

38/2022

Regulation on quarantine and isolation and quarantine measures at Iceland's borders due to COVID-19.

CHAPTER I

General provisions.

Article 1

Scope and objectives.

This regulation applies to all persons who are required by an epidemiologist to quarantine or isolate on the basis of the Epidemiological Act no. 19/1997, with subsequent amendments, due to the SARS-CoV-2 virus whether it results from the Epidemic Act or this regulation or a decision directed specifically to the person concerned. This regulation also applies to quarantine measures at Iceland's borders due to COVID-19.

Article 2

Definitions.

Isolation: The separation of persons who are infected or carrying infections, and therefore pose a risk to public health, from others in a way that prevents the spread of infection.

Tourist: A person traveling between countries. The term thus covers all persons traveling between countries, whether they are Icelandic citizens or not.

Tourists with connections to Iceland: Icelandic citizens, persons residing in Iceland, with a residence or work permit in Iceland, i.e. on m. applicants for such a license and their relatives. Also persons with a long-term visa in Iceland, applicants for international protection and persons coming to Iceland for work or study that will last longer than seven days and their relatives.

Immunization: A planned operation that stimulates the immune system to control an infectious disease in the community, such as by vaccination or administration of antibodies.

Contagion tracing: When tracking transmission between individuals through detailed conversation with those who are infected to find out where the person became infected and who they may have infected, and other information gathering in order to find those who may have been exposed to infection.

Quarantine: Restriction of freedom of movement and/or separation of persons suspected of having been exposed to infection, but who are not sick, from others in a manner that prevents the possible spread of infection.

Epidemic quarantine house: A place where a person, who does not live in the same place in Iceland or for other reasons cannot or does not want to isolate himself in housing on his own, can be quarantined or isolated because he is suspected of being infected with an epidemic or if it is confirmed that so be it.

II. CHAPTER Isolation and quarantine.

Article 3

Obligation to undergo solitary confinement.

A person with a confirmed infection with COVID-19 must be isolated at home or in a place specified by the epidemiologist or the district epidemiologist at each location, such as an epidemiologist, cf. Article 6 In cases where it is suspected that a positive PCR test shows an earlier infection, a person can undergo an antibody test on a blood sample. If an antibody test shows that the person is not considered contagious, he does not need to be isolated.

A person with a confirmed infection of COVID-19 by PCR test must be isolated for 7 days from diagnosis. However, the doctors of Landspítali's COVID-19 outpatient department are allowed to extend the isolation of a person with COVID-19 based on a medical assessment. In other respects, the lifting of isolation depends on the instructions of the epidemiologist, cf. attachment 2.

A person in isolation should stay at home and have direct contact with as few people as possible. However, a person in isolation, other than those staying in a quarantine house, is allowed to go for walks in the immediate surroundings of the home, if he follows the instructions of an epidemiologist, cf. attachment 2. Provisions of Article 5. also applies to those subject to isolation unless stricter rules apply. Thus, a person in isolation may not use taxis.

An infected person must be isolated in isolation. However, other household members can be quarantined in the same place if they don't want to or can't leave the house, but they should limit contact with the person in isolation as much as is practical and preferably stay at least 2 m away from the infected person. If more people in the household get sick, it increases the time other household members have to be in quarantine and possible isolation.

Further instructions on isolation can be found in the instructions issued by the epidemiologist for the public on isolation, cf. attachment 2. Furthermore, the epidemiologist can specifically prescribe how isolation should be carried out in individual cases, if he deems it necessary.

Article 4

Obligation to quarantine or maintain aseptic conditions.

All those who are suspected of having stayed in the same place of residence as a person with COVID-19 must go into quarantine for five days, from the time they last stayed with an infected person, from whom they are released with a negative result from a PCR test. If a person remains in quarantine without maintaining full separation from a person in isolation, the quarantine shall never be lifted until a day after the lifting of the isolation of the person subject to it following a negative result from the PCR test of the person subject to quarantine. Then, a person who does not undergo a PCR test to be released from quarantine must undergo it for 14 days from exposure to infection.

