



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

ALMANNAVARNADEILD



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

STATUS REPORT

Date: 06.03.2020

Time: 17:30

Location: Coordination center /Directorate of Health /Chief Epidemiologist

Emergency/Distress Phase: COVID-19

Event description

Today 6 individuals have been diagnosed with COVID-19. The pathway of infection is being traced. 43 cases have been confirmed in Iceland of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. All are in isolation.

The first cases of community transmission within Iceland were diagnosed today. All are in relatively good health. They were infected after being exposed to persons coming from Italy and Austria.

As a result, The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police and Chief Epidemiologist has raised the alert level of the response to the COVID-19 virus outbreak. This emergency activation has no significant impact on the public beyond those measures that have been taken already. However, it allows for response agencies and critical service providers to increase their preparedness activities (aprox. 150-200 institutions). For the time being, no travel restrictions are in force.

There is no ban on mass gatherings. Such a ban would have a great impact on society and is therefore not activated as a result.

The Chief Epidemiologist and his staff are paying special attention to vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. This group should take special care and avoid crowded places and events.

Health care institutions and the organization of welfare companies are increasing their defenses and readiness.

deCode genetics (Íslensk erfðagreining) has offered to do screenings for the COVID-19 in Icelandic society to check its pathways.

Today, 25 samples have been analysed at Landspítali, national university hospital. Efforts are being made to increase the capacity of the lab. 400 samples have been analyzed. 400 people have gone into quarantine.

Iceland is committed to keeping its residents and visitors as informed and prepared as possible. Given the small population of Iceland this is easily achieved. Icelandic authorities have taken preventive steps to contain the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus in the country. As Iceland has few entry points and the lowest population density in Europe, the country has been able to move swiftly to identify, communicate with and, where necessary, quarantine Icelandic residents who have been travelling from high risk areas.(Italy, Iran, China, South-Korea and Ischgl ski resort in Austria.

Today efforts were made to respond to community transmissions in Iceland, focusing on communication to people who are vulnerable. Further efforts were made to coordinate the work and guidance as well as respond to queries and prepare for groups arriving in Iceland from high risk areas this weekend and cruise ships arriving next week.

Iceland status today

The first case of infection (community transmission) was detected today. Its pathway is being traced.

All other cases in Iceland can be traced back to Northern-Italy and Austria.

They are as follows:

Orgin of infection	Number of cases
Iceland	3
Other countries	40
Samtals	43

Number of individuals that have been isolated or quarantined:

Resources	Number of cases
Isolation	43
Quarantine	326
Total	369

The National Commission of the Icelandic Police, the Chief of Police in the Greater Reykjavík Area and the Chief Epidemiologist 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	289
Southwest of Iceland	8
West of Iceland	4
North of Iceland	15
East of Iceland	2
South of Iceland	2
Total	326

Communication:

- The Pandemic Response Plan - National Plan 2020, 3rd edition was signed today. See here: [The Pandemic Response Plan - National Plan 2020](#).

Meetings today:

- Meeting with police chiefs, district physicians, port managers, the Coast Guard, the National Transportation Office, the Epidemiologist and the Customs Director for guidance on harbor security and COVID-19.
- Meeting with the Prison and Probation Administration about hygiene and defenses against infections in prisons

Next steps

- The next press conference will be held on Saturday 7 March at 14:00 o'clock at the Rescue center, Skógarhlíð 14 at 14:00.
- The next coordination meeting will be held Monday 9 March at 9:00 o'clock.

Covid-19 Global cases

Today 6 March the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally is 100.330 and 3.408 people have succumbed to the virus (3,4%). According to [John Hopkins](#) 55.753 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](#).

China, South-Korea, Iran, Italy Ischgl ski resort in Austria are now considered as high risk areas for the COVID-19. Anyone with residence in Iceland traveling from these areas, even if they arrive from airports from outside these areas, are obliged to go into a 14 day quarantine. Ten individuals are in quarantine in Tenerife. They will likely arrive in Iceland on Saturday 7 March 2020 after being in 12 days of quarantine and will spend the remaining two days at their homes in quarantine.

Europe, USA, Canada Source ECDC 6. mars 13:30	Cases	Deaths
Italy	3858	148
France	423	7
Germany	400	0
Spain	261	3
United Kingdom	115	1
Norway	86	0
The Netherlands	82	0
Sweden	61	0
Austria	50	0
Iceland	35	0
Belgium	50	0
Greece	32	0
Denmark	20	0
Croatia	10	0
Czech Republic	8	0
Finland	12	0
Ireland	13	0
Portugal	9	0
Romania	6	0
Hungary	2	0
Estonia	5	0
Lithuania	1	0
Slovenia	6	0
Liechtenstein	1	0
Luxemburg	1	0
Poland	1	0
Latvia	1	0
United States	233	12
Canada	45	0