



# NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF THE ICELANDIC POLICE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL  
PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT



Applies to: The media, [almannavarnir.is](http://almannavarnir.is), Administration and Chief Epidemiologist's contacts.

## STATUS REPORT

Date: 07.04.2020

Time: 17:00

Location: Coordination Centre / Directorate of Health / Chief Epidemiologist

Emergency / Distress Phase: COVID-19

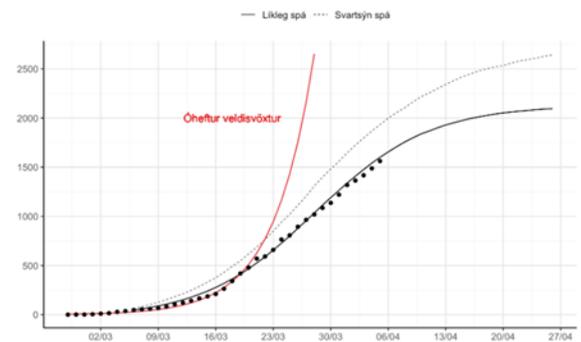
### Developments

Dissemination of information, making of instructions and advice to the public, to institutions and enterprises. All instructions can be found on the [Directorate of Health](http://Directorate of Health) website, the [National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police](http://National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police) website and the [covid.is](http://covid.is) information website.

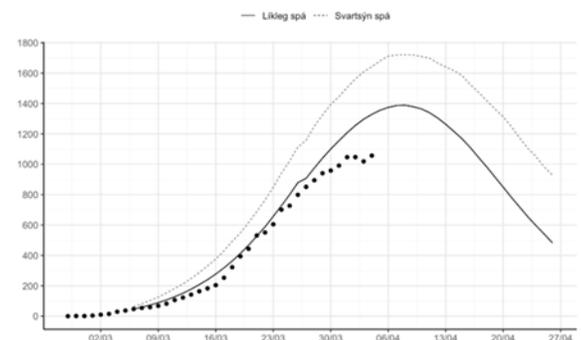
### Predictive model for the number of cases and pressure on health-care services

- The Chief Epidemiologist called on scientists from the University of Iceland, the Directorate of Health and the National University Hospital to build a mathematical model to predict the probable process of the COVID-19 epidemic in Iceland, that could be used for making decisions regarding social measures and structuring of health-care services. Information regarding the predictive model, including the methods and criteria used, can be found at the website <https://covid.hi.is/>. The main outcomes from the model, including data up to and including 5 April, are as follows: It is estimated that during this wave of the epidemic, just over 2,100 people in Iceland will be diagnosed with COVID-19, but a more pessimistic prediction puts that number closer to 2,600.
- The number of diagnosed individuals with an active infection is expected to peak in the first week of April and will likely be around 1,400, but might peak a week later with 1,700 sick individuals according to the more pessimistic prediction.
- It is estimated that during this wave of the epidemic, some 140 persons may need to be admitted to hospital, but that number might go as high as 170.
- The peak pressure on the health-care services due to hospitalisations is expected to take place before mid-April, when around 70 persons might be in hospital at the same time, with a more pessimistic prediction of 90 individuals.
- The prediction is that during the epidemic, around 28 persons may become seriously ill, i.e. will need to be admitted to intensive care during that period. A more pessimistic prediction puts that number at 41 individuals.
- The peak pressure on the intensive care units might happen in mid-April, when 11 persons are expected to be there at the same time, whereas the pessimistic prediction puts that number at 19.

Greind smit  
Uppsöfnun greind smit



Virk greind smit á hverjum degi



- A minimal offset in the age distribution towards more diagnosed infections among individuals over the age of sixty would considerably increase the pressure on the health-care service.
- The diagnostic work will continue and the predictions will be updated regularly with new information. It must be kept in mind that due to the small number of people, the numbers of diagnosed cases can fluctuate considerably from day to day, which affects the prediction. However, the predictions do become more stable as time passes.

