



# RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

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

## STATUS REPORT

Date: 20.02.2020

Time.: 13:00

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 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 cases of the COVID-19 has been confirmed in 75,744 individuals and about 2,128 are deceased (2,8%). Eight deaths outside of China have been reported, two in Iran, three in Japan (thereof two on an international conveyance), one in Taiwan, one in the Philippines, and one in France. According to [John Hopkins](#) 16,562 individuals have recovered from the illness. [See worldwide situation update on ECDC's website.](#)

The cases reported are from China (74.595), Hong Kong (65), Macao (10), Singapore (84), Thailand (35), South-Korea (82), Japan (84), Taiwan (24), Malaysia (22), Vietnam (16), United Arab Emirates (9), India (3), Philippines (3), Cambodia (1), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1), Australia (15), USA (15), Canada (8), Germany (16), France (12), UK (9), Italy (3), Russia (2), Spain (2), Belgium (1), Finland (1), Sweden (1), Iran (2) and Egypt (1). International conveyance in Japan (621). Vast majority (99%) of cases originate in China, or 74,670. A total of 45 individuals have been diagnosed in Europe, whereof 14 have been infected within Germany, 7 in France, and 1 in the UK. No case has been diagnosed in Europe since this past weekend. [See ECDC's risk assessment](#)

### Iceland

- The status is unchanged. No case has been reported in Iceland.
- Today, samples from 24 individuals have been analyzed with regards to the COVID-19, all of them turned out to be negative.
- An Icelandic family of three residing in China has requested to return home and the Icelandic government is working on getting them on a flight organized by the European Union. The family shows no symptoms of the virus.
- The numbers of new cases have decreased in recent days and spread outside of China is low. The main increase outside of China has been on an international conveyance in Japan.
- In China the case definition of COVID-19 has been changed and due to that, new cases have decreased significantly.
- Recent studies from China indicate that about 80% of infected individuals have mild symptoms.
- No case has been diagnosed in Europe since this past weekend.
- Next meeting with the district and regional epidemiologists and chief of police will be held February 25<sup>th</sup>
- We will continue to work on uncertainty phase according to the Icelandic Pandemic for Influenza Preparedness Plan.
- Next coordination meeting will be held Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 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. See <https://www.landlaeknir.is/koronaveira/english/>.

The risk assessment of the Chief Epidemiologist for Iceland harmonizes with ECDC's risk assessment, which assesses the situation so that there are very low chances of the virus being a public health threat in European countries that take measures such as quarantine and isolation. Although the infection can have serious effect on those that fall ill.

<b>Landspítali – The National University Hospital of Iceland</b>
Attends daily coordination meetings. Today, samples from 24 individuals have been analyzed with regards to the COVID-19, all of them turned out to be negative.
<b>Primary Health Care of the Capital Area</b>
Regional and district epidemiologist of the capital area attends daily consultation meetings.
<b>International airports, Keflavik, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir and Reykjavik and designated ports.</b>
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.
<b>The tourism industry</b>
The Icelandic Tourist Board and the Icelandic Transport Authority disseminate information through their databases to the tourism industry.
<b>Healthcare facilities and the police in regional Iceland</b>
The regions in Iceland are well prepared according the response plans. Next coordination meeting with the Chief Epidemiologist and Chiefs of Police is the 24 <sup>th</sup> of February.
<b>Laeknavaktin – doctors on call service</b>
Shares information and ensures 24/7 response. Consults with the Primary Health Care of the Capital Area to ensure 24/7 on call doctor.
<b>Red Cross</b>
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.
<b>ICE-SAR</b>
Disseminates information to tourists at <a href="http://www.safetravel.is">www.safetravel.is</a> Works on registering new members into the SAR-EYE.
<b>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>
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 <a href="mailto:help@mfa.is">help@mfa.is</a> . Have also posted information on social media (see <a href="#">Facebook</a> ).
<b>Icelandic Medicines Agency</b>
Is in contact with pharmaceutical companies and monitors supplies of essential medicines.

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