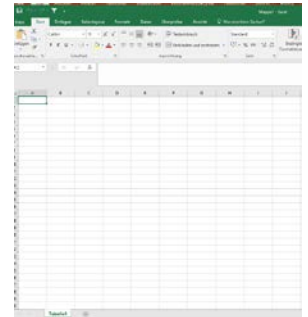
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Ensure blood supply

Decision on the 27 February: Increase blood supply stock by 30%

- Creation of a shared “Provisional Supply Excel Sheet”
- Ensure material delivery by suppliers
- Elaborate alternative transport concepts with transport companies (to face eventual shortage in personnel)



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Ensure blood supply

Regular and active communication with hospitals, clinics and health services

- Monitor Needs for LBP through daily interactions with major hospitals and periodic contacts with smaller hospitals and Clinics
- Adjustment of planned stocks according to hospital estimated requirements
- Official Information letter to all customers



Faced challenges

- Organize additional critical articles and monitor reception
- Adapt to suppliers (new delivery packaging)



Faced challenges

Ordinance 2, on Measures to Combat the Coronavirus Art 6. :

Public or private events are prohibited.

Effects:

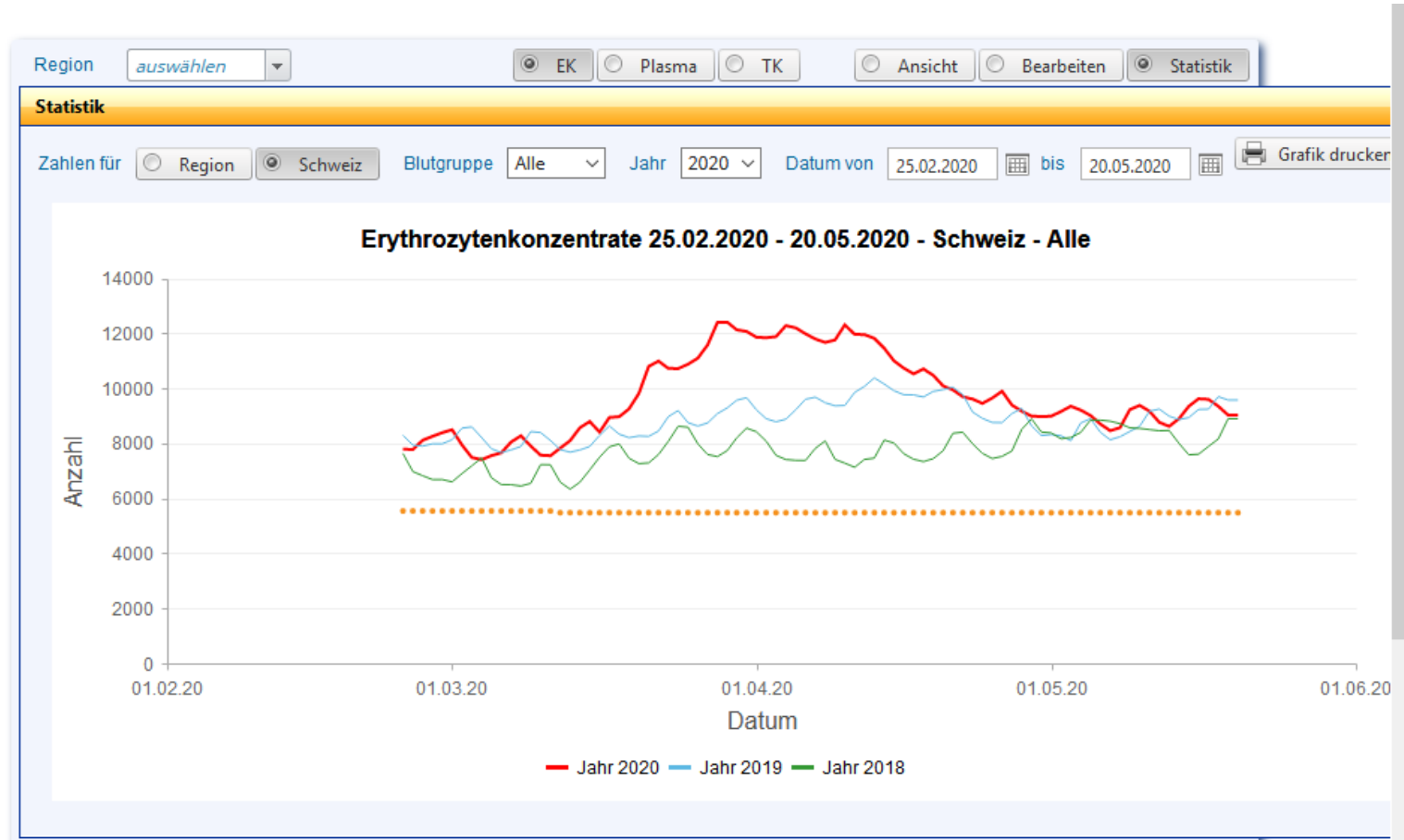
- Cantonal medical chiefs categorized blood collections as events.
- Schools, companies, communities cancelled blood collection events

