



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



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

STATUS REPORT

Date: 14/05/2020	Time: 16:15	Location: Civil Protection Coordination Centre / Directorate of Health / Chief Epidemiologist
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Emergency / Distress Phase: COVID-19

Developments

The civil protection authorities' Coordination Centre coordinates all action and disseminates information regarding COVID-19 all over the country. 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](#) website, the [National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police](#) website and the [covid.is](#) information website.

Statistics for Iceland Two infections were diagnosed in the last 24 hours. The number of people in Iceland with confirmed infections is currently 1,802, there are 12 in isolation and 1780 have recovered. The total number of domestic infections is 1,460. A total of 55,626 samples have been taken, including 551 in the last 24 hours. 10 of the people diagnosed with COVID-19 in Iceland have passed away.

[See statistical information from Landspítali University Hospital](#)

A community accord – in our hands is the headline for the introduction and information being published in the following weeks. It is intended to highlight the focus points and the communal responsibility we all have to bear in mind in the coming months. [More details at covid.is](#)

An overview of actions by the authorities along with rules that have been introduced are to be found here (in chronological order, the latest at the top): [in Icelandic](#) and [in English](#) .

Information sharing and projects

Travel restrictions - main

- The [notice of the Ministry of Health](#) contains further information
- The Ministry of Health is in charge of issuing dispensations from the travel restrictions
- Dispensation requests from quarantine should be addressed to svl@landlaeknir.is .
- It is very important for everyone to continue to practice personal disease protection in the months to come, i.e. hand-washing, using hand sanitiser, and intensive cleaning of surfaces.
- Entering crowded places should be avoided.
- The 2-metre rule will not be abolished in the near future, but when the restrictions are lifted, it will become more difficult to follow. However, everyone must look to their own safety and follow this rule as much as they can. This is how we can prevent the epidemic from resurging.

Travel restrictions - amendment from 13 May

All countries except the Faroe Islands and Greenland are defined as high infection risk areas.

Everyone that has stayed in a high risk area for more than 24 hours are required to go into quarantine until 14 days have passed since departure from a high risk area. Please note that a temporary border check is still in place on the internal frontiers. [See further information at government website](#)

A reassessment will be made regularly to evaluate whether more countries should be categorised as risk areas. Travellers are responsible for their accommodation and living costs while they are in quarantine, having come here by choice despite the official quarantine requirements. [Further information here.](#)

The Faroe Islands and Greenland have been taken off the list of risk areas with regard to COVID-19. [See news.](#)

Travel restrictions fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice but the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is involved in assisting individuals on urgent business, such as due to the passing of a loved one, in being able to travel to **Iceland**. Stopover in Iceland is permitted without authorisation from Icelandic authorities, but parties falling under the travel restrictions or who might fall under the restrictions need to provide assurance of being allowed to enter the final destination in Europe prior to boarding the plane to Iceland. Information regarding this procedure is available at the Directorate of Immigration: (in chronological order, latest amendments at the top). [Icelandic](#) and [English](#).

Government meeting on 12 May regarding the extension of travel restrictions. [See news bulletin at the Ministry of Social Affairs' website.](#)

At a government meeting with the media on 12 May an announcement regarding the extension of the current travel restrictions was made. The current arrangement will be extended, as well as providing a framework for B-Quarantine for specific projects in the business sector. The Faroe Islands and Greenland will be taken off the list of high-risk areas, meaning that no limitations will apply to people coming here from the Faroe Islands or Greenland as of 15 May.

If only a small number of infections continue to be analyzed within society, the plan is to further decrease the restrictions on 25 May and 3 June.

On 15 June the country will be opened for tourists and Icelanders with the options of entering a scanning procedure on arrival or providing a valid certificate, which will be accepted by Icelandic authorities. There will also be a requirement to download the Rakning C-19 app and more. Work has commenced on the socio-economic analysis in order to explore the arrangements. This work should be finalized by the end of the month. Such a scanning should provide us with opportunities to learn more about the virus and to get a better overview of its spread. Extensive work is ahead of us. These restrictions will be lifted cautiously in order to prevent people from arriving with the virus.

