

FEMALE LEADERS AND HOW THEY HAVE HANDLED THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ICELAND

Prime Minister: Katrín Jakobsdóttir

In Iceland, Katrín Jakobsdóttir has handled the COVID-19 pandemic better than most other countries. You could blame this on how small Iceland is, but you can see from evidence that Jakobsdóttir has been on top of this issue since March 2020. On Friday March 20th she officially closed Iceland's border to the public. As well as closing the borders, Jakobsdóttir banned gatherings of 20 people or more and shut down primary schools/universities. (Jakobsdóttir)(Kolbert)

There are several ways that Jakobsdóttir has helped keep COVID-19 under control, one of them being their societal practices regarding sickness. In Iceland, the societal trust between people is one of the main reasons Iceland is doing well. If you feel sick, everyone knows that the first thing you do is get tested and then isolate until the test comes back negative. If it comes back positive, you have to quarantine then the COVID-19 task force in Iceland would contact trace anyone you've been around and let the people know that they could've been exposed. (Jakobsdóttir) (Kolbert)

Regarding the Information above, Jakobsdóttir created the COVID-19 task force, it consisted of doctors, detectives, nurses, and criminologists. This task force was assembled a couple days before February 28th; the first day there was a positive case of COVID-19 in Iceland. (Kolbert)

On another note Jakobsdóttir has made sure Iceland has good healthcare for all citizens. More people have survived because everyone has access to the same health care. (Jakobsdóttir) The death rate is one out of every one hundred and eighty positive cases, compared to other countries it is a very low rate. (Kolbert)

WHAT SOCIETY LOOKS LIKE IN ICELAND AS OF NOVEMBER 2020

- *As of July, masks weren't mandated and wearing them was not completely normalized. (Kolbert)*
- *There are no tourists (there usually are, so that means the economy is dipping). Small business are taking a hit, and some have had to close. For example, a hotel which usually was 75% full, has now dropped to only 11% full. (McClanahan)*
- *Iceland is going through its third wave and have put in rules for harsher restrictions, including a limit of 10 people in a gathering all being 2 meters apart (6 ft), and masks are more common then they were a couple months ago. (Jakobsdóttir)*
- *Recently, sporting activities and stage performances were suspended because of the rising numbers. (Jakobsdóttir)*
- *The closure of bars and also some individual services (any shops that are not essential). (Jakobsdóttir)*



NEW ZEALAND

Prime Minister: Jacinda Ardern

In February 2020, New Zealand (NZ) closed its borders to China. Soon after, NZ was closing the borders to everyone but citizens of NZ. (Smith) Its official lockdown started on March 15, 2020. This meant that only essential places like grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals, and gas stations were open. A country-wide text from the government was sent out on shortly after the lockdown saying, "Follow the rules and STAY HOME. Act as if you have COVID-19, this will save lives.

Where you stay tonight is where you MUST STAY from now on... It is likely level 4 measures will stay in place for a number of weeks." (The New Zealand Government and Task force) (Matthews)

As of November 11, 2020, NZ only had 1,988 cases of COVID-19 and 25 deaths (Smith). NZ also has a large testing capacity; they can do at least 8,000 tests a day. It may seem like a small number but for a small country, it is a big number. (Matthews)



Hopkins, Hagen. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern speaks to media during a post cabinet press conference on June 08, 2020 in Wellington, New Zealand, after reopening offices, schools, sports events and domestic travel without restrictions. There are no longer any active cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand. 12 June 2020. Time.com, 12 June 2020, time.com/5852567/new-zealand-coronavirus-jacinda-ardern-election/. Accessed 11 Nov. 2020.

Another advantage New Zealand has is where it is placed geographically. It is a country surrounded by water, so not much can get in or out without a boat or airplane. Also, not much can get in or out without someone seeing it. (Matthews)

Compared to other countries, Jacinda Ardern followed the "Pandemic Guidebook" that was left to her by past prime ministers. It is a pretty simple system New Zealand has put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19: identify the people who have symptoms, test them for

COVID-19, have them isolate themselves (if they had tested positive), then trace the people who came in contact with that person and have them quarantine. (Matthews)

As well as any other country, New Zealand's economy has dipped and taken a hard hit due in large part to the lack of tourism. (Smith) But recently, because of Jacinda Ardern and how she limited the spread, normal life is starting to come back.

