1. Introduction

- On June 8th the Mont Terri Visitor Centre will open its doors again, after 12 weeks being closed following the Covid-19 pandemic. As operator of the visitor centre, swisstopo (Consortium CCV with the partners Nagra, ENSI and swisstopo) has established a security concept.

- The gathering ban of more than five people will be lifted on June 8th following the Swiss federal council announcement in the press conference of May 27th. This allows the reopening of the Mont Terri Visitors Centre under specific conditions. These are listed below (group size, reception, transport, disinfection measures).

- The security concept will be adapted according to the evolution of the pandemic. The orders and recommendations of the Swiss federal office for health will be applied in any case.

2. Group size

- On June 6th the Swiss federal council ban on gathering of more than five people will be lifted.

- The general conditions fixed by the Swiss federal council are:
  1. Drawing up a security plan
  2. Keep a visitors’ list
  3. Follow the hygiene and behaviour rules

- The visitor group size in the Mont Terri Visitors Centre is defined by the surface of the visitors pavilion, the configuration of the rock laboratory and the respect of the hygiene and behavior rules.

- According to the above mentioned criteria the maximum size of a group is set at 21 persons.

- For each group a list of participants will be taken in advance. The person responsible for the group will give his/her phone number. This will allow the traceability of each visitor if needed (Contact Tracing).
3. Reception in the Mont Terri visitor centre


- It will be made sure that the 2 m. social distancing is respected in the visitors pavilion, wearing masks is therefore not obligatory but recommended. In addition to this checklist, the following five measures are established.

1. The guide or the security person informs the group at the visitor centre entrance about the hygiene and behavior rules and demands the respect of the social distancing principle.

2. Disinfection means are installed at each entrance of the visitor centre, as well as in the toilets.

3. The coffee and mineral water service has to be served by a single designated person. Disinfection means are also placed by the coffee machine.

4. Sticky tape is placed on the floor by the toilets and the coffee corner to signal the 2 m. social distancing (3-4 lines). The dead corners or unused rooms have to be made inaccessible by sticky tape or traffic cones.

5. The guides and the security person take care that the high tables and the repartition of the visitors are placed so that the social distancing is respected.

4. Exhibition in the visitor pavilion & big conference room

- **Foyer - exhibition**: the room has a 126 m² surface (except kitchen corner and exhibition blocs). 21 people can be placed when we mark 2x2 m. squares on the floor (Figure 1).

- **Big conference room**: the conference room hast to be set in its bigger configuration: the room is 108 m². In that configuration 21 people can be placed in 10 rows, where 1 row and 3 chairs between each visitors is left empty. The distance of 2 m. can therefore be respected. The visitor’s chairs are clearly marked (see Fig. 2 and 3). In order to have more space the two conference rooms are set into one room.
Figure 1: Visitor centre, view from the west entrance of the foyer.

Figure 2: View of the big conference room. Visitors sit where the yellow jackets are placed.
Figure 3: Visitor centre floor plan. Orange: foyer-exhibition. Yellow: big conference room.

- After the cancellation of the gathering ban of more than 5 people: maximum group size 21 people. Here it is also possible that half of the group visits the exhibition while the other half listens to the presentation in the conference room. In that case the social distancing rules can be well respected.

5. Transfer in the rock laboratory with minibus

- Since the group size is 21 people plus 4 people (driver & security person, guide), for a total of 25 people, the transfer with two minibuses is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Visitor</th>
<th>Driver-security person</th>
<th>Guide</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus 1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus 2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Group < 10 people : 1 Minibus
- Group > 10 people : 2 Minibuses

- Hygiene measures in minibuses: each visitor wears a mask, this is obligatory. The driver distributes the masks to the visitors. In addition the minibuses are disinfected by the drivers after every visit.