Response team to reduce the interruption of services to vulnerable groups

There has been no breach of service in the service of vulnerable groups in the country in the last week. In collaboration with the Directorate of Health all directors within the social security sector received a questionnaire on 28 April with questions regarding the number of residents and employees in special housing arrangements, for disabled people and for those who have been in quarantine or infected by COVID-19. Answers were submitted from 18 local governments and/or service areas with information about three disabled individuals having been diagnosed with Covid-19 and seventeen employees. If no further answers are received from the local governments and/or service areas it is clear that the local governments have completed the difficult task of protecting this group of vulnerable individuals from the pandemic in a proper manner and that the administration and front-line staff are well entitled to praise for that.

Employment issues

As expected the unemployment rate within the general unemployment benefits system is approaching 7 %. Unemployment related to the reduced employment rate is almost 11 % now and thus the overall figure for unemployment is expected to be around 18 % in April, especially due to more people registering for the reduced employment option than expected. In total more than 36,000 persons will have registered for the reduced employment option in April. The average benefits percentage is around 59 %. The general unemployment system envisages that around 16,500 persons will be unemployed at the end of April, most of these fully unemployed. The total number of persons receiving the services of the Directorate of Labour due to unemployment insurance schemes is around 52,500 at the end of April. On Tuesday 5 May there was an opening for temporary benefits for individuals who have had to be quarantined. The process is through the My sites option on the Directorate of Labour website and is considered clear and simple.

The effects of COVID-19 on the disabled is discussed in the policy paper of the United Nations

The United Nations have issued a [policy brief](#) where the effects of COVID-19 on disabled people is discussed (May 2020) . The brief reaffirms the importance of all responses and actions covering disabled people as well, such as access to information and securing of services at any time, as well as collaborating with disabled people during the whole process. Key actions are also discussed in order to protect the disabled from infection and the effects of the ban on social gatherings, i.e. social isolation.

The assessment of Chief Epidemiologist on the propagation of antibodies to SARS-Cov-2: A collection of blood samples

has started to evaluate the distribution of SARS-CoV-2 in Icelandic society. This project only makes use of samples for the time being, from individuals who are having haematology work done for other reasons. No samples are being collected from individuals who have no other reasons for giving blood samples at this stage. **Antibody measurements for individuals who believe they have contracted COVID-19:** The Landspítali Bacterial and Virological department has started measuring viral antibodies and is by now receiving blood samples, but in these cases a request has to be submitted by a doctor.

New instructions

Instructions for Swimming Pools

- Íslenska: [Leiðbeiningar fyrir sund- og baðstaði og baðstaði í náttúrunni vegna COVID-19](#)
[Uppfærðar leiðbeiningar til fatlaðs fólks með NPA, aðra notendasamninga og aðstoðarfólks þeirra](#)

Information regarding who is eligible for exemptions from home quarantine: [íslenska](#) [enska](#)

Special instructions for journalists:

- [Instructions](#) and [an application form can be found here](#).

Special instructions for film crews:

- [Modified quarantine procedures for filming in Iceland during COVID-19](#)

The website www.covid.is

Statistical information about the disease is updated once a day and published at 13:00h on the covid.is website. <https://www.covid.is/tolulegar-upplysingar> The website contains information about the measures that have been taken in Iceland due to the COVID-19 disease and on projects related thereto. The website contains information in nine languages. The covid.is statistics website has now received over 4.9 million visits.

Upcoming

- The next press conference is planned for Friday 15 May at 14:03.
- The next COVID-19 coordination meeting will be held on Friday 14 May 2020 at 09:00.
- **The Civil Defence Status Report - Emergency status due to COVID-19** is accessible through the websites of the [Department of Civil Protection](#) and the [Directorate of Health](#). The status report is published when needed.



