

# RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

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

STATUS REPORT		
Date: 13.03.2020	Time.: 17:00	Location: National Crisis and Coordination centre /Directorate of Health /Chief Epidemiologist
Emergency/Distress Phase: COVID-19		
Progress		
Efforts are made to co	mmunicate guidanc	ce, data and information to the public, institutions and businesses.
If you suspect you have become infected with COVID-19:		
	s	Stay at home and call 1700 or your health clinic where medical staff will be able to answer your questions and advise you on your next steps.
		It is critical that you do not go to hospitals and clinics without specific instructions to do so by a healthcare professional.
		health concerns contact your GP and use suvera.is to reach health care professionals.

All guidance can be found on the webpages of the <u>Department of Civil Protection and Emergency</u> and <u>Directorate of</u> <u>health\_and www.covid.is/english</u>.

In the last 24 hours 29 cases have been diagnosed.

The total number of infections is 134 in Iceland, 30 of which are transmissions within Iceland.

1188 samples have been analysed, 253 in the last 24 hours.

Increased measures were taken today by the Icelandic government, a ban on public events and gatherings of more than 100 persons and changes to schooling were put in place and will take effect on Monday, 16 March. Further information <u>here</u>.

### Information meeting

# Víðir Reynisson with the national commissioner of Police moderated.

**bórólfur Guðnason,** Chief Epidemiologist, gave an overview of COVID-19 in Iceland. In three cases the path of infection remains unknown and likely more such cases will follow. It is important that the public adhere to the measures set out to stop and reduce the path of infection. Two people are hospitalised, but not in intensive care. The ban on public events and gatherings is put in place to further enforce the efforts already made. The ban will last four weeks but may be revised. Decodes analysis has started. Patients in quarantine should not go to Decode for sampling, only through the health care system. Important that everyone follows the guidelines set out.

**Alma D. Möller Director of Health** praised the epidemiologists in Iceland for their efforts as well as the communications team with the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency who have launched <u>www.covid.is</u> - an information page for the public. More efforts will go into communicating with the public. The Icelandic Medicine Agency has announced that they have secured stocks of medicine. She urges doctors to prescribe drugs in moderation and in line with the needs of the patient. The Icelandic health care reserve list is still taking registrations and is proving very successful. he registration form is available on the Ministry of Health website.

**Andrés Magnússon,** Managing Director of the Federation of Trade and Services, discussed the inventory of the country. There has been a lot of unnecessary pressure on food stores recently. Andrés emphasized that there are sufficient supplies of food and other necessities in the country, both imported and domestic. Product flow is normal and there is no need to hoard food and supplies. The same applies to medicines.

#### Communication

#### Next steps:

- Information meeting for the press will be on Saturday 14 March and Sunday 15 March at 14:00.
- The next coordination meeting will be held Monday 16 March at 9:00 o'clock.

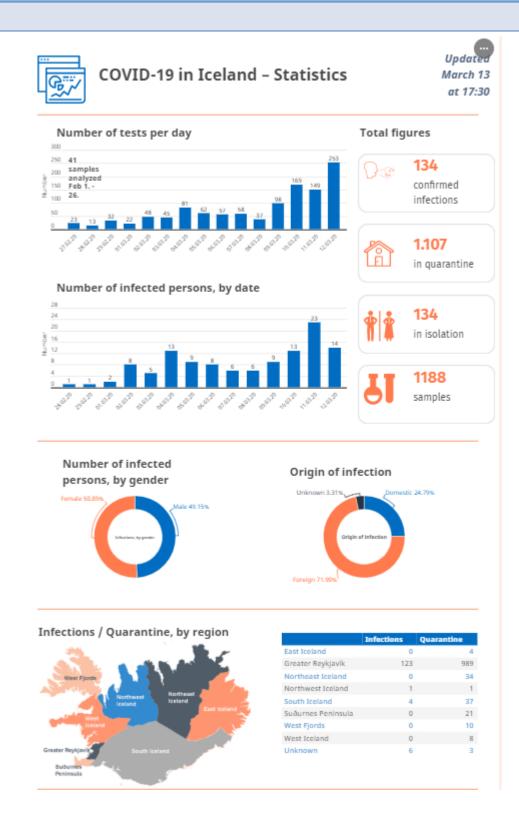
#### www.covid.is

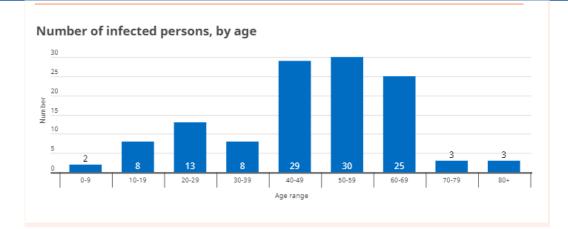
The webpage <u>covid.is</u> / <u>www.covid.is/english</u> was launcehd today with information for the public on guidance, data and actions related to COVID-19.

#### Various information

- Updated instructions from the Environment Agency regarding the <u>risk of garbage contamination and waste</u> <u>management for waste workers.</u>
- The Data Protection Authority has published information on <u>COVID-19 and data protection</u>.
- After consultation Strætó has changed their procedure for planning and driving for next week.
- The Farmers Association of Iceland have instructed people to limit visits to farms.

## Status in Iceland





#### **Coronavirus- outside Iceland**

Today 13 March the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally is 137.385 and 5088 people have succumbed to the virus (3,7%). According to John Hopkins 69.776 individuals have recovered after falling ill. ECDC has now estimated the risk associated with COVID-19 infection as moderate to high. A significant increase has been seen in cases in Europe, especially in Italy, Spain and in Germany. See the ECDC webpage for updated developments. Their risk assessment is <u>here</u>.

#### **Consular service**

The Consular Service of the Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs has increased its efforts for phone calls and written communications.

Icelandic residents having problems abroad can contact them via phone: (00354) 545-0-112, sent an email: hjalp@utn.is and contact them through the Facebook page of the MFA. Icelanders traveling abroad are asked to register with the the Consular Service database at www.utn.is

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