



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

ALMANNAVARNADEILD



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

STATUS REPORT

Date: 25.02.2020

Time: 14:00

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 25th 2020 cases of the COVID-19 has been confirmed in 80,134 individuals and about 2,698 are deceased (3.3%). 33 deaths outside of China have been reported, 12 in Iran, three on an international conveyance in Japan, eight in South-Korea, six in Italy, one in Taiwan, one in the Philippines, one in Japan, and one in France. According to [John Hopkins](#) 27,789 individuals have recovered from the illness. [See worldwide situation update on ECDC's website](#). Latest update have indicated that there is increased likelihood that the virus will transmit to European countries from other countries than China. The situation is constantly evolving, including a great deal of uncertainty due to unpredictable factors

The cases reported are from China (77,658), Hong Kong (81), Macao (10), Singapore (90), Tailand (37), South-Korea (763), Japan (144), Taiwan (30), Malaysia (22), Vietnam (16), United Arab Emirates (13), India (3), Philippines (3), Cambodia (1), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1), Australia (22), USA (53), Canada (11), Germany (16), France (12), UK (13), Italy (229), Russia (2), Spain (3), Belgium (1), Finland (1), Sweden (1), Iran (43), Kuwait (5), Israel (2), Bahrain (2), Egypt (1). international conveyance in Japan (691). New cases have been reported from Afghanistan (1) and Iraq (1), Lebanon (1). Vast majority (97%) of cases originate in China, or 77.253. A total of 276 cases have been diagnosed in Europe, whereof 229 have been infected in Italy, 14 in Germany, seven in France, and one in the UK.

[See ECDC's risk assessment](#).

Iceland

- The status is unchanged. No case has been reported in Iceland.
- Today, samples from 33 individuals have been analyzed with regards to the COVID-19, all of them turned out to be negative.
- European Disease for Communicable Disease (ECDC) issues a risk assessment and recommendations regarding the COVID-19, and the assessment for Iceland harmonizes with their assessment. According to the risk assessment of ECDC there is an increased likelihood that the virus will transmit to European countries from other countries than China. The situation is constantly being reassessed.
- Guidelines for travelers will be updated later to day and published on the website of Directorate of Health <https://www.landlaeknir.is/koronaveira/english/>.
- A suspected case of COVID-19 has been reported from the H10 Costa Adeje Palace hotel in Tenerife, Spain. So far, there are no indications of other cases or that the virus has spread. Because of that, there are no travel restrictions to Tenerife as of now. However, it is important that individuals in Tenerife or are planning to travel to Tenerife pay special attention to hygiene and follow the instructions of local health authorities. Upon arrival to Iceland, it is important to follow the instructions of Icelandic health authorities that are updated regularly on this [website](#).
- Yesterday, representatives from the Chief Epidemiologist took part in a tele conference with WHO and ECDC. The detection of COVID-19 has gone down in China, but an increase in cases have been reported from other Asian countries and in Italy. Due to widespread in Northern-Italy and the closure/travel restrictions within the affected provinces in Italy, it was decided issue further guidelines for travelers.
- More detailed information regarding the virus are released regularly, including information on mild and symptomatic infections and long incubation period. Due to that, it is expected that more clusters of infections will be reported more frequently, as happened in Italy. Italy has taken great measures at international airports to prevent transmission to Italy, but entry screening have not been effective. This shows how difficult it is to prevent the virus from spreading to Iceland. It is necessary to take all possible measures that can prevent or delay the spreading of the virus. That includes advising against unnecessary travels to high risk areas. Individuals that have been in these areas in the past few days and are currently in Iceland are advised to stay at home for 14 days as a precaution. It can be expected that the list of high-risk areas will be updated daily.
- See recent [news](#).
- A meeting with the regional and district epidemiologists and chiefs of police was held this morning.
- We will continue to work on uncertainty phase according to the Icelandic Pandemic for Influenza Preparedness Plan.
- Next coordination meeting will be held Wednesday, February 26th at 08:15.

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 working group of the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police is still working on analyzing possible measures aimed at curbing the arrival of tourists from high-risk areas.
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. The risk assessment of the Chief Epidemiologist for Iceland harmonizes with ECDC's risk assessment. According to the risk assessment there is an increased likelihood that the virus will transmit to European countries from other countries than China. The situation is constantly being reassessed. Work is underway in updating the Icelandic Pandemic for Influenza Preparedness Plan and at the same time transforming it into a response plan that will benefit other pandemics.
Landspítali – The National University Hospital of Iceland
Attends daily coordination meetings. Today, samples from 35 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 Seydisfjörður.
The tourism industry
The Icelandic Tourist Board and the Icelandic Transport Authority disseminate information through their databases to the tourism industry. A meeting on response plans of international airports and ports was today, the 24 th of February.
Healthcare facilities and the police in regional Iceland
The regions in Iceland are well prepared according the response plans. A coordination meeting with the Chief Epidemiologist and Chiefs of Police was this morning.
Laeknavaktin – doctors on call service
Shares information and ensures 24/7 response. Phone service 1700. For foreign numbers +354 544-4113. Laeknavaktin has received many inquiries regarding the virus, especially on travels abroad. Consults with the Primary Health Care of the Capital Area to ensure 24/7 on call doctor.
Red Cross
Assist 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 . Due to recent update on COVID-19 in Italy, more questions regarding travels abroad are expected. We will continue to emphasize the recommendations of the Chief Epidemiologist and WHO and people will be invited to register with the Iceland civil service.
Icelandic Medicines Agency
Is in contact with pharmaceutical companies and monitors supplies of essential medicines. There is yet no evidence of drug shortage due the COVID-19 in Iceland.