COVID-19 in Iceland – Statistics

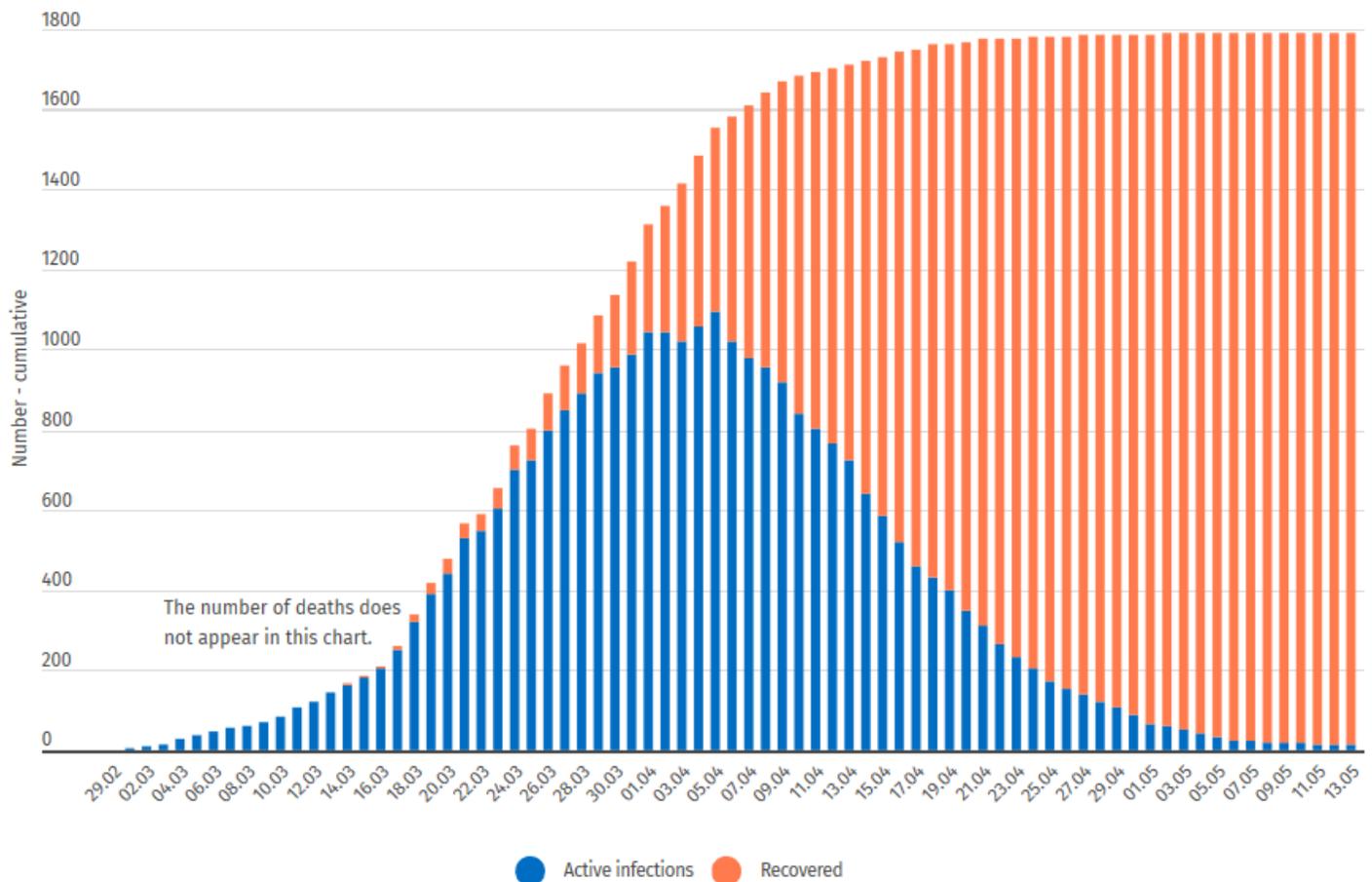
- Information on this page is obtained from the database at midnight.