The number of people in Iceland with confirmed infections is currently 1,586, with 1,021 in isolation. There are a total of 1,160 domestic infections and 96 of unknown origin. A total of 28,991 samples have been taken, including 1,112 in the last 24 hours. Six people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in Iceland have passed away. [According to the National University Hospital](#) there are currently 35 patients in the hospital with COVID-19, of which 11 are in intensive care and 6 on respirators. 1002 are being monitored by the COVID-19 outpatient unit, including 97 children who are being monitored by the Children's Hospital. 595 individuals have recovered and 44 individuals have been discharged from the hospital.

### **Quarantine attestation/certificate**

People must be registered as being in quarantine in order to get a quarantine attestation/certification. They will either have been quarantined due to having been travelling or have been registered as being under quarantine by a health-care clinic or by the contact tracing team by order of the Chief Epidemiologist.

- People with electronic certificates can register themselves for quarantine at [heilsuvera.is](https://heilsuvera.is) (only quarantine mandated by the authorities, cf. the above, but not self-imposed). People who do not have an electronic certificate can register for quarantine at their local health-care clinic.

When the registration has been made, the quarantine certificate/attestation can be downloaded from [heilsuvera.is](https://heilsuvera.is), using a personal electronic certificate. [See more information here.](#) A certificate of isolation must be acquired from your personal doctor.

### **Today's press conference:**

**Chief Epidemiologist Þórólfur Guðnason** stated that an unusually low number of infections had been diagnosed in the last 24 hours. However, these came from a lower number of samples than in the past few days. Dr. Guðnason said the good news was that more people have recovered in the last 24 hours than have been diagnosed as infected. Dr. Guðnason said that it was difficult to tell whether or not this was a genuine change. The next several days will determine whether or not the epidemic has peaked. We have been on the same course as that shown by the UI predictive model and are, if truth be told, slightly below the best prediction, except as regards admissions to intensive care. We need to keep a special eye on local diagnoses. We held a teleconference with local health-care services from all over the country and are especially watchful as regards local group infections. Dr. Guðnason said that work was under way to lift the restrictions after 4 May, but it was too early to discuss those now - they would be revealed after the Easter holidays. Work is also under way to prepare responses to the arrival of foreign tourists by sea and air during the restriction period. The objective is to prevent another epidemic during the summer or autumn. Finally, Dr. Guðnason discussed antibody testing, which entails checking whether individuals have been infected at some stage. Tests of this kind must fulfil certain requirements, be approved by the Director of Health and permitted by the Minister. He advised against buying tests off the internet, as they are often unreliable and give misleading results. This research will likely not begin until the epidemic is on the wane.

**Director of Health Alma Möller** said that the health-care system is under a lot of pressure. The Directorate of Health calls for information from all health-care institutions on a weekly basis, and things are going well in most places. The situation in the West Fjords, however, is complicated and a group from the reserve team went there yesterday. A meeting was also held with medical transport service staff, who are also under much pressure, but are doing well. Dr. Möller reminded the audience that today is the WHO's World Health Day. The day's theme is the importance of the work of nurses and midwives, which was decided before the appearance of COVID-19, but the year 2020 is also dedicated to the work of nurses. It is estimated that some 18 million health-care workers are needed until 2030 to guarantee nominal services. New numbers show that 57 % of all health-care workers in Europe are nurses. Dr. Möller

encouraged young people to consider a university education in nursing or midwifery, and mentioned that more male nurses are needed. She also thanked the nursing auxiliaries for their invaluable contribution. Dr. Möller said that there were currently around 1,100 people on the health-care reserve team. More people who are prepared to go work outside the capital area have joined the team. In addition, the welfare service reserve team now numbers around 1,300 people, a growing number of whom are willing to work outside the capital area. Dr. Möller said it was important to look after each other, and support those who are living in difficult circumstances. We especially need to look after the children. We are all protectors of children.

