



# RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

ALMANNAVARNADEILD



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

## STATUS REPORT

Date: 06.02.2020

Time: 13:00

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.

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 2019-nCoV 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 Coastal Guard
- Customs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Status

### Coronavirus – spread abroad

Today, on 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 cases of the 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in 28,284 individuals and about 564 are deceased (2.0%). One death outside of China has been reported, in the Philippines. According to [John Hopkins](#) 1,230 individuals have recovered from the illness.

The cases reported are from China (28,057), Taiwan (11), Thailand (25), Australia (14), Malaysia (12), Singapore (28), Japan (45), South-Korea (23), Vietnam (10), Nepal (1), Philippines (3), Sri Lanka (1), Cambodia (1), India (3), United Arab Emirates (5), France (6), Germany (12), Finland (1), Italy (2), UK (2), Russia (2), Spain (1), Sweden (1), Belgium (1), USA (12), Canada (5). The vast majority of cases originate in China. A total of 26 individuals have been diagnosed in Europe, whereof 10 have been infected within Germany and one in France.

Text messages to all arriving passengers at Keflavik airport was activated on 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

### Iceland

- The status is unchanged. No case has been reported in Iceland.
- This morning, during the daily meeting responses and ongoing measures and ways to prevent the virus from reaching Iceland were discussed.
- During the meeting it was discussed whether it would be feasible to put travel restrictions on people from China or put them in a 14-day quarantine when they arrive. It is considered extremely difficult to implement because each month there are thousands of Chinese citizens in Iceland and, additionally, you can expect that citizens from other countries have been in China before arriving in Iceland. It is not technically possible in Iceland to get detailed itineraries of those arriving by air to Iceland. Therefore, it is impossible to know where each individual is travelling from. Furthermore, travels through the Chinese border has been restricted for some time now, so the flow of tourists from China has gone down. No travel restrictions or quarantine of tourists from China have been made in any other Nordic country. They only requested a 14-day quarantine of officials that were specifically picked up from China. The precautions of Icelandic authorities go beyond all measures taken in neighboring countries.
- Icelandic residents travelling from China are asked to stay at home in quarantine for 14 days after arrival as a precaution. Employers are asked to show such absence of employees understanding.
- [Guidelines for frontline service staff](#) are available on Directorates of Health webpage. The guidelines have been translated from Icelandic to English, Spanish and Polish. In the guidelines you can find basic information on infection pathways and protection, which is hand hygiene and/or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer. They also explain what protective equipment to use and how to use it. It is important to follow these instructions to prevent infection.
- According to the Ministry of Foreign affairs, about 100 Icelanders are now located in China. At the Icelandic embassy in Beijing, there are four employees that can provide assistance if needed. The embassy has posted information on social media (see [Facebook](#)) and on their website, where they encourage people to register with the civic service at [help@mfa.is](mailto:help@mfa.is) for information. Icelandic authorities are not planning on moving Icelandic citizens home in an organized manner.
- On the Directorate of Health's website a wide range of information, guidance for the general public, healthcare professionals, emergency responders and the business community. See <https://www.landlaeknir.is/koronaveira/>



# RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

ALMANNAVARNAEILD



## 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.

## Landspítali – The National University Hospital of Iceland

Attends SVL daily consultation meeting with the National Crisis Coordination Center. The department of infectious diseases at Landspítali now has the kit to detect the 2019-nCoV coronavirus. Ten samples have been tested with regard to the virus and all turned out negative. Pre-screening for the virus is not recommended as results are not considered reliable if analyzed too early. It is only recommended to take samples from individuals with symptoms and also if individuals have been in an area where there is epidemic for the past 14 days or has been in close contact with a person with the confirmed infection.

## 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 designated ports

Information is disseminated daily by ISAVIA to airport employees. 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. The first cruise ship of the year is expected in March. Preparations for its arrival have started.

## The tourism industry

The Icelandic Tourist Board is ready to disseminate information through its databases to the tourism industry. Text message are sent to passengers arriving at Keflavik airport. [Guidelines for frontline service staff](#) are available on Directorates of Health webpage. The Icelandic Travel Industry and the Icelandic Tourist Board have translated the guidelines to Spanish and Polish.

## Healthcare facilities and the police in regional Iceland

Coordination meeting with the Chief Epidemiologist and district Chiefs of Police was cancelled today and is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup>. Teleconference.

## 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, 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](http://www.safetravel.is) Works on registering new members into the SAR-EYE.

Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management [www.almannavarnir.is](http://www.almannavarnir.is) Twitter: [@almannavarnir](https://twitter.com/almannavarnir)