Individuals vaccinated against COVID-19 with three doses of a vaccine approved by the Medicines Agency, where the third dose was given at least 14 days before exposure to infection, and individuals who have had a confirmed infection with COVID-19 and have been vaccinated with two doses of a vaccine against COVID-19, recognized by Lyfjastofnun, where the second dose was given at least 14 days before exposure to infection, should not be quarantined according to Paragraph 1 maintains aseptic hygiene and takes care of their duties according to Article 5. a. Furthermore, they must undergo a PCR test no earlier than on the fifth day of aseptic technique, which must be lifted following a negative test result, cf. although the 2nd sentence Paragraph 1

Also, others who have been in contact with a person with COVID-19, outside the place of residence, must maintain aseptic hygiene for five days from the last time they were in contact with an

infected person. Their duties depend on Article 5. a. However, children born in 2006 and later are exempt from aseptic hygiene due to contact outside the place of residence with a person with COVID-19.

The positive result of a PCR test depends on Article 3.

Article 5

Obligations of persons subject to quarantine.

Those who have been quarantined according to this regulation are obliged to stay at home or at the place where they are quarantined. A person in home quarantine must separate himself from others outside the place of residence.

Quarantine includes the following:

- a. A person may not leave home unless absolutely necessary, such as to seek necessary health care. A person can go on walks, but must stay at least 2 meters away from other pedestrians.
- b. A person may not receive visitors in his home or in the place where he is in quarantine during the quarantine period.
- c. A person may not use public transport, but he is allowed to use a taxi.
- d. A person may not go to work or school where others are.
- e. A person may not go to gatherings or places where many people gather, including shops or pharmacies.
- f. A person may not stay in the common spaces of apartment buildings, hotels and other similar spaces, such as stairwells, laundry rooms or common gardens/outdoor areas, except on the way in and out.

A place of residence in home quarantine must otherwise meet the conditions stated in the epidemiologist's instructions for accommodation in quarantine, cf. attachment 3.

The Epidemiologist issues detailed instructions for the public on quarantine, cf. attachment 1. He can also specifically prescribe how quarantine should be conducted in individual cases, if he deems it necessary.

Article 5 a

Duties of persons practicing aseptic technique.

Asepsis involves restriction of freedom of movement for five days after exposure to infection in the following ways:

- a. A person should avoid places where there are more than 50 people.
- b. Despite section a, a person may go to work or school even if there are more people gathered there, as well as get necessary services, such as health care, go to shops and use public transport.
- c. An individual must wear a mask when interacting with individuals, other than those considered to be in close contact, both outdoors and indoors.
- d. A person is not allowed to visit health institutions, including nursing homes, without the special permission of the institution concerned.
- e. A person should avoid contact with persons who are at increased risk of serious illness if they are infected with COVID-19.

- f. A person must undergo PCR sampling as soon as they suspect infection due to symptoms. However, a negative result from such a test does not shorten the aseptic procedure.

Article 6

Epidemic control house.

A person, whether he is a tourist or not, who is forced to undergo isolation and does not have the same place in Iceland or for other reasons cannot or does not want to isolate himself in housing on his own, who meets the conditions of Articles 3 and 5. and instructions of the epidemiologist, cf. attachment 2, must stay in isolation in a quarantine house and be subject to the rules that apply to him in order to separate himself from others in order to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19.

Those who are detected in sampling according to Article 3 with variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that are more contagious than other variants and/or cause a more serious disease, it is mandatory to stay in an quarantine facility.

The epidemiologist can in exceptional cases decide that a person who is under quarantine must stay in a quarantine house, such as if the person is unable to isolate himself in a building on his own or is out of the same place for that purpose, cf. attachments 1 and 3, or it is shown that he will not comply with the quarantine rules.

Isolation or quarantine in a quarantine house consists of the following:

- a. A person, including a tourist, must not leave the quarantine house unless it is absolutely necessary, such as to seek necessary health care. However, a person in quarantine is allowed to spend time outdoors in accordance with the instructions of an epidemiologist, but must stay at least 2 meters away from others. Adults in quarantine must be offered outdoor time at least once during the day for two days out of the five days they are quarantined in an quarantine house. It should be considered that the time spent outside is no longer than an hour. If they need to stay longer, outdoor activities should be offered every day from the sixth day. A permit to go outside must be requested from the operator of the quarantine house who is in charge of organizing outdoor activities for all those staying in the quarantine house.
- b. A person, including a tourist, may not receive visitors in a quarantine house.
- c. A person, including a tourist, may not stay in the common spaces of an quarantine building, such as stairwells or common outdoor areas.
- d. Special consideration must be given to children who stay in an quarantine house, such as for outdoor activities and facilities. Notwithstanding point a and paragraph 3. Article 3 shall offer children, whether they are in quarantine or isolation, and those who stay with them, regardless of whether the person is in quarantine or isolation, outside daily.

