



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

ALMANNAVARNAEILD



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

STATUS REPORT

Date: 10.03.2020

Kl.: 18:00

Location: Coordination centre /Directorate of Health /Chief Epidemiologist

Emergency/Distress Phase: COVID-19

Event description

Efforts are being made to disseminate information to the public, institutions and private companies. Detailed advisories can be found on Directorate of Health <https://www.landlaeknir.is/koronaveira/english/> and the National Police Chief of the Civil Protection Department's websites www.almannavarnir.is. The latest guidance to the public can also be found below in this report, under the section Information. It is important to follow the quarantine guidelines, especially for people with risk factors for severe COVID-19 infection. Employers, co-workers and service providers are encouraged to consider people in the community who understand little Icelandic and be aware that it is more difficult for them to monitor the developments in the spread of the virus. Employers, co-workers and service providers who are in daily contact with these individuals are encouraged to keep them updated.

Two new infections have been diagnosed today, both of which can be traced back to the ski areas in the Alps. The number of infected people has risen to 70, of which 16 are domestic infections. Emphasis is placed on early detection and early quarantine whilst infected individuals are placed isolation. Approximately 710 samples have been taken, of which 93 were processed today.

The Alpine ski region has been defined as an at risk area for infection. Therefore, people are advised not to travel to these areas unless necessarily. All those permanently resident in Iceland who come from these areas, although they fly to Iceland from airports that are not in defined risk areas, are required to undergo 14 days of quarantine. Defined areas with infectious risk can be found on the website of the Medical Director of Health [Defined areas with infectious risk](#).

A ban on mass meetings and gatherings is not in force although work is underway, as part of normal planning to prepare for such a contingency. The planning process takes into account numerous factors; scientific societal and economic and well as developments abroad. The aim is to prevent infection in people at risk of serious infection. Therefore the rate of transmission that can be traced to domestic infection and the number of vulnerable individuals infected are important factors to take into consideration.

The Consular section of the Ministry of foreign Affairs is working closely with their counterparts in the Nordic countries. It is important that people abroad register in the Citizens' Services database and regularly check for information updates from the Chief Epidemiologist. It is also important that people follow the directives in force for the place to which they are travelling.

Every day there are press meetings at the Rescue Centre at Skógarhlíð 14, Reykjavík that are broadcast via Ruv.is

Press conference 09032020

At the press conference, Vidir Reynisson, Chief Superintendent of National Commissioner of Police, Thorolfur Gudnason, Chief Epidemiologist, and Alma D. Möller, Director of Health, provided an update on the response to the spread of the COVID-19. Maria Mjöll Jónsdóttir, Head of Department of Information at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke to the status of Icelanders abroad who are in defined risk areas or are in quarantine. The Alpine ski region has been defined as an at risk area for infection.

Press conference 10032020

At the today's press conference Vidir Reynisson, Chief Superintendent at the National Commissioner of Police, and Alma D. Möller, Director of Health, provided an update on the response of the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Iceland. Also at the meeting, Páll Matthíasson, Director of the National University Hospital reported the process of response activities in the National University Hospital, and Valtýr Stefán Thors, Specialist in Pediatric Infectious diseases at the Children's Hospital answered questions regarding safeguarding children.

STATE OF PLAY

Iceland status today

The origin of infections in Iceland is both domestic and foreign (Ski resorts in the Alps, Northern Italy, Austria and Asia). The source of infection is distributed as follows:

Origin of infection	Number of cases
Iceland	16
Other countries	54
Total	70

Number of individuals that have been isolated or quarantined:

Resources	Resources
Isolation	70
Quarantine	598
Total	668

The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, the Chief of Police in the Greater Reykjavík Area and the Chief Epidemiologist tracking team have contacted those in quarantine and isolation and traced their pathways of infection.

People in quarantine by regions:

Quarantine	Number of cases
Greater Reykjavik Area	521
Southwest of Iceland	15
West of Iceland	22
North of Iceland	18
East of Iceland	4
South of Iceland	18
Total	598

Communication:

- [Guidelines for persons at risk of severe infection from the new coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) (10.03.2020)
- [Economic response to COVID-19](#) on the website of the Icelandic Government www.government.is
- [Response to COVID-19 in Iceland](#) on the website of the Icelandic Government www.government.is

Next steps

- The next press conference will be held on Wednesday 11 March at 14:00 o'clock at the Rescue center, Skógarhlíð 14 at 14:00.
- The next coordination meeting will be held Wednesday 11 March at 9:00 o'clock.

Covid-19 Global cases

Today 10th of March the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally are 116,558 and 4,090 people have succumbed to the virus (3,4%). According to [John Hopkins](#) 64,391 individuals have recovered after falling ill. ECDC has now estimated the risk associated with COVID-19 infection as moderate to high. See the ECDC [webpage](#) for updated developments. Their risk assessment is [here](#).