WHAT LIFE LOOKS LIKE IN NEW ZEALAND IN NOVEMBER 2020

- As of mid-October, people were attending concerts with no masks because at that time New Zealand had no new cases for a while. (Frost)
- Some bands/artists in New Zealand are on tour. (Barshad)
- The economy has bounced back from the worst recession New Zealand has had in decades. (Frost)
- The borders are still closed but if you want to go into New Zealand, you have to get tested at the border before entering, and the test has to come back negative before you are allowed entry. (Frost)
- Public transportation is open and masks on the public transport are not mandated. However, before entering public transportation, you have to scan a QR code so if the government needed to contact trace a case, it would be easier to find out who this person has come in contact with. (Natasha Frost)

FINLAND

Prime Minister: Sanna Marin

In Finland's constitution, it emphasizes the protection of life and health. So when the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact Finland, Marin's first response was to protect her citizens. She focused on preparedness and also focused on the appropriate way to act during this national emergency. Finland has 90% fewer COVID-19 deaths per capita compared to Sweden. Marin's approach in March consisted of shutting down very quickly and completely getting the pandemic under control before re-opening. (Milne)

Another part of success from Finland is that when presented with the COVID-19 pandemic, Marin and the rest of her government remained calm. Meaning they could implement somewhat serious policies without anybody questioning their authority, because the citizens held great trust in their own government. (Milne)

At the beginning of the pandemic, Finland immediately put in strict lockdown rules and laws. For example, wearing a mask and only going out for essential items. These practices helped their COVID-19 numbers stay down. Recently, they have been going up again, but that is similar to other parts of the world going through the second wave of COVID-19. (Milne)

Also like Iceland, the Finnish people have great societal trust between each other. When you feel sick or know someone who is sick, you immediately get tested and quarantine while you wait for the result.

Finland also has free health care so this has aided in their low positive case numbers, 18,345, and the low deaths, 362. Finland has a population of roughly 5.5 million people, and that means for every 302 people only one person could test positive. (Milne)

In the beginning of Finland's lockdown, many citizens were upset with Marin and the government in how they enacted a quarantine for the 200,000 nationals who returned in early March from areas with high COVID-19 rates. The lack of communication from Marin created the confusion and caused much debate on whether she handled the situation correctly. Following this, Marin took full accountability and told the citizens that everyone makes mistakes and she will learn from this mistake, her especially. (Sander)



Hald, Marie. Marin at Kesäranta, the official residence of the Finnish Prime Minister, in Helsinki on Dec. 20. 20 Dec. 2019. Time, TIME USA, time.com/collection/davos-2020/5764097/sanna-marin-finland-equality/. Accessed 11 Nov. 2020

