



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

ALMANNAVARNADEILD



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

STATUS REPORT

Date: 03.02.2020

Time: 12:30

Location: Coordination center /Directorate of Health /Chief Epidemiologist

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.

We will continue to work on uncertainty phase according to the Icelandic Pandemic for Influenza Preparedness Plan. If needed it is possible to activate the preparedness plan for ports and ships, and the plan for international airports alongside the pandemic plan.

Activating the uncertainty phase involves increased response from all parties, more information sharing and plans are updated. Due to the magnitude of this virus, it has been decided to activate the National Crisis Coordination Centre (SST) every weekday from 10:00 - 16:00. It was formally activated on 31st of January

Meetings to coordinate action are held daily by the Chief Epidemiologist with members of the health care system and with relevant parties to ensure infrastructure.

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
- Heilsuvera
- Red Cross
- Health care institutions
- Laeknavaktin – doctors on call service
- Keflavik airport
- Members of the tourism industry
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Status

Coronavirus – spread abroad

Today, on 3rd of february 2020 cases of the 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in 17,383 individuals and about 362 are deceased (2.0%). One death outside of Chine has been reported, in the Philippines. According to [John Hopkins](#) 503 individuals have recovered from the illness.

The cases reported are from China (17,220), Taiwan (11), Thailand (19), Australia (12), Malaysia (8), Singapore (18), Japan (20), South Korea (15), Vietnam (8), Nepal (1), Philippines (2), Sri Lanka (1), Cambodia (1), India (2), th United Arab Emirates (5), France (6), Germany (10), Finland (1), Italy (2), UK (2), Russia (2), Spain (1), Sweden (1), USA (11), Canada (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.](#)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Embassy of Iceland in Beijing informs Icelanders in China if information is required. The Embassy has posted on social media (see [Facebook](#)) and on their website where Icelanders are advised to register with the civil service at help@mfa.is. In this way, the embassy will increase the number of Icelanders that they can easily reach if needed.

Iceland

No individual has yet been diagnosed in Iceland

The department of infectious diseases at Landspítali now has the kit to detect the 2019-nCoV coronavirus. Two samples were tested on February 1st and February 2nd and both turned out to be negative.

The Chief Epidemiologist and the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management continued to discuss actions and ways to prevent the virus to from reaching Iceland. It appears that the incidence is not increasing at such speed as before, which is positive and it seems that asymptomatic individuals do not transmit the disease to others.

It is necessary to activate the entire community, all institutions should update their response plans and be prepared if the virus reaches Iceland.

Sharing of important information is in a continuous process by using variety of ways, e.g. text messages, flyers and posters. The tourism industry and Safe travel disseminate material to tourists.

Emphasis is put on reaching individuals that are connected to Wuhan or China and have respiratory symptoms. Pre-screening for the virus is not recommended as results are not considered reliable if analyzed too early.

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. Individuals are specifically asked not to attend hospitals or clinics unless receiving telephone advice.

The Chinese Embassy will assist with information sharing and translation.

An ongoing analysis of the isolation facilities for tourists is well is underway.

Information regarding the coronavirus is available on the Directorates of Health [website](#).



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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
Coordination of actions and guidelines for the public, healthcare professionals, tourism and businesses. Instructions are updated when necessary. The status of protective equipment and drug status is reviewed and updated.
Landspítali – The National University Hospital of Iceland
Attends daily coordination meetings. The department of infectious diseases at Landspítali now has the kit to detect the 2019-nCoV coronavirus. Two samples were tested this past weekend and both turned out to be negative.
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.
International airports, Keflavik, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir og Reykjavik and ports
A meeting has been held with port and airport staff about infection control, responses and sharing of information. Flyers with information on infection control has been distributed in English and Icelandic to tourists.
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 3 rd of January.
Læknavaktin – 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.