



NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF THE
ICELANDIC POLICE
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL
PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY



Applies to: The media, almannavarnir.is, Administration and Chief Epidemiologist's contacts.

STATUS REPORT

Date: 12.03.2020 Time: 17:30 Location: Coordination Centre / Directorate of Health /Chief Epidemiologist

Emergency / Distress Phase: COVID-19

Event description

Every effort is being made to distribute information and advice to the public, public bodies and companies. All instructions can be found on the Directorate of Health website and National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police

Ráðgjöf vegna COVID-19

Leiðir að ráðgjöf hjúkrunarfræðinga:

Alvarleg veikindi:

- Vaktisíminn 1700
- Símtal á þína heilsugæslu á dagvinnutíma

Minni veikindi:

- Samskipti á Mínum síðum á heilsuvera.is
- Netspjall á heilsuvera.is - 8:00-22:00

website.

In the last 24 hours, 20 new infections have been diagnosed, including 2 domestic infections, two of which can be traced to the United States. Contact tracing is under way. The number of infected persons is now 105, including 22 domestic infections.

A total of 1023 samples have been taken, including 87 today.

An agreement is being finalised between the Department of Clinical Biology of the National University Hospital and deCODE genetics in order to begin screening for COVID-19 in Icelandic society. The plan is to begin screening as soon as possible.

Press conference on the 12th

Chief Epidemiologist Þórólfur Guðnason gave an overview of the COVID-19 situation, including the number of confirmed cases in Iceland. Over 1000 persons are in quarantine and two individuals are in isolation at Landspítali. Two new cases have occurred that can be traced to the United States. Contact tracing is being carried out. Many different measures are used to slow the distribution of the virus locally, i.e. Isolation, quarantine and social measures and anti-infection measures. Many companies have taken measures and tailored them to their need. A ban on public gathering has been widely discussed as an additional measure to slow the spread of the virus even more. The

Minister of Health takes the final decision on the subject after consulting with the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management and the Chief Epidemiologist. The situation is being evaluated from day to day.

Director of Health Alma D. Möller today stated that 180 health-care workers, doctors, nurses and nursing auxiliaries have registered for the health-care reserve team. Health-care institutions that are in need of staff should contact the Ministry of Health. Professionals are being asked to join the health-care reserves on short notice, either full-time, part-time or on an hourly basis. [The sign-up form](#) can be accessed on the website of the Ministry of Health. Efforts are being made to reinforce the service and consultation capabilities of 1700, the health-care services and heilsuvera.is. The health-care service and facilities that provide recreation for minorities are urged to see if they can provide the service in a different way.

Director of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Communications and Public Diplomacy Department, María Mjöll

Jónsdóttir, discussed the main developments abroad and their effects on Icelandic travellers. Some states have taken extensive measures that affect Icelandic citizens, including those travelling to or from the United States. Because of the COVID-19 virus, the United States have banned all flights from Europe except for the United Kingdom. The ban takes effect on Friday and applies to all citizens of the Schengen Area. ESTA's and residence permits are being looked into. Information will be given as soon as it is available. Other states have also made extensive arrangements that will affect Icelandic citizens. Icelandic citizens abroad are encouraged to register at the [Ministry for Foreign Affairs's website](#).

Chief Superintendent of Police Víðir Reynisson discussed the changes that have taken place within the rescue coordination centre as regards protective measures against infection. These have been made in order to increase the ability of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre and the responders to handle another **civil-protection and emergency level event**.

Commented [R01]: Ath. í leiðréttri útgáfu af fréttatilkynningu gærdagsins sem ég fékk í hendurnar í morgun var notkun mín á enskri stafsetningu í íslenskum mannanöfnum ýmist leiðrétt eða ekki. Mér þætti því vænt um að fá að vita hver stefnan er í þessum málum - eiga íslensku stafirnir að standa eða á að nota enska stafsetningu?

Commented [R02]: Ath. fann ekkert út út þessu. Fæ vonandi rétt hugtak eftir leiðréttingu.

Status

Iceland – today's status

The origins of the infections in Iceland can be traced both locally and abroad (to ski areas in the Alps, to Asia and the United States).

The origins of the infections are as follows:

Origin of infection	Number of cases
Iceland	22
Other countries	87
Total	105

Number of individuals that have been isolated or quarantined:

Resources	Number of cases
Isolation	105
Quarantine	900
Total	1005

The National Commission of the Icelandic Police, the Chief of Police in the Greater Reykjavik Area and the Chief Epidemiologist have contacted those in quarantine. They have been assisted by health-care workers from Landspítali.

Individuals in quarantine by regions:

Quarantine	Number of cases
Greater Reykjavik Area	797
South-western Iceland	21
Western Iceland and West Fjords	16
Northern Iceland	34
Eastern Iceland	2
Southern Iceland	26
Information is being gathered	4
Total	900

Coronavirus – Global spread

Today, 126 660 individual cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed and 4 641 individuals have died (3.6 %). According to [Johns Hopkins University](#), 68 305 individuals have already recovered from the illness. There has been an explosion in the distribution of the virus in Europe, especially in Italy, Spain and Germany. The ECDC has raised its risk assessment to a risk of a moderate to high threat to public health. Cf. the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#) (ECDC) website for information on the development in each country. [Cf. the ECDC risk assessment.](#)

Information sharing

Upcoming:

- The next press conference is planned for Thursday, 13 March at 14:00h.
- The next coordination meeting will be held on Friday 13 March at 9:00h.

Instructions

- **The Coronavirus and production of vegetables and animal products** The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority has updated [its information website](#) on COVID-19 and food with common questions and answers regarding the harvesting of vegetables and production of animal products with regard to Coronavirus:

Many resources available to answer questions

Heilsuvera and the Reykjavik Area Health-Care Service

Heilsuvera and the Reykjavik Area Health-Care Service have been very busy. As many as 430 inquiries were received per day for the last week and the number has risen significantly in the last few days.

An additional 10–30 inquiries are sent in daily between 22:00h and 8:00h.

Commented [R03]: Ath.: Fann ekki enskt heiti á vefsíðunni.