SOCIETY IN FINLAND AS OF NOVEMBER 2020

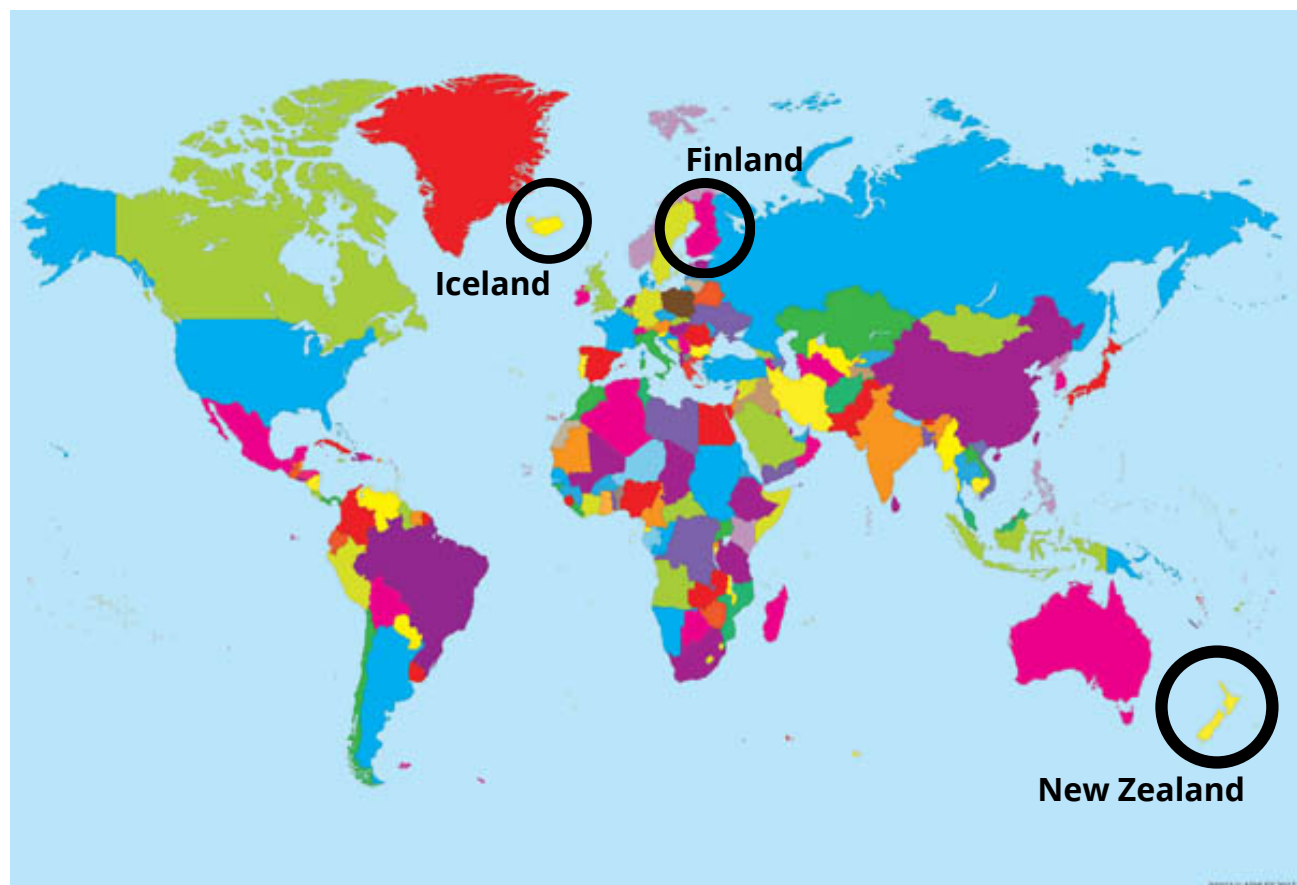
- *Society has largely re-opened, and is getting back to normal. (Euractiv with AFP)*
- *An effective test and trace system was developed, revolving around a smartphone app, The "Corona Flash" application. It was downloaded 2.5 million times in a country of 5.5 million people. (Euractiv with AFP)*
- *The amount of shoppers and diners on the streets of Finland look similar to how they were pre-pandemic. (Euractiv with AFP)*
- *A restaurant owner was hanging plants and lights inside a row of protective glass cabins outside his restaurant. This is put in place to keep the spread of germs at a minimum. (Euractiv with AFP)*
- *Masks are not that common, but recently authorities have been recommended them. (Euractiv with AFP)*

REPORTED CASES, DEATHS, AND TESTS BY COUNTRY

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Total tests	Population	Cases/Pop	Deaths/Pop	Tests/Pop
Finland	18,345	365	1,659,264	5,543,878	0.33%	0.0066%	29.9%
Iceland	5,142	24	370,515	342,051	1.50%	0.0070%	108.3%
New Zealand	1,988	25	1,148,933	5,002,110	0.04%	0.0005%	23.0%
USA	10,704,212	247,279	161,834,493	331,711,584	3.23%	0.0745%	48.8%

"Coronavirus Cases:" Reported Cases and Deaths by Country, Territory, or Conveyance, 12 Nov. 2020, 01:29 GMT, www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/.

WHERE THE COUNTRIES ARE LOCATED



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