Total figures

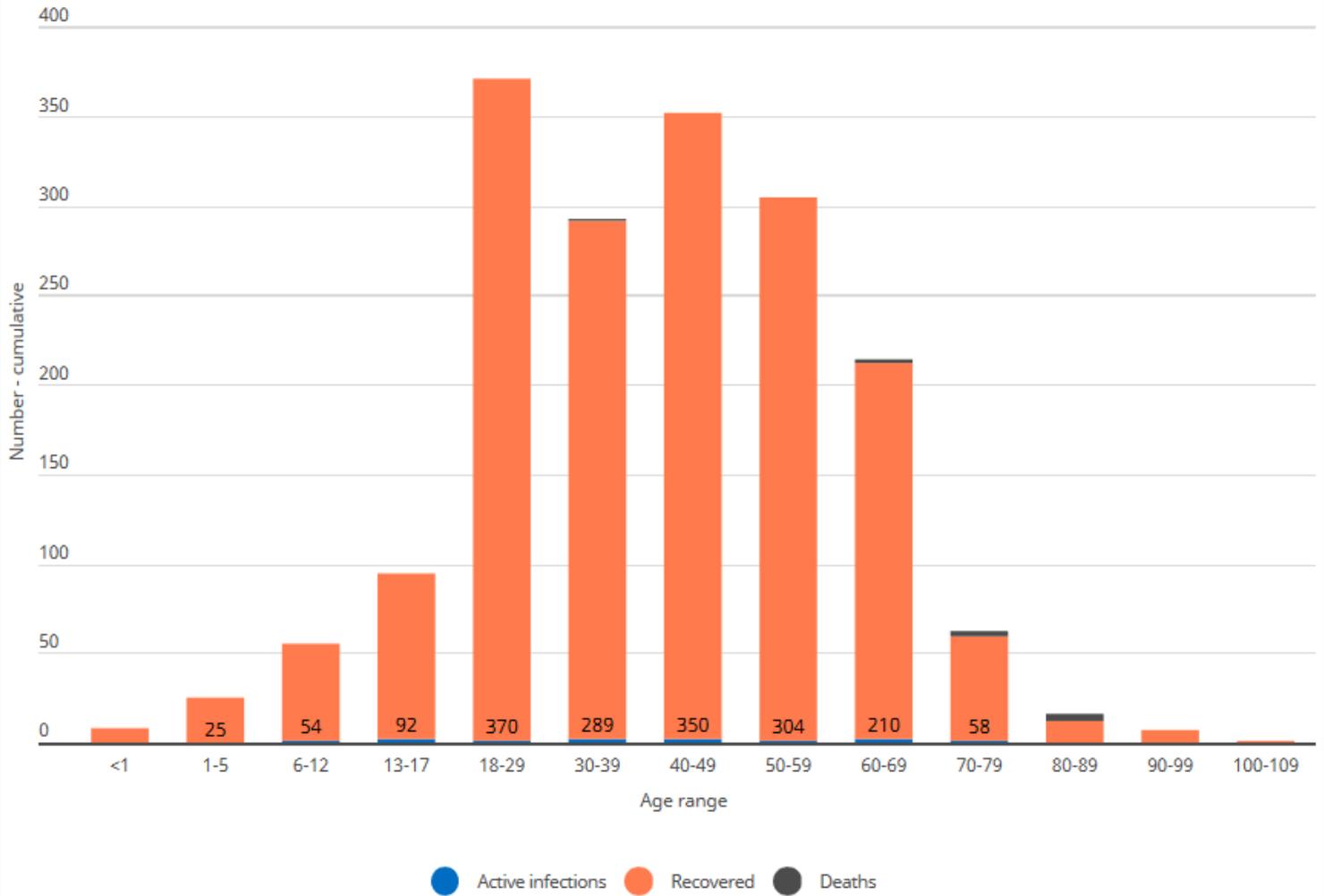


Of those diagnosed with COVID-19, ten have died.

