


March 17, 2020: COVID-19 Regional Update: AECO Operational Area

Country/Region	Svalbard	Greenland	Iceland	Arctic Canada
Population	2400 (Longyearbyen, Ny-Ålesund)	56,000	364,000	84,000 (Nunavut, NWT)
Confirmed cases Source: https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html	0 (1360 cases in Norway)	1 (916 cases in Denmark – Notice! The authorities in DK are no longer conducting tests unless you are critically ill.)	180	0 (424 cases in Canada; 0 in Arctic Canada)
Recent updates	<p>So far, no confirmed cases in Svalbard.</p> <p>Nordic collaboration established to bring back Nordic citizens with primary home in the North.</p> <p>The Norwegian Maritime Authority considers the COVID-19 situation as force majeure when it comes to 'Extension of certificates and vessel instructions. Read #5: https://www.sdir.no/sjofart/regelverk/rundskriv/covid-19---extension-of-certificates-and-vessel-instructions/</p>	<p>Airports still open. All persons arriving to Greenland from March 16 and thereafter should self-quarantine/isolate for 2 weeks.</p> <p>Cruise vessels will be asked to send a Maritime Declaration of Health to relevant port authorities before entering Greenlandic ports – as announced in our update March 11. The document is available here FYI.</p>	<p>All ports and airports are still open. TOURISTS: There are no travel restrictions put in place but the Government has advised Icelanders not to travel abroad due to measures taken by other states in response to COVID-19. Tourists traveling to Iceland do not need to go into quarantine.</p> <p> Notice this change in procedures for vessels arriving to their first port in Iceland: The vessel will have to fill out the Captain's declaration on COVID-19 suspect cases on board vessel before arriving to the first port of call. If any of the answers are marked as YES then The Directorate of Health in Iceland will be contacted and they will have to evaluate the situation.</p>	<p>All ships from foreign countries must report to Transport Canada 96-hours before entering Canadian waters. Once Transport Canada receives the report, they confirm the health status of the crew with the master. Reports are shared with the Public Health Agency of Canada for immediate action. https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/marine/documents/20-AA-35-HEALTH_REPORTING_SHIPS_17X11_EN_acc.pdf</p>

			This could mean that nobody from the vessel can go on shore.	
Health advice /Information from authorities	<p>Latest news on coronavirus Read the latest information from the Norwegian Maritime Authority regarding the coronavirus and any challenges it might pose to the shipping industry.</p> <p>https://www.sdir.no/en/news/latest-new-on-coronavirus/</p> <p>The Norwegian Institute of Public Health is advising against travel that is not strictly necessary.</p> <p>Travelers should assess their need to travel against the current situation at the destination. This especially applies to the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions.</p> <p>The risk of infection depends on the destination and the duration and type of travel. The WHO has an overview of reported cases from different countries to give an indication of how the situation is at the destination. Link</p>	<p>Only citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Denmark or persons with a worthy purpose for entry are allowed entry to Greenland following the closing of the Danish borders. Link</p> <p>All people arriving to Greenland must go in a 14 days quarantine, unless they fill certain vital positions. https://sermitsiaq.ag/udefra-i-karantaene-ny-krisestab</p> <p>The Greenland Government strongly advises against all unnecessary domestic travel as well as international to Greenland, this applies to ships as well as airplanes.</p> <p>All indoor public rooms and spaces should only allow half capacity of what the max no. of people allowed normally is according to fire authorities as a precaution.</p> <p>The authorities assures that Greenland does not and will not have a supply problem during this outbreak.</p> <p>Link (in Danish and Greenlandic only): https://www.nun.gl/Nyheder/2020/03/Nye%20anbefalinger%2012%20marts?sc_lang=da</p>	<p>Stricter measures to slow down the spread of COVID-19:</p> <p>The Government has announced a ban on gatherings of 100 people or more, starting Monday 16 March. Universities and upper secondary schools will close for four weeks and special conditions will apply to elementary schools and preschools.</p> <p>Full statement https://www.government.is/news/article/?newsid=8e737b9b-6535-11ea-9456-005056bc530c</p>	<p>An official global travel advisory is in effect: Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice. Avoid all travel on cruise ships until further notice. https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html</p> <p>‘As a response to COVID-19, the Government of Canada will defer the start of the cruise ship season in Canada, from April 2, 2020, to July 1, 2020, at the earliest. This deferral will apply to cruise ships capable of carrying more than 500 passengers and crew members.</p> <p>Given the limited public health capacity in Canada’s Northern communities, the cruise ship season for vessels with Canadian Arctic stops will be deferred for the entire season this year. This would apply to cruise ships of all sizes.’</p> <p>Source: Canadian Government and here’s the press release in its entire length</p>

Link to official Authority Websites on the Coronavirus	<p>Norwegian Institute for Public Health: https://www.fhi.no/en/id/infectious-diseases/coronavirus/</p> <p>The Governor of Svalbard: https://www.sysselmannen.no/en/news/2020/03/handtering-av-koronavirus-pa-svalbard/</p>	<p>The Greenland Chief Medical Officer (Greenlandic and Danish only): https://nun.gl/Emner/Borgere/Coronavirus?sc_lang=da</p> <p>The official information site on corona situation in the Kingdom of Denmark: https://politi.dk/coronavirus-i-danmark/in-english</p>	<p>The official Icelandic information site on the corona situation in Iceland: https://www.covid.is/english</p>	<p>The Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html</p>
Public Financial Relief and Support	<p>The Norwegian Parliament has decided on a relief package to minimize negative impact on businesses and secure jobs. https://www.nrk.no/norge/enighet-om-krisepakke-til-koronarammet-naeringsliv-1.14945891</p>	<p>The Greenland Employers Association has asked the Greenland Government to consider a relief package to avoid loss of jobs due to the COVID-19 situation. https://sermitsiaq.ag/genoedplan-afvaerge-konkursboelge</p>	<p>Icelandic economic Action Plan include among other: -extended deadlines for taxes -temporary relief for tourism industry (incl. temporarily reducing industry specific tax payments See full list here</p>	<p>Government of Canada to provide financial assistance to Canadians abroad https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-to-provide-financial-assistance-to-canadians-abroad.html</p>
Add'tl links	<p>Greenland: 32 tourism jobs lost in Qeqqata (comprising Sisimiut, Maniitsoq, Kangerlussuaq): https://sermitsiaq.ag/arctic-circle-business32-alleredemistet-job (in Danish)</p> <p>Svalbard: AECO voices very direct critique of new swiftly introduced legislation process in the light of the Corona-crisis: https://svalbardposten.no/nyheter/reiselivet-i-knesteende-fortsatt-stramme-statlige-frister/19.12162 (in Norwegian)</p> <p>Iceland: About one percent of Icelanders with Corona-virus: https://grapevine.is/news/2020/03/15/first-results-of-general-population-screening-about-1-of-icelanders-with-coronavirus/ (in English)</p> <p>Canada: COVID-19 and Mental Health @ Work: https://www.canada.ca/en/government/publicservice/covid-19/covid-19-mental-health-work.html</p>			