

## The national research programme for the determination of the SARS-CoV-2 immunity is launched

**Zurich, 23 April 2020 – Today, the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) announced its support for a Swiss-wide research programme to collect epidemiological data on SARS-CoV-2 immunity. The programme is designed to last at least six months and will test for the proportion of people with antibodies to the new coronavirus in the Swiss population. "Corona Immunitas" is an initiative of the Swiss School of Public Health SSPH+, which includes 12 universities. It provides reliable data on the number of persons with SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in individual regions and in specific population groups, as well as on the extent and duration of immunity to SARS-CoV-2.**

Corona Immunitas provides national and cantonal authorities with an epidemiological basis for decision-making in order to define measures to protect the population and restart the economy, as well as other normal aspects of public life. In addition, the research programme provides important information for the planning of resources needed in the health care system, as well as for the early recognition of any necessary protective measures. Moreover, it supports the planning of a national vaccination strategy.

As part of the research programme, people throughout Switzerland are being interviewed and SARS-CoV-2 antibody blood tests are being carried out. The representative data will provide information on the number of people who have antibodies against the new coronavirus and whether it is possible to become infected again despite the antibodies.

SSPH+ relies on scientific expertise, well-established procedures and experienced network partners in all language regions and cantons that guarantee the quick and efficient implementation of the research programme. SSPH+ coordinates the procedure in close cooperation with the federal government, the cantons and the participating universities and universities of applied sciences. Individual SSPH+ universities conduct additional surveys, for example, among occupational groups who are particularly at risk of infection or in population groups that are at risk for health problems.

Corona Immunitas is a public-private partnership supported by the public sector, private companies and private individuals. The CSS Group has been involved from the very beginning.

The research is not subject to bias as the sponsors have no influence on the research programme.

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### **About SSPH+**

The Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) brings together the academic expertise in the field of health sciences available at 12 Swiss universities (Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, Svizzera italiana, Zurich, BFH, SUPSI and ZHAW). The SSPH+ characterizes public health as a scientific and professional field that is supported by a broad range of disciplines. In a small country like Switzerland, no single institution has the capacity to cover all areas relevant to public health. The "inter-university faculty" offers a promising basis for strengthening the health sciences by bringing together over 250 professors of health sciences from all over Switzerland. The SSPH+ initiates and supports a number of inter-university academic activities that would not be supported by any single university. [www.ssphplus.ch](http://www.ssphplus.ch)