Measures:

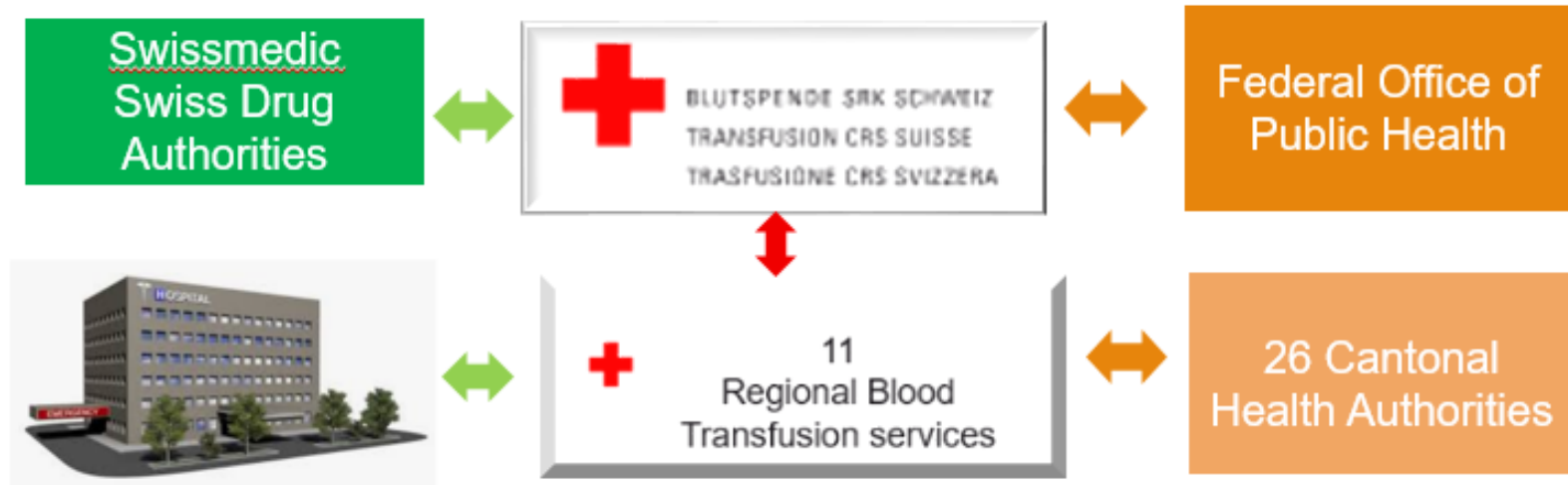
Active communication between Umbrella Organization and Authorities



RBC Stocks from 25th February to 20th May 2020



Use of communication pathways



19.03.20: Explanatory notes on Ordinance 2:
Blood donation campaigns are permitted; these are not considered events

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the new coronavirus

Do you have any questions regarding the risk of infection, travel and tourism, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, and protecting yourself from infection? You will find many answers here.