III. CHAPTER

Epidemic measures at Iceland's borders.

Article 7

Obligations of a tourist with connections to Iceland.

Before arriving in Iceland, a tourist who has ties to Iceland is required to pre-register by filling in an electronic form that includes, among other things, contact information, information about where the person has stayed, where he intends to stay in quarantine in Iceland, departure date from Iceland if applicable and information on health status. Those who transport passengers to Iceland are obliged to draw the tourist's attention to the obligation to pre-register with reasonable notice.

Upon arrival in the country, a tourist with ties to Iceland who has spent more than 24 hours in the last 14 days in an area defined by an epidemiologist as a risk area must present one of the following certificates:

- a. recognized certificate of vaccination, cf. ac-item 1. paragraph Article 9,
- b. an approved certificate confirming positive results from a PCR test that is older than 14 days, cf. point d, paragraph 1 Article 9, or
- c. recognized certificate confirming antibodies with an antibody test, cf. point e, paragraph 1 Article 9

Furthermore, a tourist with connections to Iceland must undergo an antigen test (rapid antigen test) or a PCR test within the next two days of arrival in the country. Exempt from this obligation is the person who presents a certificate according to b-point 2. paragraph which shows that 14-180 days have passed since the COVID-19 infection.

A child born in 2005 and later is exempt from obligations according to 1.-3. paragraph The same applies to connecting passengers who do not go beyond a border station and flight crew on a business trip who have stayed outside Iceland for 48 hours or less.

Those who cannot present a certificate according to Paragraph 2 is obliged to take a PCR sample at a border station or another place where an epidemiologist decides upon arrival in the country and then in quarantine until the results are available from another PCR sample that is required to undergo and must be carried out 5 days after arrival in the country.

The epidemiologist must regularly reassess which countries and regions are considered high-risk areas, such as taking into account the definitions of international organizations.

Article 8

Obligations of a tourist who has no connection to Iceland.

Before arriving in Iceland, a tourist who has no connection to Iceland is obliged to pre-register by filling out an electronic form that contains, among other things, contact information, information about where the person has stayed, where he intends to stay in quarantine in Iceland, departure date from Iceland if applicable and information on health status. Those who transport passengers to Iceland are obliged to draw the tourist's attention to the obligation to pre-register with reasonable notice.

Upon arrival in Iceland, a tourist who has no ties to Iceland must present the following certificates:

- a. an approved vaccination certificate, a positive PCR test result older than 14 days or an antibody certificate,
- b. a negative COVID-19 test, either a PCR test or an antigen test (rapid antigen test) that is no older than 72 hours old at the time of shipment abroad. Exempt from this obligation is the person who presents a certificate according to point d, paragraph 1 Article 9 which shows that 14-180 days have passed since the COVID-19 infection.

A child born in 2005 and later is exempt from obligations according to 1.-2. paragraph The same applies to connecting passengers who do not go beyond a border station.

Those who cannot present a certificate according to a-point 2. paragraph is obliged to take a PCR sample at a border station or another place where an epidemiologist decides upon arrival in the country and then in quarantine until the results are available from another PCR sample that is required to undergo and must be carried out 5 days after arrival in the country.

Article 9
Certificate.

The following certificates are considered recognized certificates:

- a. the international vaccination certificate issued in accordance with the international health regulations of the World Health Organization,
- b. a vaccination certificate that confirms vaccination with a vaccine recommended by the European Medicines Agency to obtain a marketing license or recognized by the World Health Organization and which meets the epidemiologist's instructions for certificates, such as the assessment of certificates at the border and the content and form of certificates, the language and what information the certificate must contain, such as name, date of birth, where and when vaccination took place, vaccine manufacturer and information about the person responsible for issuing the certificate,
- c. digital European certificate, and certificates that are considered equivalent to them, issued on the basis of regulation no. 777/2021, on the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2021/953 on a framework for the issue, verification and recognition of interoperable certificates of vaccination, testing and recovery to facilitate free movement during the COVID-19 pandemic,
- d. a certificate confirming positive results from a PCR test that is older than 14 days,
- e. a certificate confirming antibodies with an antibody test carried out using an ELISA method or a similar method according to a further decision of the epidemiologist.

