

The Swiss government has announced a countrywide ban on gatherings of more than five people in public spaces to stem the spread of the coronavirus and a CHF32 billion (\$32.7 billion) financial package to help the economy.

Interior Minister Alain Berset said the ban would come into force at midnight Friday and remain in place until April 19. People found violating the ban face a fine of CHF100.

He appealed to citizens to keep a distance of two metres apart.

However, the government stopped short of announcing a complete nationwide lockdown...

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