- ✓ Infection and risks
- ✓ Tests
- ✓ Blood donations
- ✓ Pregnancy
- ✓ Symptoms, diagnosis and treatment
- ✓ Protective measures
- ✓ Wearing a face mask in public
- ✓ Funeral arrangements
- ✓ Clearing out a home after a death

Contact

Due to the extraordinary situation we are unable to respond in writing to enquiries.

Please refer instead to our webpages, which are continuously updated.

Under [Contacts](#) and [links](#) you will find contact information for the FOPH, other federal agencies and the cantons.

 [Print contact](#)

Are you experiencing symptoms? Take the coronavirus check!

20.03.2020 Support and Action of Federal Office of Public Health Q&A

Blood donations

> Can I still give blood?

✓ Can the coronavirus be passed on through the blood?


There are no indications that the coronavirus can be passed on through the blood. The transmission of the virus via donated blood is therefore highly unlikely.

Blood donations

✓ Can I still give blood?

Even in the current situation with the coronavirus, people who are seriously ill or injured need blood transfusions.

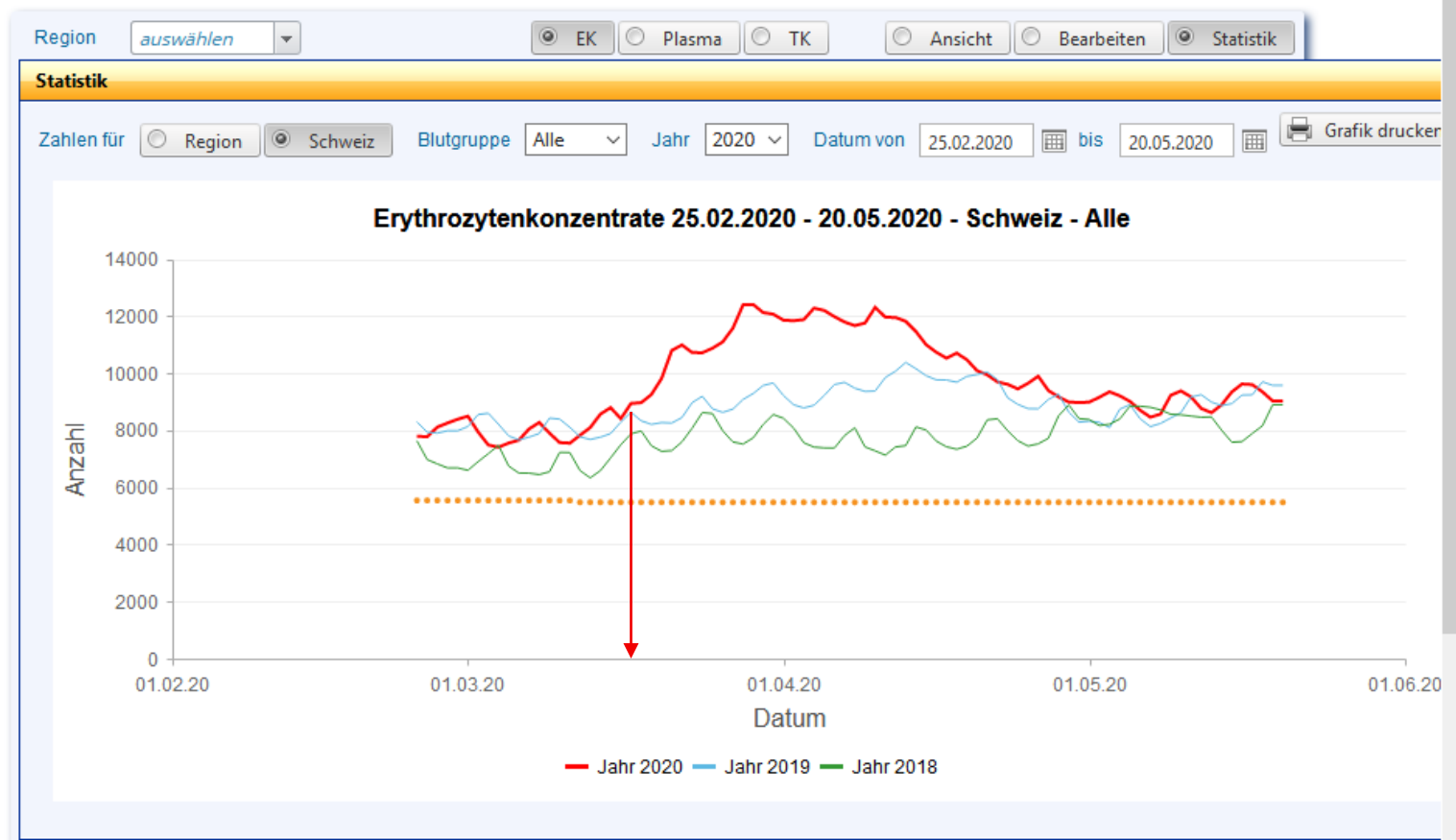
If you are healthy, you can still give blood as usual. Blood donation centres guarantee that they will comply with the rules on hygiene and social distancing while you are giving blood.

