

# Report of the working group on COVID-19 testing for international arrivals

## Summary

The main results of the project management are as follows:

1. Given the criteria set out for the project, the testing capacity of the National University Hospital Biology and Virology Department (SVEID) for international arrivals is currently 500 tests per day. To increase capacity, equipment, staffing, and facilities of SVEID must be improved, under current plans, capacity could be expanded to 1000 tests per day after mid-July, at the earliest. Also, in case of a group infection or an increased rate of infections in Iceland, testing for symptomatic individuals will take precedence over testing for international arrivals. Partnering with other analytical entities could increase testing capacity, the combined analytical capacity has not been assessed.
2. Special attention must be given to the availability of testing kits. The current inventory stands at 10,000 sets.
3. The uncertainty regarding the number of arrivals during the project period could jeopardize the project, should capacity be exceeded, causing delays in testing on arrival.
4. Regardless of the project, it is necessary to make improvements to SVEID that will enable the ward to perform its role adequately as an infectious disease laboratory. The department's current capacity, equipment, facilities, and limited staffing is a weakness in the country's epidemiological response and civil protection capabilities in the event of a further outbreak of COVID-19 infections or other infectious diseases.
5. The working group finds that test results can be delivered in approximately 5 hours from testing during the day. Tests performed outside of office hours will be analyzed on the following day unless staffing is increased. Test results from other border stations may take longer, especially if the samples have to be sent to Reykjavik for analysis.
6. The estimated cost of each sample is ISK 23-50 thousand depending on the number of samples taken during the day, for 100-500 daily arrivals.
7. Relevant laws or regulations must clearly state the responsibility of carriers to register passengers to reduce the number of infectious persons coming to Iceland; to facilitate swift and effective testing procedures and to identify the passengers who elect to present health certificates those going into quarantine.

8. Border police must have the authority to stop those who do not intend to comply with these measures from entering the country.

9. It is also essential to ensure the continuation of testing, diagnosis, contact tracing, quarantine and isolation measures, to be coordinated by the civil protection and health authorities as hitherto.

10. Providing information to tourists is an integral part of the project. The contact tracing app, launched in April to facilitate the contract tracing team's work, will need to be updated to include essential information for tourists.