Vaccination certificate according to Paragraph 1 is, however, only recognized if 14 days have passed since the second vaccination or 14 days have passed since vaccination if only one vaccination is carried out according to the vaccine's marketing licence. A vaccination certificate is also considered according to Paragraph 1 only recognized if no more than 270 days have passed since the basic vaccination in cases where a person has not undergone booster vaccination.

The Epidemiologist is authorized to issue further instructions on certificates, including negative COVID tests, such as the assessment of certificates at the border and the content and form of certificates, language and what information the certificate must contain, such as name, date of birth, where and when the sampling took place, the name of the laboratory/certificate issuer, the date of the certificate, information about the person responsible for issuing the certificate, the type of test and the result of the test.

The Epidemiologist is authorized to allow electronic inspection and confirmation of the validity of certificates before departure, such as in consultation with air carriers.

IV. CHAPTER
Various provisions.

Article 10
Sampling.

Sampling must be organized by an epidemiologist.

Biological samples taken according to this regulation must only be analyzed for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Biological samples must be destroyed after analysis.

Article 11
Fee collection.

Sampling and staying in quarantine according to this regulation is free of charge.

If a tourist arrives at a border station when it is not possible to take a sample and he is not on a scheduled trip, he can still request a sample by calling. However, the person who handles such a call is allowed to charge a fee of ISK 60,000. for the call. The fee does not constitute a discount base according to Article 4 of the regulation on co-payment by health insured persons in the costs of health services, cf. also Article 29 Act no. 112/2008.

Article 12 *Exemptions.*

An epidemiologist can grant an exemption from quarantine in whole or in part due to very special circumstances, as long as it is guaranteed that it will not affect infection control.

An epidemiologist can grant an exemption from quarantine according to Article 4 due to socially essential infrastructure that must not stop, such as in the fields of electricity, telecommunications, transport, waste collection, healthcare, law enforcement, ambulance or fire services. The same applies for systemically and economically important activities, such as to ensure food security, the distribution of essential goods or the economic security of the state through exports.

An epidemiologist can grant a tourist a partial exemption from quarantine if he has come to this country for a necessary work-related project.

The epidemiologist is authorized to grant an exemption from quarantine according to Article 4 if it is confirmed that a person has been infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The Epidemiologist is authorized to grant an exemption from sampling and/or presentation of a certificate of a negative PCR test according to Article 4 to persons who follow the epidemiologist's instructions for work trips abroad. Such an exemption may only be granted to health care personnel, personnel who transport goods and services, and police personnel due to necessary travel for their work.

In consultation with the minister in charge of foreign affairs, the epidemiologist is authorized, due to urgent missions, to decide on special arrangements for quarantine, isolation and sampling for individuals and delegations coming to the country on behalf of the Icelandic government, employees of embassies and other representatives of foreign countries, employees of international organizations and persons at the invitation of those who need to come to the country due to the activities of these institutions, members of the armed forces and workers who carry out humanitarian aid and civil defense and the families of all the aforementioned parties.

The epidemiologist is authorized to grant an exemption from the quarantine measures in Article 4, in part or in whole, such as the presentation of a negative PCR test, to flight crews staying in Iceland for a limited time, as long as it is guaranteed that it will not compromise infection control .

Those who demonstrate, with reasonable notice, that sampling is not feasible due to medical reasons are exempt from sampling according to Article 4 and presentation of a negative PCR test under the same provision. Instead, they must be quarantined for 14 days from arrival in the country, depending on the circumstances in a quarantine house, cf. Article 5

Article 13 *Supervision.*

The epidemiologist supervises according to this regulation and in accordance with the Epidemiological Act no. 19/1997, with subsequent amendments, including monitoring that a person, including a tourist, is quarantined or isolated and that housing meets the conditions of this regulation. The Epidemiologist may request that the Public Safety Department of the National Police Commissioner take care of certain aspects of the planning of inspections according to the

authorizations in the Act on Public Safety, no. 82/2008, other than those related to the administrative decisions of an epidemiologist or an assessment of whether the conditions of the Epidemiological Act and this regulation on isolation and quarantine are met.

