

November 20, 2020: COVID-19 Regional Update #79: AECO Operational Area

Country/Region	Svalbard	Greenland	Iceland	Arctic Canada
Population	2400 (Longyearbyen, Ny-Ålesund)	56,000	366,000	84,000 (Nunavut, NWT)
Confirmed cases Source: https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html	0 31 441 cases in Norway (up from 28 434 on November 16) 17 998 recovered	18 (18 recovered) 67 621 in Denmark (up from 62 652 on November 16) 52 958 recovered	5 231 cases, up from 5 205 on November 16) 4 973 recovered	74 in Nunavut 15 in NWT 319 175 cases in Canada (up from 299 422 on November 16) 257 310 recovered
Links to official health authorities' websites on the Covid-19	The Norwegian Institute for Public Health The Norwegian Government The Governor of Svalbard Norwegian Foreign Ministry	Greenland Chief Medical Officer official site on the Covid-19 situation	The office of the Director of Public Health and the Civil Protection Department site on the Covid-19 situation in Iceland	Department of Health for information on preventive measures Government of Canada for information on travel and related advisories

Updates, regulations and travel advice from governments and national authorities

Svalbard

- [Update](#) on travel to Svalbard: On Nov 5, new national infection control measures were implemented by the Norwegian government, which also apply to Svalbard. This means, among other things, that unnecessary travel to/from the Norwegian mainland should be avoided. Business trips that are considered as necessary can be carried out.
- [Change](#) in categorization of countries on October 10.
- [Change](#) of travel advice for some Nordic regions.
- [Extension](#) of travel advice to January 15 and changes in categorization of countries.
- [Firmer rules for Svalbard](#) from September 3. A ban on cruise activity on Svalbard has been implemented. This does not apply to day cruises and cruises that start and finish in Svalbard, with up to 30 people on board. These regulations will initially last until November 1.
- The Norwegian government [recommends](#) to avoid any unnecessary travel abroad. [Updated](#) October 1.
- [Changes in travel advice](#). There have been reports of significantly increasing incidence in several countries and regions in the EU / EEA. The Norwegian government will therefore introduce entry quarantine requirements for travelers from additional countries in the EU / EEA, more countries change from yellow to red.
- Quarantine must be carried out on the mainland. [Info from Sysselmannen](#). See also [update](#) on travel to Svalbard from Nov 5.
- Norwegian authorities have revised the travel advice from August 19 following an increase in infections in many countries. Travelers from “red” areas must go in quarantine upon arrival to Norway. [See updated list here](#)
- Norway has passed temporarily new and more restrictive regulations for cruise operations in Svalbard, and along the Norwegian coast. We refer to mail sent out to members on August 6.
- Effective October 28, Foreign workers who have been in an area where the level of infection is particularly high during the 10-day period before their arrival in Norway must go into quarantine on entry to Norway. In addition, there are new instructions for foreign workers who are exempted from the duty of quarantine. [See information here](#).
- The Norwegian government [recommends](#) to avoid any unnecessary travel abroad. Page updated 31.10.20.
- Updated [Overview](#) of categorization of countries according to transmission situation (website in Norwegian)
- Changes to entry and quarantine valid from August 15. [Link](#).
- Effective July 15, Svalbard opens to those from several countries within the Schengen area and EEA sufficiently low transmission rates. Updated November 5. [Link](#).
- Coastal cruises - infection prevention plans are mandatory. Announced July 14 by the Governor of Svalbard: [link](#).
- Updates from the Norwegian Maritime Authority regarding the coronavirus can be found here: [Link](#).
- Norwegian COVID-19 protocols with regards to crew change on ships, published 15.06.20 and updated 30.10.20. [Link](#).
- The Norwegian Coastal Administration [The Coronavirus and Seagoing Traffic](#).
- Further links to travel advice [Link](#).

- Norway has passed temporarily new and more restrictive regulations for cruise operations in Svalbard, and along the Norwegian coast. We refer to mail sent out to members on August 6.
- Latest [update](#) from Visit Svalbard updated November 12.

