



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

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

STATUS REPORT

Date: 31.01.2020

Time: 17:00

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. The epidemic is spreading rapidly, but so far most of the confirmed cases are in China. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) carry out risk assessments on a daily basis and disseminate findings to health authorities on communicable diseases. No infection has been confirmed in Iceland.

In light of this information, the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police declared an uncertainty phase on 27th of January 2020 in consultation with the Chief Epidemiologist and the Directorate of Health.

Work is being carried out according to the response plan of the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, CBRNE - Public Health Plan and other existing response plans, such as international aviation security. Meetings to coordinate action are held daily by the Chief Epidemiologist..

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 January 31st 2020, cases of the 2019-nCoV has been confirmed in 9,834 individuals and about 213 individuals are deceased (2.2%). In addition, there are information on serious illnesses in a large number of individuals.

The cases reported are from China (9,723), Taiwan (9), Thailand (14), Australia (9), Malaysia (8), Singapore (13), Japan (14), South Korea (7), United States (6), Vietnam (5), Canada (3), Nepal (1), Philippines(1), Sri Lanka (1), Cambodia (1), India (1), United Arab Emirates (4), France (6), Germany (5), Finland (1), Italy (2). The vast majority of cases originate in China.



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

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

No individual has yet been diagnosed in Iceland.

The National Crisis Coordination Centre in Skógarhlíð was activated this morning as efforts are being made to coordinate the response of all parties and gather information. Activation of the National Crisis Coordination Centre is not an indicator of increased danger in Iceland. The statement of the World Health Organization yesterday on a global emergency does not have an effect on responses in Iceland. We will continue to work on uncertainty phase according to the Icelandic Pandemic for Influenza Preparedness Plan, as no cases have been reported in Iceland.

Response plans are being updated to secure infrastructure in case the virus reaches Iceland. The emphasis is on preparedness to be able to respond promptly in case of possible infection in Iceland.

Information is translated and stored on the Directorates of Health [website](#).

During a meeting of the Chief Epidemiologist and the Civil Protection Department this morning ongoing information sharing and ways of communicating messages were discussed. Multiple ways will be used such as text messages, flyers and posters. To reach as many people as possible, foreign embassies will be involved.

The primary health care as put a lot of power in updating their response plans and Laeknavaktin (1700 and +354 544-4113) will inform individuals on how to reach the health care system. Individuals are specifically asked not to attend hospitals or clinics unless receiving telephone advice. Calls have not increased in recent days.

The Chief Epidemiologist and the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management had a telephone meeting yesterday with the Icelandic Tourist Board, the Iceland Transport Authority, the Director of Customs and the port authorities. The main aim of the meeting was to disseminate information and ask ports to prepare their responses.

An ongoing analysis of the isolation facilities for tourists is well underway

A meeting was held this morning with the Federation of Trade and Services and the Icelandic Travel Industry Association. New guidelines for frontline staff were reviewed and meeting attendees were asked to disseminate.

The Chief Epidemiologist and the Director of Health met with the Chinese Ambassador today. The Chinese Embassy will assist with information sharing and translation.

Today, the Chief Epidemiologist and Minister of Health met with the Icelandic National Security Council to review responses and proposed actions.

The next status report will be sent out on Monday the 3rd of February.



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Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management
Coordinates responses in collaboration with the Directorate of Health / the Chief Epidemiologist
The Directorate of Health/ The Chief Epidemiologist
Works on coordination of actions, guidelines and content for the public, health care professionals, tourism providers and others. Instructions are updated when necessary. There are a variety of consultations with the administration. Met with the Icelandic National Security Council and the Civil Protection Council of the metropolitan area.
Landspítali – The National University Hospital of Iceland
Attends daily coordination meetings. Works according to conventional steps of the hospital.
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 Reykjavík.
Information meeting was held on January 29th with airport staff regarding infection control, response and flow of information. Information/flyers have been distributed in English and Icelandic to tourists.
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 30 th of January.
Læknavaktin – 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.

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