



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

ALMANNAVARNADEILD



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

STATUS REPORT

Date: 05.02.2020

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.

Activating the uncertainty phase involves increased response from all parties; more information sharing and plans are being updated. Due to the magnitude of this virus, it has been decided to activate the National Crisis Coordination Centre (NCCC) every weekday from 10:00 - 16:00. It was formally activated on 31st of January. Consultation meetings are held daily at NCCC from 08.15 -09.00.

All action and steps taken in the response plan are registered in SAR-EYE, also available as app.

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
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Status

Coronavirus – spread abroad

Today, on 5th of February 2020 cases of the 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in 24,530 individuals and about 493 are deceased (2.0%). One death outside of China has been reported, in the Philippines. According to [John Hopkins](#) 697 individuals have recovered from the illness.

The cases reported are from China (24.329), Taiwan (11), Thailand (25), Australia (13), Malaysia (10), Singapore (24), Japan (33), South-Korea (18), Vietnam (10), Nepal (1), Philippines (2), 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 (11), Canada (5). The vast majority of cases originate in China.

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.

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

Iceland

- This morning, during the daily meeting responses and ongoing measures and ways to prevent the virus from reaching Iceland were discussed
- Health care facilities are prepared if the virus transmits to Iceland, they focus information sharing, update plans and are reviewing inventory status. The Department of Infectious Diseases provides advice on disease prevention and control.
- Organizations and the business community have been encouraged to update their response plans for uninterrupted operations, where it is expected that companies and organizations within the same industry cooperate. In such a plan, companies and organizations must consider worst case scenario, including 25-50% absence of employees.
- Guidelines for travelers remain unchanged. The Chief Epidemiologist recommends that travelers avoid unnecessary trips to China, where the 2019-nCoV is underway. Arriving passenger from China are requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days after arrival. Symptoms usually appear 4-8 days after infection.
- Multiple ways have been used to reach Chinese tourists in Iceland. If they contact the health care system they are requested to stay in quarantine for 14 days.
- 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 Icelandic Coast Guard now sends information to arriving ships, emphasizing that they need to report if crew or passengers fall ill. According to international regulations ships are obligated to send information regarding the health of the crew and passengers 24 hours before arrival. The customs control and the Icelandic Coast Guard review this information and respond if they need medical attention.
- The stock for protective equipment stock and drugs has been updated
- An ongoing analysis of the isolation facilities for tourists is well 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 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

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. Pre-screening for the virus is not recommended as results are not considered reliable if analyzed too early. The purchasing department is working on getting offers for increased turnover of essential medicines, temporarily.

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 arriving ships.

Ferðapjónustuaðilar

The Icelandic Tourist Board is ready to disseminate information through its databases to the tourism industry. Text message sent to passengers arriving at Keflavik airport. The Polish and Spanish translation of guidelines for frontline staff is in process by the Icelandic Travel Industry Association and the Icelandic Tourist Board.

Healthcare facilities and the police in regional Iceland

Coordination meeting with the Chief Epidemiologist and district Chiefs of Police will be held 7th of February. Teleconference.

Laeknavaktin – 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.

ICE-SAR

Disseminates information to tourists at www.safetravel.is Works on registering new members into the SAR-EYE.