Greenland

- Effective Monday 9, Greenland's airspace is closed, meaning that only flights to and from Copenhagen are allowed. Some flights are excepted, such as emergency flights. The duration of this measure is yet to be determined. [Link](#) (Danish)
- New entry [requirements](#) (Danish) valid from September 30 - quarantine, negative tests and face masks required for everyone entering Greenland.
- New test center and [procedures](#) in Nuuk (Danish), valid from October 9.
- Visit Greenland [FAQs](#) updated November 12.
- Greenland Government has updated the Executive Order on travel to Greenland of September 29, 2020. [Link](#) (Danish)
- Cruise vessels may not enter Greenland waters if they have visited a port in another country within 14 days before arrival to Greenland. [Link](#) to announcement valid from July 21 to December 31 (Danish).
- Information on travel to Greenland, updated July 31 [Link](#).
- Greenland Government announced new entry regulations from July 21 to December 31. Cruise vessels may not enter Greenland waters if they have visited a port in another country within 14 days before arrival to Greenland. [Link](#) (Danish).

Iceland

-  Latest information on screening and infections at Iceland's borders, updated November 20 [Link](#).
-  Testing of travelers for COVID-19 at Iceland's borders is to be free of charge, on a temporary basis, from 1 December 2020 until 31 January 2021. [Link](#).
- Double screening for those arriving in Iceland, a measure announced October 7 and valid until December 1. [Link](#).
- Quarantine shortened from 14 to 7 days, ending with a test, effective from September 14 [Link](#).
- Information for those travelling to Iceland about measures put in place July 31 [Link](#).
- Foreign nationals, who are neither [EU/EEA nor EFTA nationals](#), are not allowed to enter Iceland unless they can demonstrate that their travel is essential. See [link](#).
- Foreign nationals staying in Iceland that have been unable to return to their home countries due to travel restrictions, quarantine or isolation were given permission to stay without a residence permit or visa until 10 November 2020. The permission to stay without a residence permit or visa will not be extended again and such stays beyond 10 November 2020 may result in an expulsion. See [link](#).
- Stricter rules to combat infection in the metropolitan area. [Link](#).
- Information from the Immigration Authorities regarding Covid-19, effective from October 7 to 19. [Link](#)
- New information page on travel restrictions to Iceland published November 9. [Link](#).

- The Director of health in Iceland guidelines and strategy plans for foreign vessels in Iceland if there is a risk of COVID-19 on board. Here is [a link of the Icelandic guidelines and response to COVID-19 for foreign vessels](#)
- Information about Iceland and COVID-19 by Visit Iceland. [Link](#).

Arctic Canada

- Overview of who can travel to Canada. See [Link](#).
-  COVID-19 GN Department of Health Update – November 16. [Link](#).
- Nunavut extends public health emergency - October 1, [Link](#).
- Temperature screening for air travel, backgrounder. [Link](#).
- Nunavut's Path: Moving forward during COVID-19 [Link](#).
-  Effective Nov 18, Nunavut entered a mandatory, territory-wide restriction period for two weeks which includes closure of all non-essential services, businesses and organizations. [Link](#).
-  Travel Nunavut Statement and Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) issued Nov 16 [Link](#).
- New measures for pleasure craft in northern communities, announced May 14. [Link](#)
- 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. [Link](#).
- 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. See [press release](#) from the Canadian Government issued March 13.
- On March 13, Transport Canada [announced](#) that the start of the 2020 cruise season would be deferred.
- On October 29, Transport Canada [announced](#) the extension of measures pertaining to cruise ships and pleasure craft until February 28, 2021.

Other regions and global developments

[US CDCR - Framework for Conditional Sailing Order for Cruise Ships](#), published November 5. [Link](#).

Additional links and news, AECO operational area and global

[Travel 'bubble' between N.W.T. and Nunavut suspended until further notice](#)

[Nunavut moves to territory-wide COVID-19 restrictions](#)

[U.S. Navy Study: Quarantine is No Guarantee Against COVID's Spread](#)

[Nunavut's COVID-19 count rises by four, bringing total to 74](#)