Please be sure to arrange an appointment before going to a blood donation centre. You will find a list of opening hours for blood donation centres and mobile blood donation campaigns at www.blutspende.ch/de/blutspendetermine .



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RBC Stocks from 25th February to 20th May 2020



Ensure donor safety and communication

Newly adopted measures:

1. Donations only by appointment - digitalized appointment tool/ by telephone, regulate numbers at all times
2. Vulnerable donors including donors older than 65 years advised to abstain from blood donation
3. Specific prior and continuous adapted communication with donors (Email, telephone, Homepage)

Vers la réservation en ligne

Souhaitez-vous fixer votre prochain rendez-vous en ligne sur le site de votre choix?

ATTENTION:

Durant cette période particulière, nous ne pouvons momentanément pas accepter les personnes de 65 ans et plus.

Prendre RDV

Si vous souhaitez vous inscrire pour une collecte mobile, merci d'utiliser le formulaire suivant.

Nous nous réjouissons de vous accueillir!

Inscription au don du sang

Nos centres de transfusion sanguine se réjouissent de votre visite. Si vous vous annoncez préalablement, vous pouvez éviter les temps d'attente (* Indications nécessaires).

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Prénom* | <input type="text"/> |
| Nom* | <input type="text"/> |
| Date de naissance ou numéro de donneur* | <input type="text"/> |
| Téléphone* | <input type="text"/> |
| E-Mail: | <input type="text"/> |
| Portable: | <input type="text"/> |
| Rue* | <input type="text"/> |
| CP / localité* | <input type="text"/> |
| Remarque: | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="button" value="Envoyer"/> <input type="button" value="Effacer"/> | |

Quand puis-je donner du sang?

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Sorte du dernier don | Date du dernier don |
| <input type="text" value="don de sang co"/> | <input type="text" value="suivant"/> |

Sélectionnez le dernier type de don que vous avez effectué et complétez ensuite cette information en indiquant la date de ce don. Vous recevrez automatiquement tous les types de dons qu'il vous est possible d'effectuer, ainsi que les dates pour votre prochain don. Nous recommandons aux hommes de ne pas donner du sang plus de quatre fois par année et aux femmes trois fois.

Où puis-je donner du sang?

Quand aura lieu le prochain don de sang près de chez vous? Notre fonction de recherche vous conduit directement aux actions et aux heures d'ouverture.

| |
|---|
| Date: |
| <input type="text" value="Ces 14 prochains jours"/> |
| Lieu ou CP: |
| <input type="text"/> |
| Environs: |
| <input type="text" value="20 Km"/> <input type="button" value="recherche"/> |



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Ensure donor safety and communication