#### **General Manager of the Women's Shelter Sigþrúður Guðmundsdóttir**

Ms. Guðmundsdóttir stated that it was necessary to discuss domestic violence, since research has shown that domestic violence becomes more frequent and dangerous during difficult times. First, she wanted to address the **perpetrators**. She said that it was common for perpetrators to show regret after women arrived at the Women's Shelter and told their stories. They would then speak to the perpetrator, who would then promise to stop the behaviour. She said that many of them doubtless really mean it, but it is a contradiction in terms to continually lose control of one's temper and then beg to be trusted again. She urged everyone who sees themselves in this situation, of losing control or using violence, to seek help. What happened once will likely happen again, especially in times like these. There are many options available - you can call the 1717 number or seek expert help in many places in the community.

Next, Ms. Guðmundsdóttir spoke to the **survivors**. The Women's Shelter remains open as always. The staff are keeping the Shelter open, clean – and free of infection. A plan is in place in case the group needs to be split up due to an infection or if new housing must be found. The phone line is open 24 hours a day and advice or support is available. Anything can be discussed, even if the women calling in think their situation is not serious enough. Unusual times call for unusual responses – and everyone should seek help if they think they have reason to. She also pointed out some other resources, such as the Bjarkarhlíð and Drekaflóð centres for survivors of violence, and other places.

Finally, Ms. Guðmundsdóttir discussed the **children**. Children in homes where there is violence have no alternatives. Parents often believe that their children are not affected by violence, but this is completely wrong. Growing up with domestic violence has tremendous effects and the children's quality of life is severely stunted. Research has shown that children who grow up with violence in the home are more likely to experience numerous problems during their lifetime. It is therefore very important to look out for children who may be living with violence in their homes. It is important for children to have someone to go to, someone they trust. Right now, however, they have fewer people they can go to and have no safe place to go. The most important thing we can do is to prevent children from living in homes with violence and to give those children a helping hand.

**Chief Superintendent Víðir Reynisson** closed the conference and thanked Ms. Guðmundsdóttir for her very important message. He said that if you notice any domestic violence you must notify this in order to protect the family and children. He also said that unfortunately the residents of nursing homes can not be allowed to go home over the Easter holidays or attend Easter parties.

CS Reynisson urged people to stay at home over the Easter holidays, to go shopping by themselves and to respect the 2-metre rule. He asked everyone to be good to each other and stick together.

#### **Information sharing and projects**

**The civil protection authorities' Coordination Centre coordinates all action and disseminates information regarding COVID-19 all over the country.**

**The Icelandic Coast Guard** TF-SIF, the Coast Guard's surveillance aircraft, transported a respirator to Ísafjörður at lunch-time today. The Reykjavík Metropolitan Fire Service contacted the Coast Guard and requested transport for the respirator to the West Fjords. TF-SIF landed at Ísafjörður Airport around noon and delivered the respirator.

**The Red Cross** Due to the strain on the Red Cross telephone helpline 1717 and the net chat at 1717.is, the [Ministry of Social Affairs](#) has decided to support the service. The support will boost up the helpline and net chat to aid people, such as families, children and young people, people with disabilities, the elderly and people of foreign origin during these unprecedented times. A total of nearly 900 calls came in during the past week and the most prevalent calls were about anxiety, loneliness, depression, unemployment and there were also calls about COVID-19.

**The Red Cross and ICE-SAR urge the public to stay home during the Easter holidays and will be publishing advertisements to that effect in the next few days.**

**Search and rescue teams** Due to impassable roads and the bad weather lately, search and rescue teams have been taking care of medical transports of people with COVID-19 to hospital, transporting COVID-19 samples for diagnosis from around the country and assisting health-care staff to get to and from work. Search and rescue teams have also been delivering food to the elderly.

Health-care workers at the Coordination Centre are putting together an overall plan for all health-care institutions on COVID-19 responses. They are also looking into protective gear and how to ensure that there is always a good stock of necessary gear available.

