

March 23, 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 (2385 cases in Norway, number was 1895 on the 20 th)	4 – number was 2 on the 20 th (1572 cases in Denmark, number was 1308 on the 20 th) * Notice! Only critically ill are tested	568, number was 409 on the 20 th	1 in Arctic Canada, NWT 0 in Nunavut (1469 cases in Canada, number was 923 cases on the 20 th)
 Recent updates	<p>Norway takes initiative for new coronavirus fund at UN.</p> <p>Norway is taking the initiative to create a new multi-donor fund at the United Nations to assist developing countries with weak health systems in addressing the coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>Full release here.</p>	<p>Updated measures for port authorities in Greenland per March 20:</p> <p>The Port Authority shall notify the ship of to not enter the port and contact the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO).</p> <p>The ship will contact the CPHO for a discussion of the specific situation.</p> <p>The CPHO notifies the Greenland Police whether the ship has been released to go to berth and whether there are other actions required.</p> <p>The port authority of the port concerned shall first authorize the ship to enter the port and go alongside if the CPHO has released the ship.</p> <p>(Source: Letter for the port authorities from the Dept. of Infrastructure, note AECO’s translation)</p>	<p>Stricter measures enforced in Iceland: Ban on gatherings of more than 20 people</p> <p>The Icelandic government has announced a ban on gatherings of 20 people or more, starting Tuesday 24 March 2020. These measures are put in place to halt the spread of COVID-19 infections in Iceland, following recommendations from the Chief Epidemiologist to Svandís Svavarsdóttir Iceland’s Minister of Health. The advice of the Chief Epidemiologist to the Minister of Health has been to focus the response in Iceland on the swift diagnosis of COVID-19 cases.</p> <p>The ban is in force until 12 April 2020. The changes today modify the previous 100-person limit, in place since 16 March 2020.</p> <p>Source: Covid.is</p>	<p>Prohibition of travel to the NWT</p> <p>https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/news-release-chief-public-health-officer-prepares-order-prohibition-travel-nwt-limited</p> <p>.....</p> <p>COVID-19 GN Update - March 20, 2020 Source here.</p> <p>Premier’s update:</p> <p>As of today, there are no known cases of COVID-19 in the territory. The public health communicable disease team is following approximately 79 persons under investigation. 29 people who were previously under investigation have been cleared and no longer need isolation.</p>

<p>Health advice /Information from authorities</p>	<p>Updates from the Norwegian Maritime Authority on the coronavirus and its effects on the shipping industry: 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>With effect from Saturday March 21 all domestic flights and flights between Denmark and Greenland are suspended for 14 days. All primary schools will be closed for 14 days. https://knr.gl/da/nyheder/coronafrygt-skoler-lukker-og-flytrafik-stopper-fra-fredag</p> <p>The Greenland Government strongly advises against all unnecessary international and domestic travel, 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>Government ban on public gathering of more than 100 people in effect. Universities and upper secondary schools closed for four weeks. Elementary and Preschools remain open with restrictions.</p> <p>Full statement https://www.government.is/news/article/?newsid=8e737b9b-6535-11ea-9456-005056bc530c</p> <p>Large scale testing of the Icelandic population underway https://www.government.is/news/article/2020/03/15/Large-scale-testing-of-general-population-in-Iceland-underway/</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>
<p>Link to official Authority Websites on the Coronavirus</p>	<p>Norwegian Institute for Public Health: https://www.fhi.no/en/id/infectious-diseases/coronavirus/</p>	<p>The Greenland Chief Medical Officer (Greenlandic and Danish only): https://nun.gl/Emner/Borgere/Coronavirus?sc_lang=da</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/</p>

	<p>The Governor of Svalbard: https://www.sysselmannen.no/en/news/2020/03/handtering-av-koronavirus-pa-svalbard/</p> <p>Norwegian Foreign Ministry: https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/foreign-affairs/reiseinformasjon/travel_coronavirus/id2691821/</p>	<p>The official information site on corona situation in the Kingdom of Denmark: https://politi.dk/coronavirus-i-danmark/in-english</p>		<p>health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html</p> <p>For information on preventive measures, go to: https://www.health.gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus</p> <p>For information on travel and related advisories go to: https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories</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-naeringslivet-1.14945891</p> <p>Compensation scheme presented for culture, voluntary sector and sport https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/large-compensation-scheme-for-culture-voluntary-sector-and-sport/id2693889/</p>	<p>The Greenland Parliament has disseminated more information on a relief package for Greenland businesses: https://naalakkersuisut.gl/da/Naalakkersuisut/Nyheder/2020/03/2103_Hjaelpepakker (Danish)</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 has introduced an aid package in support for businesses https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/economic-aid-package-coronavirus-1.5501037</p> <p>Help line for Canadian companies: Regarding concerns for loss of wages for your employees: The Government of Canada's information line for EI Claims related to COVID-19 at 1-833-381-2725.</p> <p>Further information will be coming out about the loss of revenue for small businesses.</p> <p>Government of Canada to provide financial assistance to Canadians abroad https://www.canada.ca/en/global</p>

				al-affairs/news/2020/03/governme nt-of-canada-to-provide- financial-assistance-to- canadians-abroad.html
Add'tl links	<p>GREENLAND: Numbers of Corona infected in Nuuk doubles to 4: https://sermitsiaq.ag/flere-coronasmittede-i-nuuk (Danish)</p> <p>CANADA: Nunavut is Canada's last jurisdiction without a positive test for COVID-19 https://nunavutnews.com/nunavut-news/nunavut-is-canadas-last-jurisdiction-without-a-positive-test-for-covid-19/</p> <p>ICELAND: All flight routes to and from Iceland may close soon https://www.ruv.is/frett/all-flight-routes-to-and-from-iceland-may-close-soon</p> <p>SVALBARD (Norway): Northern Norway Still Resisting: https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/updated-corona-arctic-northern-norway-still-resisting</p> <p>THE POLAR CONNECTION: CORONAVIRUS OBSERVATORY: TRACKING THE PANDEMIC IN THE ARCTIC AND THE ANTARCTIC</p> <p>WHO: WHO Health Alert brings COVID-19 facts to billions via WhatsApp https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/who-health-alert-brings-covid-19-facts-to-billions-via-whatsapp</p>			