



Extraordinary situation due to the coronavirus – Saturday April 25

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR ALEC VON GRAFFENRIED

Dear Citizens of Bern!

For 6 weeks we have been living in a state of emergency, we stay at home, retreated. We never imagined this would happen. But the end is near, the first relief is near. But we still have to hold on a little longer.

In the last 6 weeks a calm has come over us, and we have come to rest. Switzerland has been given a break. One can see this in a positive light. We have been able to rest for a while.

For many, including myself, this was just a little too much rest. Silence can also become eerie and spooky. For many shops, especially here in the city centre, this calm is threatening. In the next few weeks, we will have to make sure that this calm doesn't paralyze us, but that we regain our strength and get back on our feet economically. Next week we will go to the hairdresser's and in 14 days the shops and the schools will open again.

Let us prepare ourselves for these next steps. We'll stay in the home office and in home schooling. Let's enjoy these last days of peace and quiet and then slowly start again.

But let us also think about what else we want to take with us from the last 6 weeks. We talk a lot about the fact that social innovation is necessary. I believe that in the last 6 weeks we have made a lot of social innovation with neighbourly help, solidarity between generations, thoughtfulness and attentiveness. We also talk about the need for digital transformation. Here too we have made a big leap. In the future, we will be able to do video conferences more easily and use our digital tools in a more targeted way, for example in schools.

Will the world go back to the way it was before? Will we immediately fall back into the old rut? Or will something stay the same, something get better?

Certain rules will remain. The world has changed, and some changes will remain with us for a long time to come. Keep your distance. Restrict the number of people. Large events will not be possible for a long time yet.

It is up to us which innovations we drive forward. Of course I would like to see a more attentive, more supportive society, we can certainly learn that from the last six weeks.

And we can learn something else. Our health is the most important thing.

We need a strong immune system. Nature helps us to strengthen our health and our immune system. Stay at home, follow the rules, but also go out into the fresh air, exercise, it is good for your health and your immune system. Pay attention to your well-being and stay healthy!

All the best!

Alec von Graffenried
Mayor of Bern