Number of active infections and number of recovered



Number of active infections, recovered and deaths by age



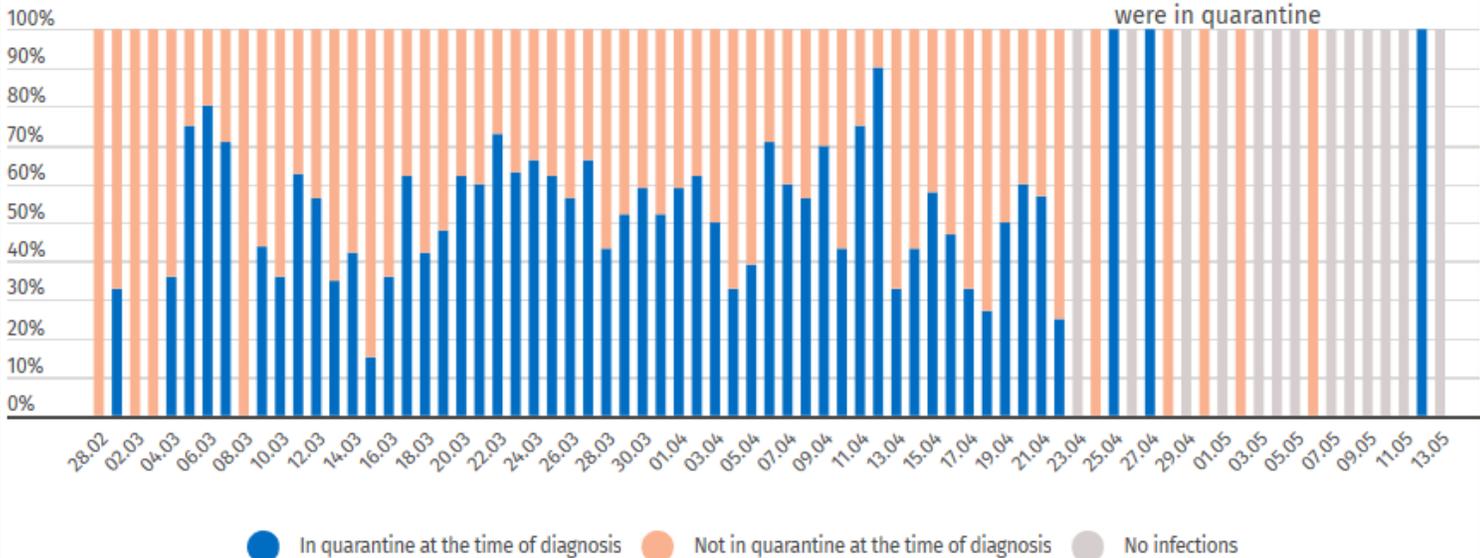
[Download data](#)