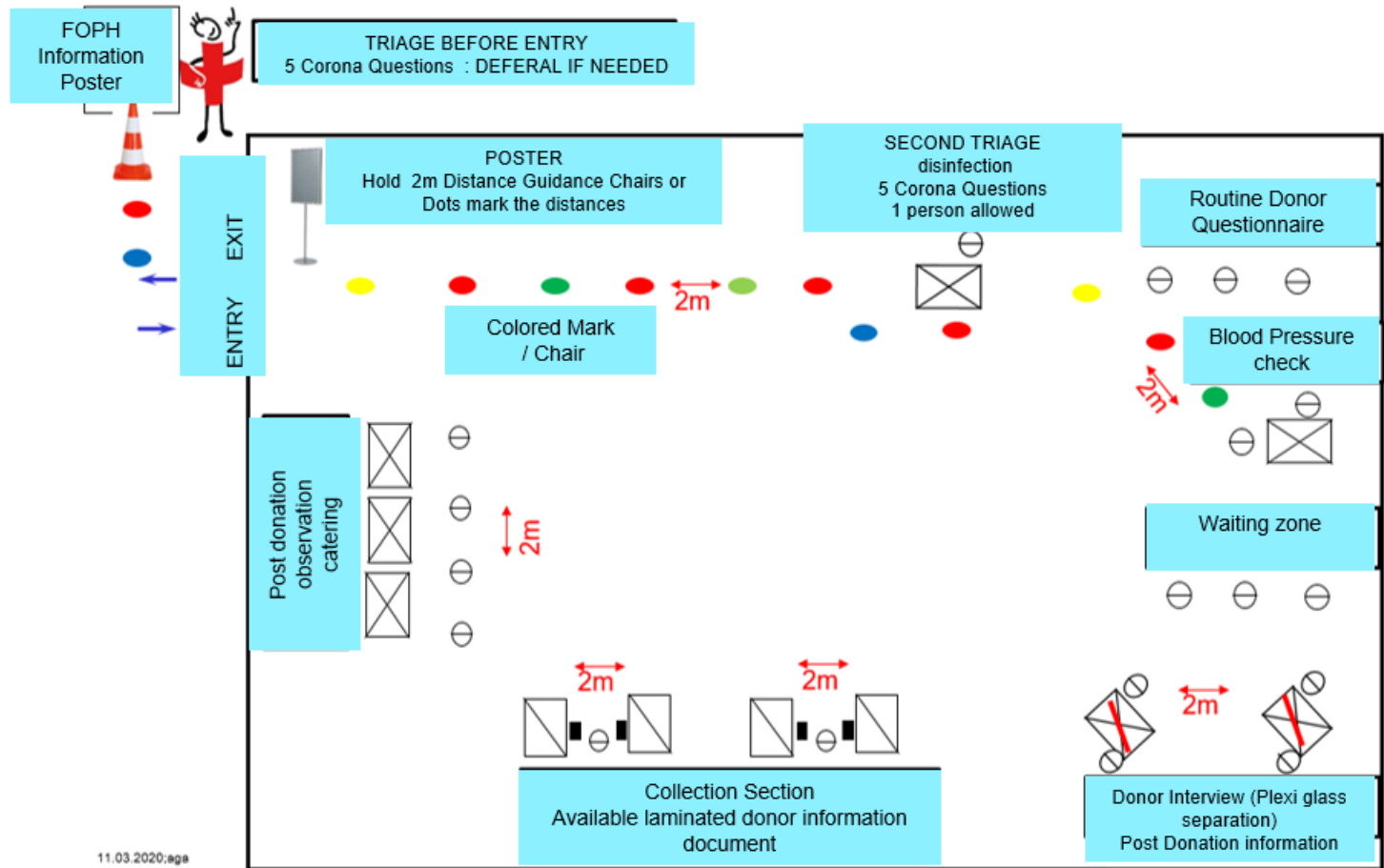
Newly adopted measures:

1. Recruitment and training of young red cross volunteers and helpers
2. Assure triage, controlled access, quick health questions (fever, cough), 2m distancing, disinfection before entering and during donation process



Ensure donor safety and communication

Standardized Collection Location Installation Plan



Ensure donor safety and communication



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Ensure donor safety and communication



Complete Externalisation
whenever needed
(Ex. blood collection centre in
Lugano was moved out of the
hospital to a large school at
Trevano)



