



# RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

## ALMANNAVARNADEILD



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

### STATUS REPORT

Date: 04.02.2020

Time: 12:00

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 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 31<sup>st</sup> of January

Consultation meetings are held daily from February 4<sup>th</sup> at the NCCC from 08.15 -09.00.

##### 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
- Heilsuvera
- Red Cross
- Health care institutions
- Laeknavaktin – doctors on call service
- Keflavik airport
- Members of the tourism industry
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Status

### Coronavirus – spread abroad

Today, on 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2020 cases of the 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in 20,626 individuals and about 427 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 (20.458), Taiwan (10), Thailand (19), Australia (12), Malaysia (8), Singapore (18), Japan (20), South Korea (16), Vietnam (9), Nepal (1), Philippines (2), Sri Lanka (1), Cambodia (1), India (3), the 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 (4). The vast majority of cases originate in China.

The Chief Epidemiologist recommends that travelers avoid unnecessary trips to areas where the 2019-nCoV is underway, especially China. [More](#).

The Chief Epidemiologist recommends that the public familiarize themselves with the coronavirus on Directorates of Health [website](#). Information are updated daily.

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.

### Iceland

- This morning, during the daily meeting responses and ongoing measures and ways to prevent the virus from reaching Iceland were discussed. The actions of the Chinese government, the closure of the country and other transport limitations appear to curb the spread of the virus outside China.
  - Continuous discussions on actions that will be initiated if the virus is detected in Iceland and how curb the spread. A key factor is to identify sick individuals early and take appropriate action immediately.
  - In Iceland, the situation is closely monitored and the NCCC is open.
  - Emphasis is put on reaching individuals that are connected to Wuhan or China and have respiratory symptoms. 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.
  - It is thought that contact and droplet contamination spread the disease, similar to influenza. Hand washing/sanitizer is the most important aid to avoiding infection. Washing with soap and water is preferred if hands are dirty, but if they seem clean but have touched common surfaces, such as doorknobs, or received items such as money or credit cards from the general public alcohol-based hand-sanitizer is useful. As much as is feasible, you should avoid contact with sick persons, in particular those with respiratory symptoms (sneezing, coughing, runny nose). Masks are most useful for those already infected to reduce droplet production when they cough or sneeze. Masks can also be of use for health care workers and first responders who must tend to sick people. For further information check the question and answer section at the Directorates of Health [website](#).
  - The stock position for protective equipment and drugs have been updated.
  - Assessment of isolation/quarantine facilities is almost done. Work is also under way on resolving services to sick individuals such as ambulance, health services and various resources.
  - Regional and district epidemiologists work on response and preparation in each district, analogous to the work in the capital area. They attend regular meetings with the Chief Epidemiologist.
  - A wide range of guidance and information for the general public, healthcare professionals and the business community can be found on the [website](#) of the Directorate of Health.
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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. The status of protective equipment and drug status is reviewed and updated.

## 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.

## 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 ports

A meeting has been held with port and airport staff about infection control, responses and sharing of information. Flyers with information on infection control has been distributed in English and Icelandic to tourists. Isavia disseminates information to international airport.

## The tourism industry

The Icelandic Tourist Board is ready to disseminate information through its databases to the tourism industry.

## Healthcare facilities in regional Iceland

Attended coordination meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> of February.

## 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](http://www.safetravel.is)