



## Notifications regarding COVID-19 on board ships in Icelandic territorial waters

These instructions are intended for ships not arriving from foreign ports but **sailing in Icelandic territorial waters** when suspicion arises for **COVID-19 infection on board**.

Ships arriving from foreign ports must send a declaration of health prior to arrival in Icelandic ports, as outlined in [Instructions for Infections Due to COVID-19 for Ports and Vessels](#).

All cases of COVID-19 in Iceland are subject to registration according to the 1997 Act on Health Security and Communicable Disease Control (no. 19/1997 with later amendments). Individuals with COVID-19 infection are subject to isolation and an assessment must be made by Icelandic authorities regarding the need for quarantine of contacts according to the current regulation regarding quarantine and isolation and border entry screening for COVID-19 at each time.

If suspicion arises for COVID-19 infection aboard a ship in Icelandic territorial waters the following procedure should be followed to notify authorities of the case:

1. Vessels are required to transmit the Captain's Declaration of Health via SafeSeaNet; this declaration shall generally be transmitted no later than 24 hours before arrival in port. The Customs service monitors this system and informs the Chief Epidemiologist (CE) of suspicion of COVID-19 infection aboard a vessel.
2. Additionally, the Icelandic Coast Guard (ICG) shall contact the vessel before the vessel docks and request the Captain to transmit a [Declaration of health –COVID-19](#) to the ICG.
3. Any suspect case occurring **after** the declaration has been submitted and prior to calling an Icelandic port **must be reported immediately by the captain of the ship to the ICG**.
4. The pilot/harbour master shall, through the communications channel of the port in question, ask if the status on board as regards COVID-19 suspect cases has changed since the declaration was submitted.
5. The ICG is responsible for activating communications channels to the CE/local public health authorities, the Civil Protection Authority/police, port authorities and the local primary health care, according to the [Instructions for Infections Due to COVID-19 for Ports and Vessels](#).
6. Until responders (CE/police/ICG/Customs/local port authorities) have determined otherwise in consultation with each other and with the Captain, the Captain of the vessel is responsible for **not opening the vessel and not allowing passengers and crew to disembark**. The vessel shall be anchored outside the port and shall not dock, or shall be docked but with **no embarking or disembarking**, in effective quarantine until the incident has been resolved. For recommended limitations on interactions aboard a quarantined vessel in Icelandic territorial waters see instructions for [isolation](#) ([Espanol](#), [Lietuviskai](#), [Polski](#)) and [quarantine](#) ([Espanol](#), [Francais](#), [Lietuviskai](#), [Polski](#)).
7. If medical assessment or screening for SARS-CoV-2 is needed the doctor on call at the district's health institution boards the vessel and is responsible for carrying out an examination and risk assessment due to suspicion of COVID-19 infection, in consultation with the District Epidemiologist and the CE. The doctor on call must notify the ICG of the results of the risk assessment.
8. ICG is permitted, in consultation with the on call doctor and considering the risk assessment, to allow a quarantined vessel to continue en route to another destination.
9. The local public health authorities can end an effective quarantine in consultation with other local responders and ICG if COVID-19 infection is ruled out. If COVID-19 infection is confirmed, the national authorities for health security and communicable disease control via the contact tracing team must determine which individuals must be isolated and where isolation should be done. The same applies to quarantine decisions for others on board. If guidance is needed for medical issues related to COVID-19, the COVID-19 response department at Landspítali University Hospital should be contacted, but the hospital has no role in the public health response related to COVID-19, such as quarantine decisions.