- A plastic sheet is placed behind the driver’s seat and the guide’s seat. This is to maximize the protection of the visitor centre staff (4 persons with 2 minibuses, 2 persons with one minibus).
6. Laboratory visit

- Since the group size is established to maximum 21 people, we can resume the visits in the rock laboratory under the following conditions:

- Group of 10 people: 1 guide, 1 driver/security person

- Group of 11 to 21 people: 2 guides, 2 driver/security person

- When getting off the minibus the guide reminds the visitors to keep the social distancing to 2 m. during the visit. The guide speaks louder than usual in order to be heard clearly from all visitors. The security person controls that the social distancing is applied.

- Disinfection means are installed in the P3 and P4 parking (places reserved for minibuses).

- Smartphone-Tracking-App: Visitors can be asked to use the Smartphone-Tracking-App developed by the ETH/EPFL, which will be soon available. This app can only be used on a voluntary basis, the visitors cannot be forced to use it.

- The 8 spots mentioned below allow the guide to explain the experiences under good conditions. These spots have space enough for the social distancing. These spots are suitable for small groups (3 groups of 6-7 people) as well as for two groups of 10 people.

1. **Emplacement model (Gallery 2008)** - Model scale 1:1 (Figure 5)

2. **Diffusion experiment (Gallery 2008)** – Diffusion experiment

3. **Experiment FE (Gallery 2008)** – 1 to 1 Heater experiment

4. **TS Experiment (Gallery 2004/2018)** – Geotechnique in opalinus clay (Figure 6 and 7)

5. **Experiment HC (Gallery 2018)** - Hydraulic characterisation of the transition Opalinus clay/Passwang Formation

6. **Experiment CD-A (Gallery 2018)** – Influence of air humidity on long term deformation of clay

7. **Experiment MB-A (Gallery 2004/2018)** Mine-by experiment

8. **Experiment PS (Gallery 1998)** – Geology, tectonic fault
With small groups there are more possible spots in the laboratory where the social distancing can be respected.

**Figure 5:** Spot « Emplacement model » with a group of 15 people (red traffic cones). It is judged too big (guide should speak too loud, details not visible for the people standing in the back). Here a maximum of 11 people would be possible.
Figure 6: Entrance TS Gallery, Geotechnique. Simulation with 5 People.

Figure 7: Entrance TS Gallery, Geotechnique. Simulation with 10 people.
7. Disinfection measures

- Exhibition in visitor centre: all surfaces of the exhibition blocs, high tables, door handles, toilets have to be cleaned with a disinfection lotion.

- Equipment: helmets and badges have to be disinfected after each visit.

- Big conference room: it is difficult to disinfect the fabric chair cushions, however we know that the virus does not survive on fabric for a long time (a few hours only). We possibly could exchange the chairs after a visit but only if we have more than one visit a day. The conference room will be well aired regularly.

- Minibus: disinfection of the surfaces which are touched (handles, steering wheel, window sides, etc.). Minibus windows should be left open as often as possible.

- Implementation of the measures: driver, visitor centre personnel according to the size of the group.

8. Implementation of the security and hygiene plan

- Disinfection means for hands placed in the selected areas (entrance, coffee corner, toilets, P3 and P4).

- Disinfection means for cleaning of door handles, various surfaces, helmets, badges, minibuses are available.

- Masks are distributed for each visitor during the transfer with minibuses. We make sure that we have masks in sufficient quantity.

- Lines are marked on the visitor centre floor to indicate the social distancing.

- Anordnung der Stühle im Vortragsraum, damit die soziale Distanz eingehalten werden kann

- Installation of plastic sheets behind the driver's and the guide's seat in the minibuses.

- Training of the visitors centre personnel

- In case a visitor is tested positive for Covid-19, all members of the group, including drivers, guides and security person have to be put in quarantine. In that case the Contact Tracing procedure will be applied.

- The CCV partners, who represent the three organization swisstopo, ENSI and Nagra in the Consortium are responsible for the internal communication and the implementation of the security concept measures, as well as their staff training before they operate in the Mont Terri.
- These measures are published on the website www.mont-terri.ch and on the social networks. This information is equally distributed to the CCV partners (swisstopo, Nagra, ENSI).

St-Ursanne, 5th June 2020

Paul Bossart
Director Mont Terri Project