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Ensure communication and safety of personnel

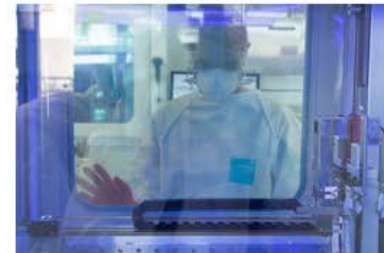
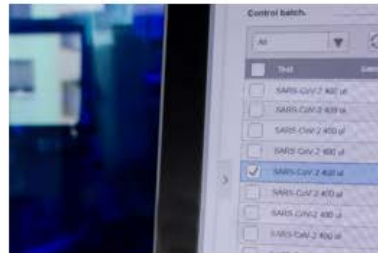
- Safety information and applicable hygiene measures for staff and offices (distancing, room disinfection, surgical masks where distancing rules inapplicable, home office wherever possible,)
- New office places equipped with needed work material
- Vulnerable staff members sent home (Federal Council Ordinance)
- Changing working hours, shorter shifts at the beginning (cancellations) and longer shifts as opening hours were extended or additional days opened
- Assign same group of staff members per shift, whenever possible.
- Use of double shifts for laboratory personnel



Additional achievements

2 RBTS (put up, and implemented labs in a GMP environment in record time)

- To perform COVID-19 PCR testing of nasopharyngeal swabs and antibody testing capacity 1'000 to 2'000 samples per day.

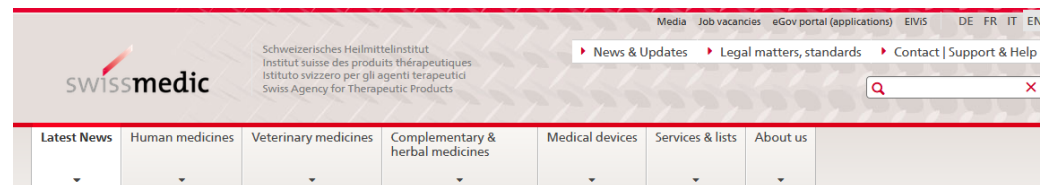
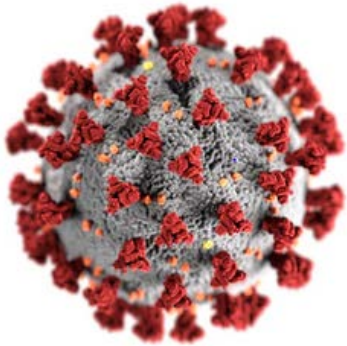


Additional achievements

Collaboration in two Convalescent Plasma Trials

12  **Recruiting** [Amotosalen-Ultraviolet A Pathogen-Inactivated Convalescent Plasma in Addition to Best Supportive Care and Antiviral Therapy on Clinical Deterioration in Adults Presenting With Moderate to Severe COVID-19](#)

• Coronavirus Disease 2019 Infectious Disease (COVID-19 Infection) • Other: convalescent plasma application to SARS-CoV-2 infected patients • Blutspendezentrum SRK beider Basel, University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland



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< Latest News

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

Swissmedic approves first COVID-19 therapy study with convalescent plasma

15.04.2020

Swissmedic has granted approval for a first clinical trial with COVID-19 convalescent plasma in Switzerland. The aim of the clinical trial is to gain insights into the effectiveness and safety of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in the treatment of severe COVID-19 diseases. The ethics committee has also issued a positive opinion.



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Our Experience

Swiss donors were at all times available despite the epidemic

THANK YOU IN THE NAME OF TRANSFUSION SWISS RED CROSS

Staff was inventive, flexible and professional:

- No major shortages, few sick leaves
- No major impact on blood collection, processing, laboratory activities
- Few Post-donation information

Collaboration between Umbrella Organization and RBTS was effective

Efforts reached beyond the routine scope of activities





GLUTS PUNBI SREK SONGKAL
THAN PUNSON OPS SREK
THAN PUNSON OPS SREK

Thank you

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