The scope of the epidemiologist's supervision of whether isolation and quarantine is maintained shall take into account the Epidemiological Act no. 19/1997, with subsequent amendments, and the proportionality rule of the administrative law, no. 37/1993. The Epidemiologist is permitted to delegate his supervisory role to others, such as by subcontracting. Monitoring of individuals, including travelers, who are subject to quarantine and isolation shall normally be carried out by conversation and, depending on the circumstances, by going to the place where quarantine or isolation takes place in order to ensure that the person subject to quarantine separates himself from adequately from others. With the consent of the person in quarantine or isolation, the supervisory body is allowed to study the conditions of the person in quarantine or isolation, including housing. If a crime is suspected, the police must be notified.

If the epidemiologist believes that the information provided or the data submitted by a person for monitoring quarantine or isolation indicates that the conditions for quarantine or isolation are not met, or if the person refuses to provide adequate information in this regard, the epidemiologist is authorized to make a decision that a person, including a tourist, quarantine or isolation in a quarantine house.

If a person refuses to go into isolation or quarantine according to this regulation, the epidemiologist is allowed to seek the help of the police authorities to enforce his decision on an operation to prevent infection according to Article 14 Epidemic Act, no. 19/1997, with subsequent amendments. For that purpose, the police is also authorized to check whether a person is in the place where he is quarantined in accordance with the provisions of Article 7. Before coercive measures are taken, always try to resolve the issue by other means. The Chief of Police is also authorized to deport a foreign citizen upon arrival or up to seven days after arrival, if he does not reside in Iceland and refuses to comply with the instructions in accordance with this regulation. A decision on expulsion can be appealed to the Immigration Appeals Committee, but an appeal does not suspend the implementation of the decision.

If cooperation is not successful with a person who is required to be isolated or quarantined according to this regulation or a notification from an epidemiologist, the epidemiologist shall make a formal decision in the case in accordance with Article 14. Epidemic Act, no. 19/1997, with subsequent amendments.

Article 14 *Complaint sources.*

Epidemiologist's decisions on isolation according to Article 3 and about quarantine according to Paragraph 1 Article 4, paragraph 5 Article 7 and paragraph 4 Article 8, cf. Article 5, are not appealable to the minister, but they can be brought before a court, cf. Paragraph 11 Article 14 quarantine law. The same applies to decisions about isolation and quarantine in a quarantine house according to Article 6

Other administrative decisions according to this regulation, which do not include deprivation of liberty, including quarantine of tri-vaccinated persons according to Article 5 a, subject to a complaint to the minister, cf. Paragraph 10 Article 14 quarantine law.

Article 15 *Penalties.*

A traveler who does not present a certificate of a negative result of a rapid test or PCR test, but is nevertheless required to do so according to Paragraph 2 Article 8, must undergo a PCR test upon arrival at a border station and be quarantined until the result of the test is known.

If there is the slightest doubt about the credibility of a certificate according to Article 9 or the certificate is considered invalid according to the detailed instructions of the epidemiologist, the traveler is obliged to undergo sampling and quarantine according to Paragraph 5 Article 7 or paragraph 4 Article 8. If a traveler presents a certificate of vaccination where 14 days have not passed since the second vaccination or 14 days have not passed if only one vaccination is carried out according to the vaccine's marketing authorization, he shall only undergo a PCR test upon arrival at the border station and be subject to quarantine until the result of the test is available.

A person who is subject to sampling according to Paragraph 2 or 3 is exempted from the obligation to undergo a rapid test or a PCR test within the next two days after arrival in the country, according to Paragraph 1.

A person who cannot or does not want to undergo sampling according to Paragraph 2 or 3 must be quarantined for 14 days after arrival in the country.

Violations against this regulation are also subject to fines or imprisonment according to Article 19 quarantine act no. 19/1997 or Article 175 of the General Penal Code no. 19/1940.

Article 16 *Validity.*

This regulation, which is established on the basis of Articles 12, 13, 14 and 18 quarantine act no. 19/1997, with subsequent amendments, immediately enters into force. From the same time, regulation no. 1240/2021, on quarantine and isolation and quarantine measures at Iceland's borders due to COVID-19, with subsequent amendments.

This regulation expires on March 1, 2022.

Attachment 1.



Attachment 2.



Attachment 3.



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