Percentage of infected persons who were diagnosed while in quarantine

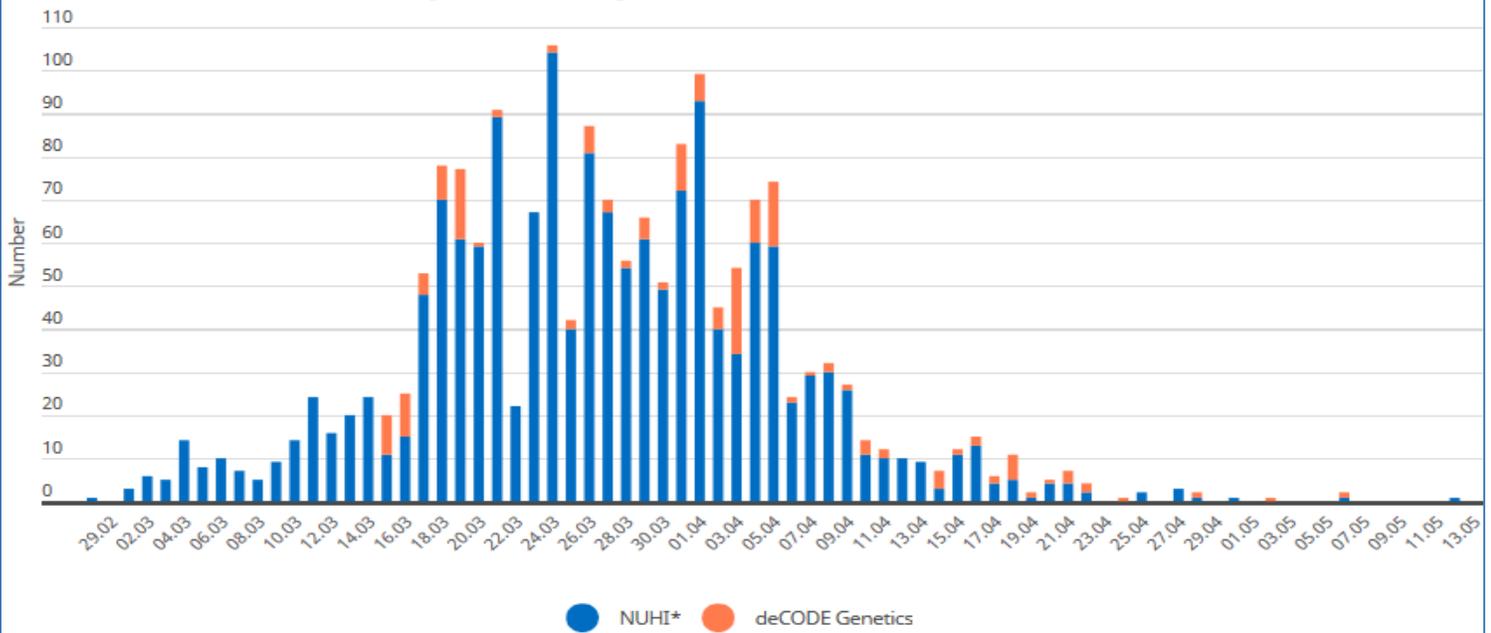


57%

of those who were diagnosed were in quarantine



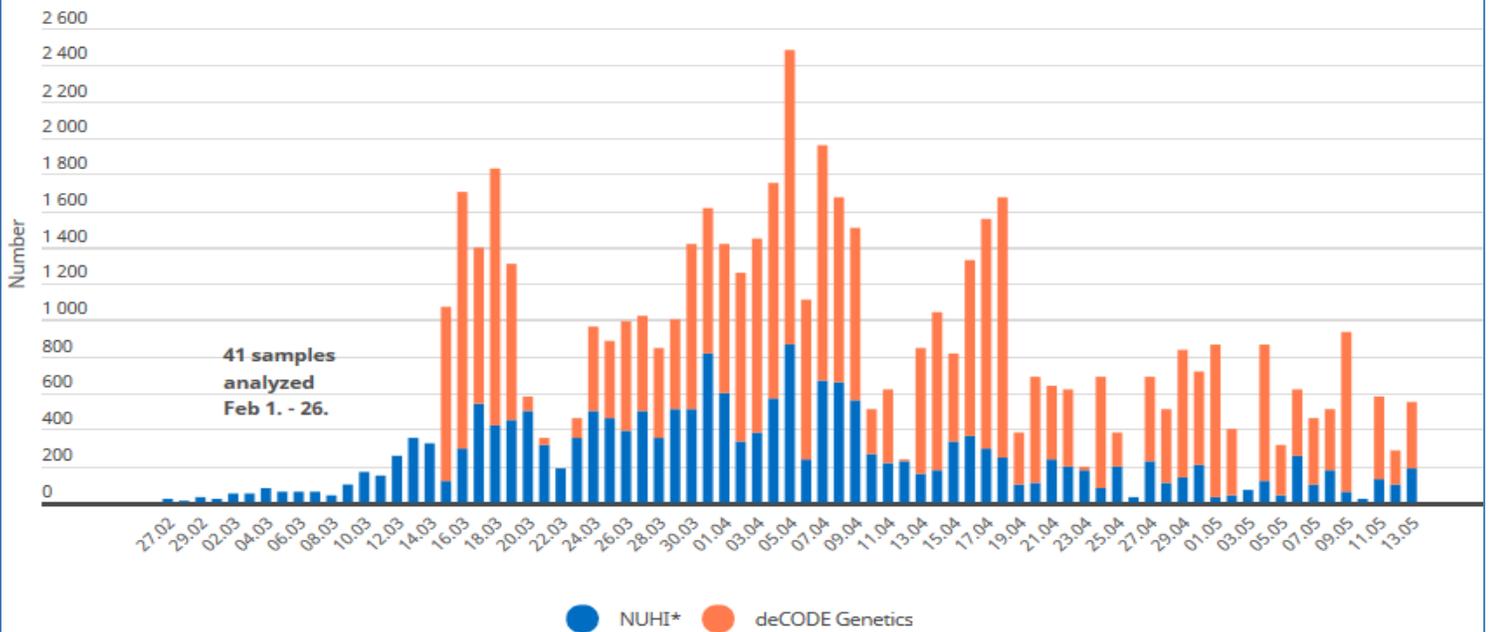
Number of infected persons, by date



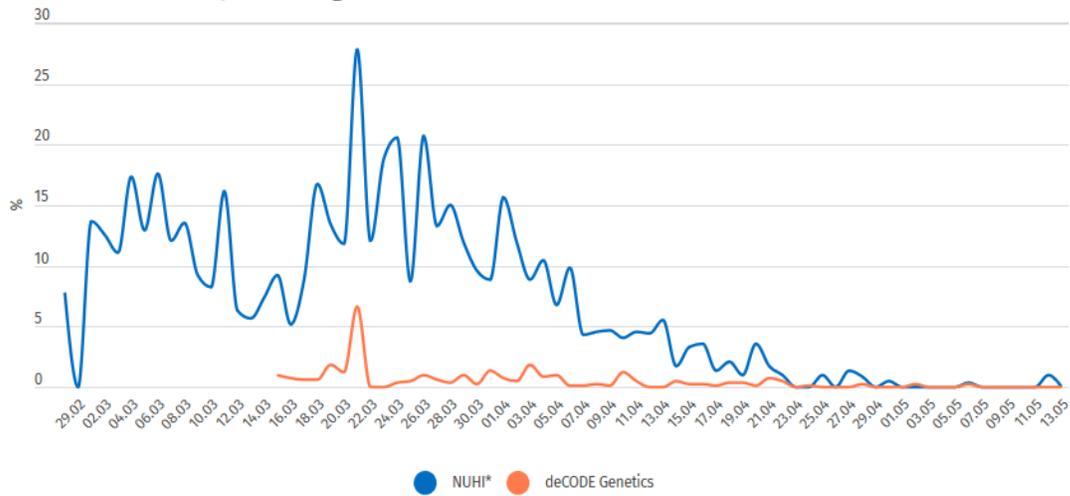
Download data

When information is published on the number of new infections since