

Annual meeting of the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group on MHPSS in emergency settings

Salle C, WHO/Headquarters (Geneva, Switzerland)
4-6 October 2017

INFORMATION NOTE

1. Date and place of the meeting

This IASC MHPSS meeting will take place on 4-6 October 2017 at the World Health Organization, Headquarters in Salle C (5th floor of Main building), Avenue Appia 20, Geneva, Switzerland.

A meeting badge will be issued for each participant to be able to enter the WHO premises. Please collect your meeting badge at the WHO reception desk (main entrance). Please bring your passport or other form of identification. It can take 10-20 minutes to obtain the badge.

2. Working hours

The meeting will start at 09:00 on 4 October and will close at 17.30 on 6 October.

3. Contact person

Sarah Harrison (sahar@rodekors.dk), Coordinator-IASC MHPSS Reference Group
Ophelia Riano (rianoo@who.int), WHO Secretariat

4. Hotel accommodation

You are responsible for making your own accommodation arrangements, please refer to the attached list of Geneva hotels in the invitation. Since all hotels require credit card details to secure a room reservation, please make an online reservation of the hotel of your choice.

5. Visas

Please complete the attached visa support letter and send an e-mail to Ms Ophelia Riano, (rianoo@who.int), along with a scanned copy of passport details, if you require a visa to Switzerland **as soon as possible**. WHO will then provide you with a signed visa support letter.

6. Getting to the hotel from Geneva Airport

The airport is offering FREE public transport tickets into Geneva to incoming passengers. A machine has been installed in the baggage hall, next to one of the green customs channels, that dispenses the tickets. The tickets are valid for 80 minutes for anywhere in the Geneva "metropolitan" area, covering trains, buses, trams and boats. The only requirement is possession of proof of incoming air travel (e.g. boarding pass, airline ticket).

If the hotel of your choice is near the Cornavin train station:

- By Bus (located outside the departure area): Bus 5 (Direction: Thonex Vallard). Stop: Gare Cornavin.
- By train (any train from the airport will go to Gare Cornavin)
- By Taxi (located at the exit of the arrival area)

A taxi ride from the airport to the hotel will usually take about 30 minutes and will cost approximately CHF40.

7. Getting to WHO from Gare Cornavin:

Bus

From Gare Cornavin: Take Bus 8 (Direction: OMS). Last/final stop is OMS - the WHO Headquarters. It takes around 20 minutes to get to WHO from Gare Cornavin. From the bus stop, it takes a 5 minute walk (uphill) to reach the WHO main entrance.

Taxi

There are taxi stands at Gare Cornavin. Most Geneva taxi drivers know the WHO headquarters building as "OMS" (Avenue Appia); it takes about 10-15 minutes to get to WHO from Gare Cornavin. The fare is approximately CHF 30.

8. **Bus tickets**

Bus tickets are given complimentary by the hotel for the duration of your stay upon check-in (please request at the Reception). However, if by any circumstance you would wish to purchase bus tickets, tickets must be purchased before entering buses. Individual tickets are available from vending machines at the bus stops. Please note that the vending machines do not give change. The relevant bus timetables can be found at all bus stops or you can view them online at <http://www.tpg.ch/>.

9. **Weather in Geneva**

The average temperature in Geneva in October is around 7°C in the morning; 17°C in the afternoon; 10-13°C at night time.

Wishing you a safe trip and look forward to seeing you in Geneva.