**The Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Consular Service** The Consular Service has contacted Icelandic residents who are abroad and are planning to return home and suggested they use the Icelandair flights from London and Boston in the next few days, and from Alicante, Spain, on Wednesday. These flights have been arranged under a recent agreement between the Icelandic government and Icelandair, which will remain in force at least until 15 April. Air transport services will not completely stop after 15 April, but it is unclear in what form they will continue. The Consular Service has also contacted Icelandic residents who are currently in the United States to let them know that those who do not have a legitimate reason to extend their stay in the USA beyond what their ESTA travel authorisation allows will not receive an automatic extension of their ESTA and anyone who remains in the USA beyond the validity of their visa can expect to be prohibited from returning to the USA. **Only those who have a legitimate reason to not hasten their return home, such as being in hospital or other such unforeseeable reasons, can receive an extension.** The civil protection authorities and the foreign service are closely monitoring the repatriation efforts of the Nordic countries and other European countries and working together to help Icelandic residents to get on those flights. This is the only way to get home from those countries that have completely closed their borders, and more people will be making use of such flights in the days to come. For example, 130 people made use of a flight from Poland to Iceland this week, carried out by the airline LOT at the request of the Polish authorities. Around 20 persons have made use of flights organised by the Danish, German, British, French and Finnish authorities from Central- and South-America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia, including Wuhan, China.

### **Stricter measures due to COVID-19 in the West Fjords**

[The West Fjords District Operations Command has, in consultation with the Chief Epidemiologist and the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police's Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management](#) decided on the

following responses to COVID-19 in Suðureyri, Flateyri, Þingeyri and Súðavík by taking the following measures:

The preschools and primary and lower secondary schools in Suðureyri, Flateyri, Þingeyri and Súðavík will be closed as of 6 April 2020. However, children who are on the priority list will be able to attend preschool and grades 1 and 2 of primary school.

Social gathering will be limited to a maximum of 5 persons (excluding families residing in the same house).

The maximum number of customers in larger shops (>150 square metres) at a time is 30. [Stricter COVID-19 measures are also being taken in Ísafjörður, Hnífsdalur and Bolungarvík](#) The District Operations Command's decision of 1 April on stricter measures in Ísafjörður, Hnífsdalur and Bolungarvík is still in force.

### **The Directorate of Labour.**

[Stjórnvöld koma til móts við vinnumarkaðinn.](#) The government passed a Bill by the Minister of Social Affairs and Children on the right to unemployment compensation benefits to make up for reduced working hours due to a temporary slowing down of companies' economic activities. The Act entails that salaries paid [during a period of reduced work will not decrease the right to unemployment benefits.](#) [Contractors and the self-employed can apply through "My pages".](#) A certificate of reduced operating activities from Iceland Revenue and Customs must be turned in. A total of 30 thousand applications for unemployment benefits have come in from individuals whose work hours have been reduced. This is the government's new measure to maintain as many employment relationships as possible in the labour market while this temporary situation is ongoing. Around 70 % of the applications come from the

Reykjavik metropolitan area, with a large percentage coming from the Southern Peninsula. The unemployment rate is expected to reach 8.4 % in March and 14 % in April. Applications for payments due to quarantining are expected to be possible around mid-April. The Directorate of Labour is currently under tremendous pressure due to the increased unemployment numbers. Measures are being prepared to take some of the pressure off the Directorate in the months to come.

### **Response team to reduce the interruption of services to vulnerable groups**

The Minister of Social Affairs and Children, the Minister of Transport and Local Government and the Association of Local Authorities have set up a response team to reduce the interruption of services for vulnerable groups in the community, in cooperation with the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police's Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management. The response team is composed of representatives of the aforementioned parties, as well as representatives of the Director of Social Welfare, Publicity Supervisor, City of Reykjavik and the Social Services and Child Protection Quality and Control Authority. It operates in close cooperation with bodies that look out for the interests of and/or render services to vulnerable groups, and holds weekly meetings. The service situation for vulnerable groups is generally fairly good in most places and there have been no new challenges since last week. Special emphasis was placed on seeking information about the situation of children during the week, and this revealed that there were some concerns about children who are living under difficult social circumstances, and the drop in numbers of reports to the child protection authorities is worrying. The numbers mentioned included a 20–30 % drop in reports to the child protection authorities, but information at the national level is not available. This information is being gathered.

