



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

ALMANNAVARNADEILD



Applies to: Media, Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, administration and Chief Epidemiologist.

STATUS REPORT

Date: 28.01.2020	Time: 12:00	Location: Coordination center (SST) /Directorate of Health (EL) /Chief Epidemiologist (SVL)
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Uncertainty phase due to the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Event description

At the end of December 2019, reports of severe lung infections came from the city of Wuhan, China. Subsequently, it was confirmed that an unknown coronary virus variant was the cause, now called 2019-nCoV. It is now confirmed that the virus is transmitted between humans and can cause serious illness. The epidemic is spreading rapidly, but so far most of the confirmed cases are in China. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) carry out risk assessments on a daily basis and disseminate findings to health authorities on communicable diseases. No infection has been confirmed in Iceland.

In light of this information, the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police declared an uncertainty phase on 27th of January 2020 in consultation with the Chief Epidemiologist and the Directorate of Health.

Work is being carried out according to the response plan of the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, CBRNE - Public Health Plan and other existing response plans, such as international aviation security. Meetings to coordinate action are held daily by the Chief Epidemiologist.

Summary

- National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police / Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management
- Directorate of Health / Chief Epidemiologist. [Information page](#)
- Landspítali – department of infectious diseases
- Primary Health Care of the Capital Area / www.heilsuvera.is
- Red Cross
- Health care institutions
- Laeknavaktin – doctors on call service
- Keflavik airport
- Members of the tourism industry



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Status

Coronavirus – spread abroad

Today, on January 28th, 2020, cases of the 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in 4,587 individuals and about 106 individuals are deceased (2.3%). In addition, there are information on serious illnesses in a large number of individuals.

The cases reported are from China (4,528), Taiwan (7), Thailand (14), Australia (5), Malaysia (4), Singapore (5), France (3), Japan (4), South Korea (4), United States (5), Vietnam (2), Canada (2), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1), Cambodia (1) and Germany (1) . The vast majority of cases originate in China.

The Chief Epidemiologist recommends that travelers avoid unnecessary trips to areas where the 2019-nCoV is underway, especially China. [More.](#)

Iceland

No individual has yet been diagnosed in Iceland.

The Chief Epidemiologist assumes that the virus will reach Iceland and it is therefore important to take measures to curb its spread as much as possible. However, no action will ensure that the virus does not reach the country.

The responses of the Icelandic authorities are aimed at preventing the occurrence and the spread of the virus as much as possible, ensuring health services for ill individuals and maintaining the necessary domestic activities.

The general public and tourists in Iceland that believe they have caught the virus are encouraged to call 1700 (for foreign phone numbers the number is +354 544-4113) for more information and on how to access the health care system. These individuals are specifically asked not to go to the hospital or any other health care facility without consulting the health care system by phone. Individuals with suspected or confirmed infection will be placed in isolation according to detailed instructions. Asymptomatic individuals that have been in contact with individuals with confirmed or probable infection will be quarantined. More information about the 2019-nCoV can be found on the Directorate of Health's website <https://www.landlaeknir.is/um-embattid/greinar/grein/item38798/Novel-coronavirus-2019-nCoV>

Samples are only taken from individuals with symptoms of illness and not from asymptomatic individuals. It is expected that in a few days samples can be analyzed in Iceland.

Response plans states that in the event of an infection in this country, an individual is expected to remain in isolation for 10 days after symptoms of fever reduces.

Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management

Coordinates responses in collaboration with the Directorate of Health / the Chief Epidemiologist

The Directorate of Health/ The Chief Epidemiologist

Coordinates actions and guidelines and content for the general public, healthcare professionals, the tourism industry and others. Translation of information to Chinese is in progress.



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Landspítali – The National University Hospital of Iceland
Attends daily coordination meetings. Works according to conventional steps of the hospital.
Primary Health Care of the Capital Area
Regional and district epidemiologist of the capital area attends daily consultation meetings. Works on increasing information sharing, including preparedness if patients need to be cared for and monitoring of home-based quarantine.
Keflavik airport, international airports Akureyri, Egilsstadir and Reykjavik.
Information/flyers have been distributed in English and Icelandic to tourists. (Chinese version in progress). Sending text messages in Icelandic / English / Chinese to tourists, providing information in progress. More information Meeting is scheduled on 29 th of January with Keflavik airport staff and information will be forwarded to other airports.
The tourism industry
A meeting was held with the Icelandic Tourist Board 27 th of January, which is ready to disseminate information through its databases to the tourism industry.
Healthcare facilities in regional Iceland
Attended coordination meeting on 28 th of January.
Laeknavaktin – doctors on call service
Telephone service 1700 has started. For foreign phone numbers +354 544-4113. Shares information and ensures 24/7 response. Consults with the Primary Health Care of the Capital Area to ensure 24/7 on call doctor. The ER in Fossvogur has received such requests.
Red Cross
Assists with assessment of isolation facilities for tourists in each region of Iceland.