



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

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

STATUS REPORT

Date: 29.01.2020	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
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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Status

Coronavirus – spread abroad

Today, on January 29th, 2020, cases of the 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in 6,072 individuals and about 132 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 (5,994), Taiwan (8), Thailand (14), Australia (5), Malaysia (7), Singapore (7), France (4), Japan (7), South Korea (8), United States (5), Vietnam (2), Canada (3), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1), Cambodia (1), the United Arab Emirates (1) and Germany (4) . 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.

During a meeting of the Chief Epidemiologist and Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management this morning a decision was made to work according to the [Icelandic Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan](#). 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.

During the same meeting the effect of closing the country to aviation and shipping traffic and its impact on society was discussed. It is estimated that this epidemic will last 2-3 months and the country's closure could be at least at least 6 months. Such action is not considered feasible. A decision on this would always be made in consultation with the government.

Multiple ways will be used to reach individuals in Iceland, or upon arrival to the country from regions where the new pandemic 2019-nCoV epidemic is underway, especially China. Text messages will be sent to all mobile phones in the country, both national and international. It is primarily done to get in touch with foreign tourists who have been to Hubei Province or other high risk areas in China. Flyers are also being distributed on airplanes, at Keflavik Airport and at other international airports in Iceland.

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](#)



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The Chief Epidemiologist encourages travelers, especially those in China to:

- Practice good personal hygiene, especially thorough hand washing.
- Avoid close contact with people with common cold symptoms or cough.
- Avoid contact with live or dead animals and their waste.
- Use a cloth to cover the face when sneezing or coughing and wash your hands regularly.
- Inform health care professionals about your travels if they need to access the health care system.

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.

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.



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Keflavik airport, international airports Akureyri, Egilsstaðir and Reykjavik.

Information meeting on January 29th with airport staff regarding infection control, response and flow of information. 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 is progress.

[More information](#).

The tourism industry

The Icelandic Tourist Board is ready to disseminate information through its databases to the tourism industry.

Healthcare facilities in regional Iceland

Attended coordination meeting on 28th 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.

Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management www.almannavarnir.is

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