**The Ministry of Social Affairs' Welfare Watch** The Ministry of Social Affairs' Welfare Watch, which includes representative associations of people with disabilities, met during the week and discussed the COVID-19 situation in Iceland as regards people with disabilities. During the meeting, the Welfare Watch discussed, among other things, how to ensure that services for people with disabilities will be disrupted as little as possible, and how to ensure an adequate flow of information to people with disabilities. It is very important to ensure that everyone is enabled to follow the community's discussions about COVID-19 and the Welfare Watch urges those who are disseminating important COVID-19 information to include material with easily readable wording. The Ministry of Social Affairs wishes to restate the email address [vidbragð@frn.is](mailto:vidbragð@frn.is). This email can be used by anyone who is worried about the implementation of services or who has tips about anything that could be improved in the welfare service.

- [Sjá nýlegar leiðbeiningar til notenda og aðstoðarfólks í NPA.](#)

### **The website [www.covid.is](http://www.covid.is)**

Statistical information about the disease is updated once a day and published at 13:00h on the [covid.is](http://www.covid.is) website. The website contains information about the measures that have been taken in Iceland due to the COVID-19 disease. The website is in constant development and is regularly updated. The [Our Wellbeing](#) mental health button was updated today with added information and assistance in all parts of the country.

### **Upcoming:**

- Press conferences are held every day at 14:03h.
- The next COVID-19 coordination meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 April at 9:00h.



### COVID-19 á Íslandi - Tölfræði

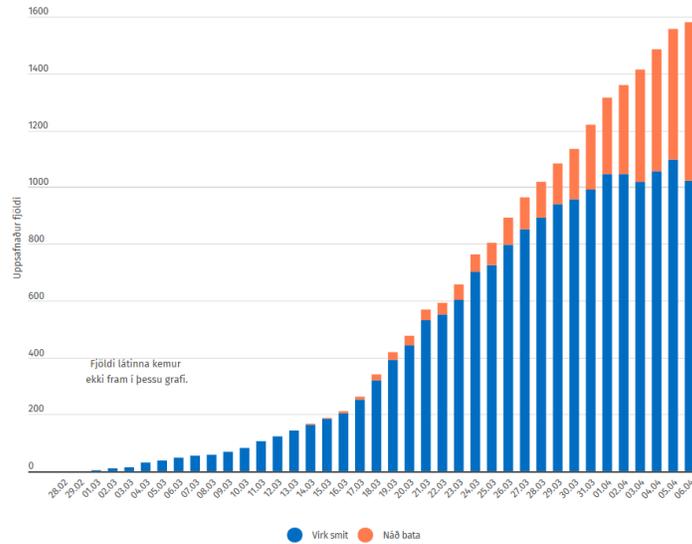
- Upplýsingar á síðunni eru sóttar úr gagnagrunni á miðnætti.

#### Heildartölur



Af þeim sem greinst hafa með COVID-19 á Íslandi eru sex látin.