the previous day, it is possible that the column in the bar graph will not be the same. This is because the publication of information on new infections is based on the date the test was taken and not the date the infection was diagnosed.

Number of tests per day



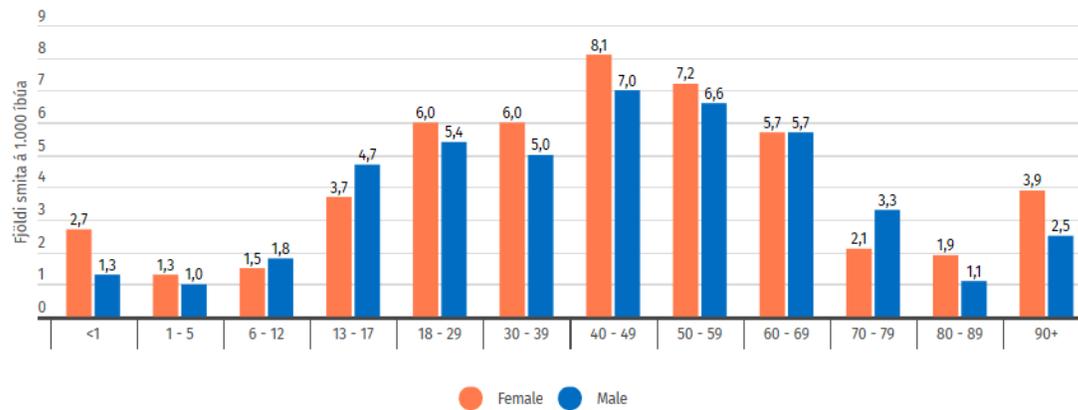
Infections as a percentage of tests conducted



[Download data](#)

