



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

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

STATUS REPORT

Date: 13.02.2020

Time: 12:00

Location: Coordination center /Directorate of Health /Chief Epidemiologist

Uncertainty phase due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

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 COVID-19. It is now confirmed that the virus is transmitted between humans and can cause serious illness.

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.

No case of the COVID-19 has been reported in Iceland

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
- Red Cross
- ICE-SAR
- Health care institutions
- Heilsuvera
- Laeknavaktin – doctors on call service
- International transport by air and ship through designated ports
- The Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration
- Confederation of Icelandic Enterprise
- Icelandic Medicines Agency
- Icelandic Coastal Guard
- Customs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Status

Coronavirus – spread abroad

Today, on February 13th 2020 cases of the COVID-19 has been confirmed in 60,330 individuals and about 1,369 are deceased (2.3%). Two deaths outside of China have been reported, in Hong Kong and the Philippines. According to [John Hopkins](#) 6,212 individuals have recovered from the illness. [See worldwide situation update on ECDC's website.](#)

The cases reported are from China (59,805), Hong Kong (51), Macao (10), Singapore (50), Thailand (33), South-Korea (28), Japan (28), Taiwan (18), Malaysia (18), Vietnam (16), United Arab Emirates (8), India (3), Philippines (3), Cambodia (1), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1), Australia (15), USA (14), Canada (7), Germany (16), France (11), UK (9), Italy (3), Russia (2), Spain (2), Belgium (1), Finland (1) and Sweden (1). Cruise ship in Japan (175).

Vast majority of cases originate in China. A total of 46 individuals have been diagnosed in Europe, whereof 14 have been infected within Germany, 6 in France and 1 in the UK.

Iceland

- The status is unchanged. No case has been reported in Iceland.
- Today, samples from 19 individuals have been analyzed with regards to the COVID-19, all of them turned out to be negative.
- There has been a significant increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths over the past 24 hours. A new diagnostic method is the cause of this increase. It is difficult to interpret the discrepancy. In total, 99% of all deaths are in China and 80% in Hubei.
- No serious illnesses caused by the virus have occurred in Europe.
- According to the risk assessment of European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) the 2019-nCoV is not expected to be a major public health problem for nations that take action, such as using quarantine and isolation to prevent transmission, but can cause health problems for infected individuals. See ECDC's [risk assessment](#).
- This morning, the likelihood that the virus will reach this country and what we can expect if it does, if we compare Iceland to other European countries.
- Taking into account the risk assessment of ECDC and the low incidence of serious illnesses in individuals outside China, it is unlikely that the virus will become a major public health threat even if it reaches Iceland. This assessment is based on the fact that here we will respond quickly with standard analysis, quarantine and isolation of infected individuals. The spread of the disease is greatest in China and the worst outcome of infected individuals is in Hubei, China. If a similar epidemic would reach Iceland, **which is considered unlikely based on measures taken**, then 200 individuals would be expected to fall ill with the virus, 30 would be seriously ill. It should be taken into consideration that these numbers have not been that high outside of China, which is an indicator for what to expect in Iceland.
- We will continue working at uncertainty phase, according to the Icelandic Pandemic for Influenza Preparedness Plan.
- The Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management has, along with authorities at Keflavik airport investigated possible measures to take to lower the risk of the virus from spreading to Iceland. The experience of other nations of taking such measures is also being examined. The work is expected to be finished soon. The number of travelers from China has decreased drastically in the past days and the Icelandic Embassy in Beijing is currently not giving visas to Iceland.
- Next coordination meeting will be held on Monday, 17th of February.

Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management

Coordinates responses in collaboration with the Directorate of Health / the Chief Epidemiologist.
The emergency response is unchanged: we continue working at uncertainty phase, according to the Icelandic Pandemic for Influenza Preparedness Plan.

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. Information are updated and new guidelines revisited when needed. See https://www.landlaeknir.is/koronaveira/english/
Landspítali – The National University Hospital of Iceland
Attends daily coordination meetings. Today, samples from 19 individuals have been analyzed with regards to the COVID-19, all of them turned out to be negative.
Primary Health Care of the Capital Area
Regional and district epidemiologist of the capital area attends daily consultation meetings.
International airports, Keflavik, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir and Reykjavik and designated ports.
Information is disseminated to travelers and staff. The Coast Guard sends information to foreign arriving ships. The Customs and the Coast Guard review the crew and passenger lists, which contains health information. Text messages to all arriving passengers at Keflavik airport and passengers arriving with M/S Norröna to Seyðisfjörður.
The tourism industry
The Icelandic Tourist Board and the Icelandic Transport Authority disseminate information through their databases to the tourism industry.
Healthcare facilities and the police in regional Iceland
Next coordination meeting with the Chief Epidemiologist and Chiefs of Police is on Monday.
Laeknavaktin – doctors on call service
Shares information and ensures 24/7 response. Consults with the Primary Health Care of the Capital Area to ensure 24/7 on call doctor.
Red Cross
Assists with assessment of isolation facilities for tourists in each region of Iceland, in coordination with Landspítali. The Red Cross provides psychosocial support to families in quarantine. A consultation group has been activated for crisis counselling.
ICE-SAR
Disseminates information to tourists at www.safetravel.is Works on registering new members into the SAR-EYE.
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Daily consultation with the Nordic civil services. The Icelandic Embassy in Beijing is in contact with Icelanders in China, including those that have registered at help@mfa.is . Have also posted information on social media (see Facebook).
Icelandic Medicines Agency
Is in contact with pharmaceutical companies and monitors supplies of essential medicines.