

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 

Coronavirus COVID-19

– Latest Updates

Updated on 31 March

- Tested samples: approx. **22,600** (+ approx. 1000*)
- Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases: **1,384** (+71*)
* Change from previous day.
- 17 people have died of the disease.
- Data in the National Infectious Diseases Register is updated each morning at 8.30. The total number of samples analysed in laboratories is only updated on weekdays.
- There may be delays in the reporting and recording of samples in the National Infectious Diseases Register.
- The actual number of infections in Finland is likely larger than reported, as not all those who have mild symptoms or are asymptomatic are tested.

Hospitalised patients and patients who have died of coronavirus:

Catchment area	Hospitalised, total number	In inpa care
Helsinki University Hospital catchment area	100	58

Kuopio University Hospital catchment area	11	7
Oulu University Hospital catchment area	5	2
Tampere University Hospital catchment area	13	9
Turku University Hospital catchment area	8	5
Nationwide total	137	81

- At the moment, the patient situation is reported by catchment area to ensure patient protection, as the number of patients in catchment areas other than the Helsinki University Hospital catchment area is small.
- Finland's hospital districts comprise five catchment areas, the centre of which is a university hospital.

Corona sampling in Finland

- Currently, around 2,500 COVID-19 samples can be tested per day, and Finland's testing capacity is being increased as quickly as possible. While the capacity has been limited, THL and the hospital districts have had to work together in prioritising certain groups for sampling.
- Samples are primarily taken from patients with severe respiratory tract infection symptoms and from healthcare and social welfare personnel, so that the health of personnel and the adequacy of the workforce can be secured.
- When sampling capacity so allows sampling can also be performed on people with mild symptoms, those

returning from abroad and other patient groups. People without symptoms are not tested.

- Coronavirus samples are being collected and analysed by numerous laboratories in both the public and private sectors.
- THL is also testing samples collected for influenza laboratory based sample monitoring for coronavirus. So far, the samples have proved negative.

A summary of the situation in Finland

- The majority of cases diagnosed in Finland have been mild.
- A number of hospitalised patients have recovered and been discharged.
- Nevertheless, the risk of infection has increased throughout the country, and Finland is preparing for a larger scale epidemic
- The epidemic is progressing at different rates in different parts of the country. Infections have been observed in all of Finland's regions, with Uusimaa having the largest number of cases.
- All infection chains are no longer known. Efforts are still being made to keep track of infection chains in order to slow down the progression of the epidemic.
- Finland has declared a state of emergency due to the coronavirus epidemic. The Government has outlined measures that will aim to prevent new corona infections and slow the spread of the epidemic from Uusimaa region to other parts of Finland.
- Schools and educational institutions have been closed, restrictions have been applied to public meetings, travel and border crossing, and the capacity of social and health care services are being increased. These restrictions will be in force until 13

May.

- The Uusimaa region has been closed off from the rest of Finland. Traffic over the regional border is restricted with certain exceptions. Leisure travel across the Uusimaa regional border is not permitted. The travel restrictions will be in force until 19 April /2020.
- [Read more on travel restrictions on the Prime Minister's office website](#)

The epidemic's current situation in Europe

- More than 390,000 cases of the coronavirus have been reported in Europe, and the epidemic is underway in numerous countries.
- More than half of all cases worldwide have been reported in Europe.
- Many European countries have closed their borders and imposed extensive restrictions on mobility and public and private sector activities.
- The majority of COVID-19 cases have been diagnosed in Italy, and, in particular, in Spain the situation growing worse.
- A large number of cases have also been reported in the Nordic countries, a total of over 12,000 cases.
- [Numbers of cases in the European countries](#) (WHO)
- A summary of cases diagnosed in Europe [on the ECDC website](#).
- [COVID-19 \(ECDC\)](#)

The situation with the epidemic outside Europe

- A total of nearly 700,000 corona infections have been reported globally. More than 33,000 people have died of the disease.
- The vast majority of infected people have recovered.

- A total of 202 countries, regions and territories have reported infections.
- The epidemic is widely underway in many countries, including the United States, where more than 120,000 cases have been reported and the number of cases has grown rapidly.
- In the originating area in China, the epidemic appears to have subsided.
- [Number of cases in different countries \(WHO\)](#)
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(WHO\)](#)

International risk assessment

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the coronavirus epidemic a pandemic on 11 March 2020.
- The ECDC and WHO regularly update their assessment of the situation. THL is monitoring the international situation, developing guidelines for health care and laboratories, assessing the health risks related to the coronavirus and drawing up assessments of how the situation with the virus may develop.
- [COVID-19 \(ECDC\)](#)
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak \(WHO\)](#)

Instructions for tourists

- Due to the exceptional situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs urges that all travel abroad be avoided until further notice.
- Finnish travellers are advised to return to Finland as soon as possible.
- Information on the coronavirus, its prevention and treatment instructions will be distributed to all those arriving in the country.
- Finns returning from abroad who permanently living in Finland are

encouraged to maintain a safe distance to other people and to remain in quarantine-like conditions for 14 days after their journey (home quarantine).

See also:

- [Map application: coronavirus infections in Finland \(in Finnish\)](#)
- [Information about the disease: Coronavirus COVID-19](#)
- [Frequently asked questions about coronavirus COVID-19](#)

Media enquiries

We are currently receiving a very large number of interview requests regarding coronavirus.

Please make all interview requests either **by email** to [info\(at\)thl.fi](mailto:info@thl.fi) or **by telephone** to +358 29 524 6161. The telephone number serves customers on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. After 4 p.m., requests can be sent by e-mail.



WHAT'S NEW

26 Mar 2020

[Current outlook of the corona epidemic in Finland: About 11,300 people need hospital care and 3,600 of them need intensive care](#)

20 Mar 2020

[Instructions for passengers arriving in Finland: Avoid close contact with others for 14 days](#)

19 Mar 2020

[The Corona Epidemic Modelling: Limiting human contacts affects the duration of the epidemic and the number of daily infections](#)

17 Mar 2020

[Coronavirus can cause anxiety in adults and children alike - How to take care of yourself and your loved](#)

ones

13 Mar 2020

Stay home if you have mild symptoms and seek medical help only if your symptoms are severe

[See all news on Coronavirus](#) 

MORE INFORMATION

- [Information about the disease: novel coronavirus \(in Finnish\)](#)
- [Frequently asked questions about the novel coronavirus \(in Finnish\)](#)

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