#### Fjöldi virkra smita og þeirra sem er batnað

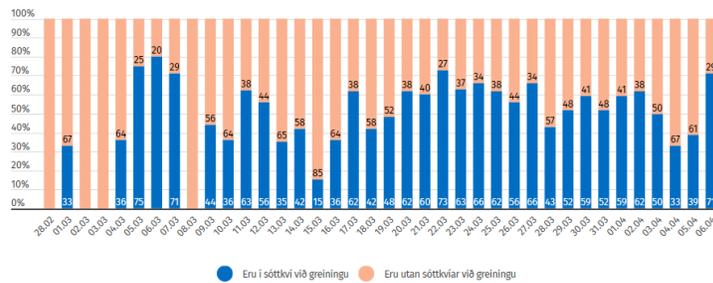


#### Hlutfall smitaðra sem greinast í sóttkví

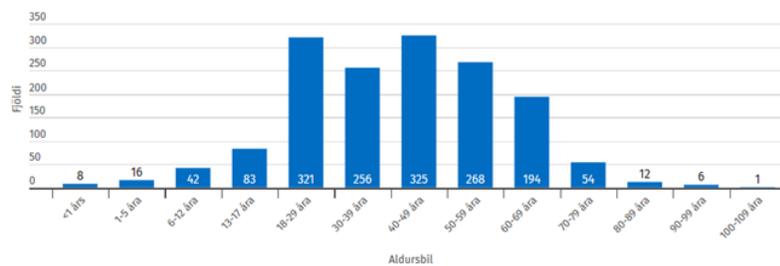


**53%**

þeirra sem hafa greinst voru í sóttkví



#### Fjöldi smita eftir aldri

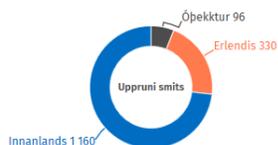


## Fjöldi smita eftir kyni



Download data

## Uppruni smits



Download data

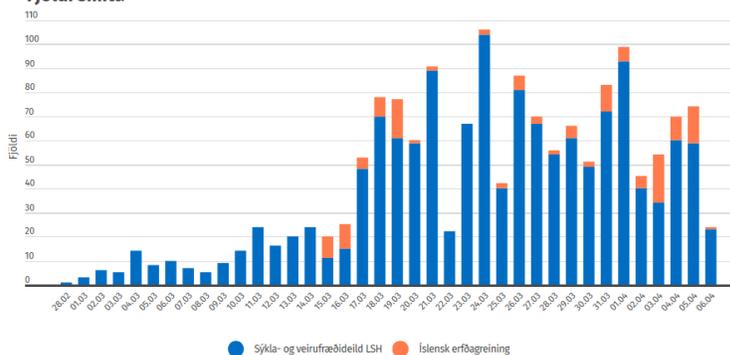
## Smit / sóttkví eftir landshlutum



Landshluti	Smit	Sóttkví
Höfuðborgarsvæði	1,143	2,557
Suðurnes	72	193
Suðurland	166	364
Austurland	6	44
Norðurland eystra	43	173
Norðurland vestra	35	38
Vestfirðir	47	319
Vesturland	29	106
Óstaðsett	45	613
Útlönd	0	0

Download data

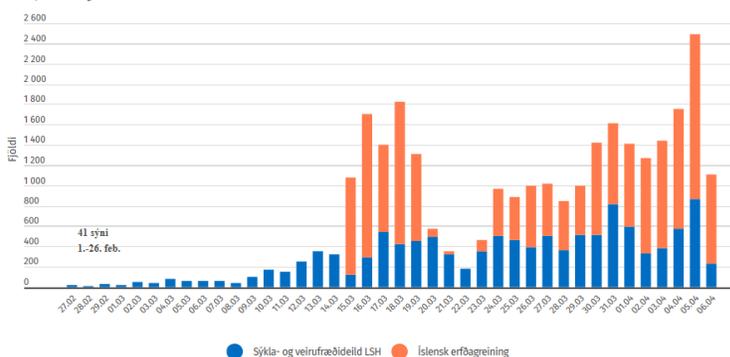
## Fjöldi smita



Download data

Þegar gefnar eru út upplýsingar um hve smitubóm hefur fjölgað mikið frá deginum áður er það ekki alltaf svo að sambærileg tala birtist í síðu dagsins. Ástæðan er sú að birting upplýsinga um smit taka mið af því hvenær sýnið var tekið en ekki hvenær það var greint.

## Fjöldi sýna



## Coronavirus – Global spread

According to Johns Hopkins, **1,365,004 individual cases** of COVID-19 have been confirmed today and **78,269 individuals** have died. An additional **292.973 individuals** have already recovered from the illness. cf. According to the ECDC, the epidemic is currently considered to be a moderate public health threat for healthy individuals and very high threat for older adults and individuals with chronic underlying conditions. Cf. the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/european-centre-for-disease-prevention-and-control) website for information on the development in each country. Cf. the ECDC risk assessment.