Number of infections per 1,000 inhabitants, by age and sex

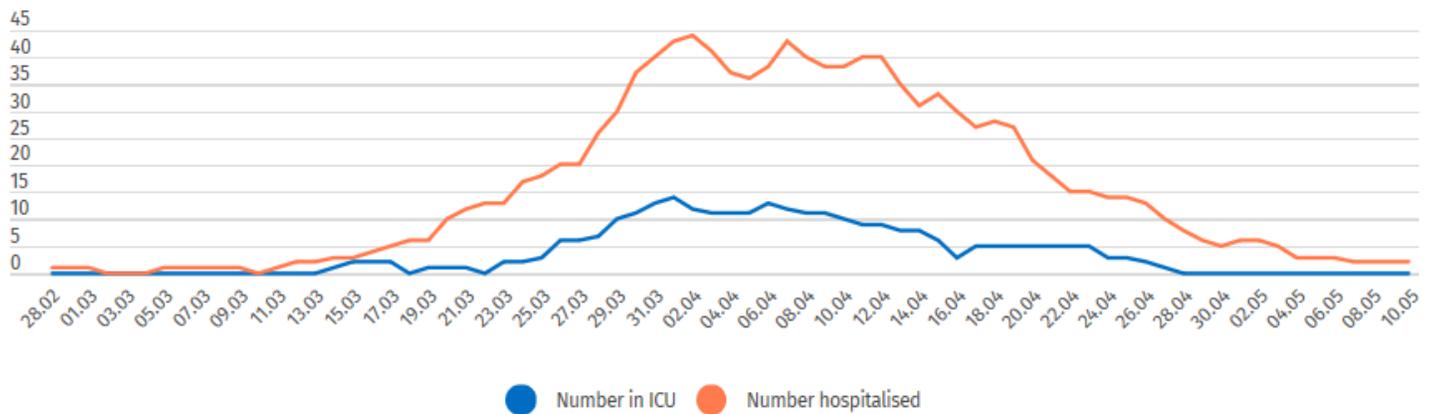
- Updated on Tuesdays



[Download data](#)

Number of hospitalised patients with confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis

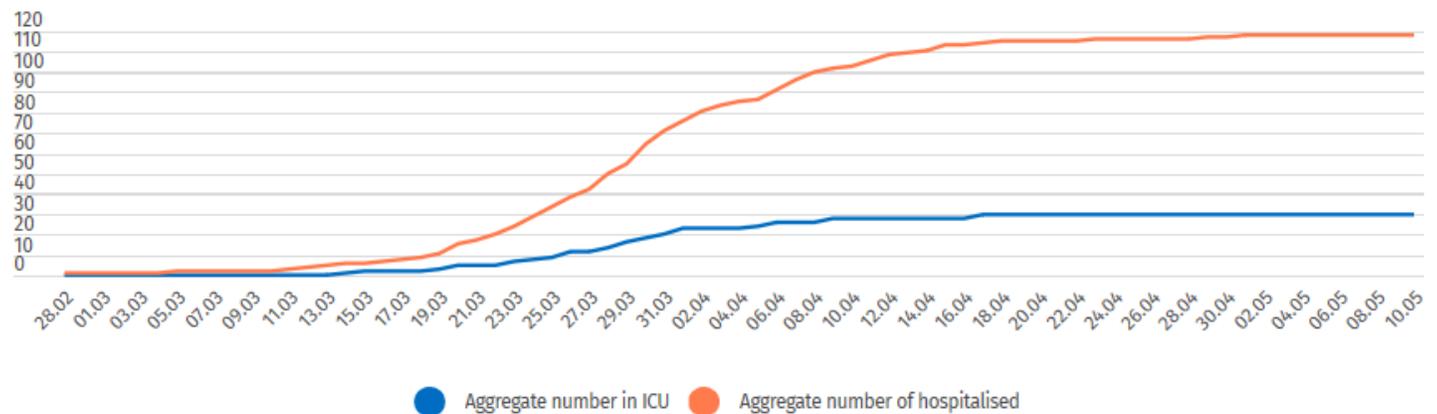
- Updated on Tuesdays



Download data

Aggregate number of hospitalised patients with confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis

- Updated on Tuesdays



Download data

Coronavirus – Global spread

According to Johns Hopkins, **4,371,611 individual cases** of COVID-19 have been confirmed today and **297,682 individuals** have died. An additional **1,562,673 individuals** have already recovered from the illness. 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 \(ECDC\)](#) website for information on the development in each country. Cf. the ECDC risk assessment.