

MALDIVES RESPONSE TO COVID-19

SITREP: 23 December 2020

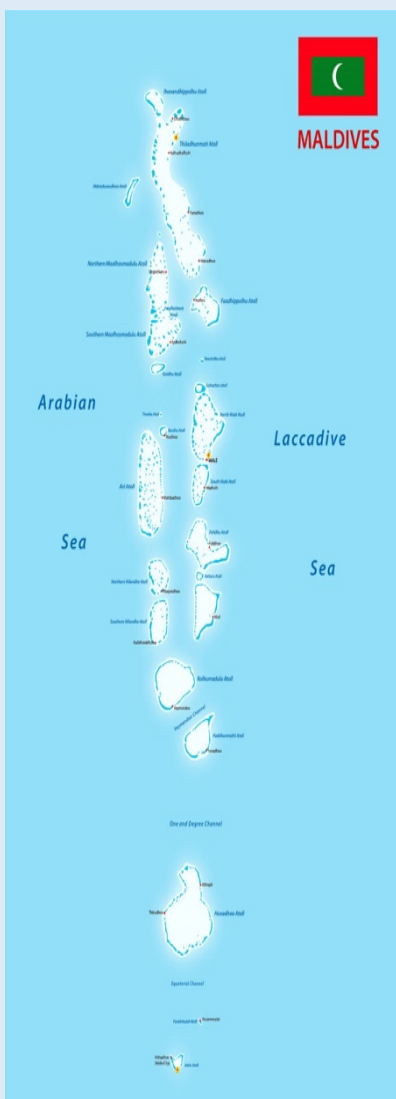


World Health
Organization

Maldives

SUMMARY OF SITUATION

Update



| | | |
|--|---------------------------|----------------|
| | Total tested | 294,401 |
| | Confirmed Cases | 13,537 |
| | Recoveries | 12,983 (95.9%) |
| | Deaths | 48 (0.35%) |
| | Active Cases | 499 |
| | Hospitalized Cases | 39 |
| Active cases: Geographical distribution | | |
| | Greater Male' Area | 358 |
| | Atolls | 38 |
| | Operational Resorts | 63 |
| | Liveaboards | 12 |
| | Island under development | 25 |
| | Industrial islands | 3 |

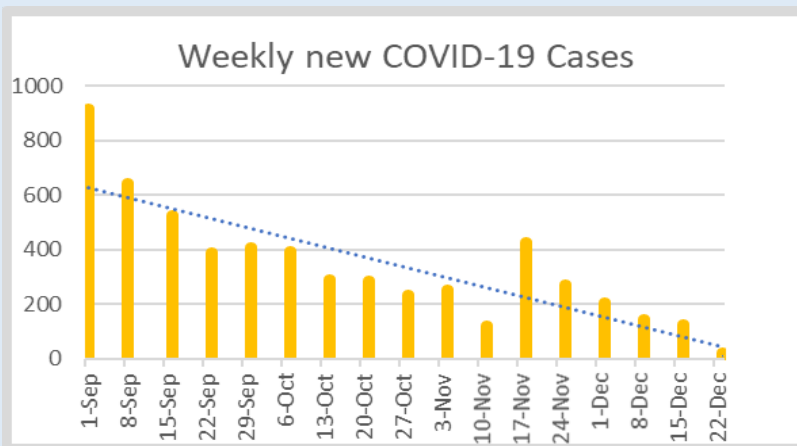
Public health risk alert levels

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------------|
| National | Level 2 | YELLOW |
| Male' City | Level 4 | RED |

Key updates

COVID-19 transmission in the Maldives

13,537 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Maldives till date. COVID-19 transmission is stable with decreasing number of weekly reported cases both in Male and outside. Majority of the cases infected locally have a link to Male". The first lot of genetic sequencing of the COVID-19 samples have Clade G variant only. Based on current scientific evidence, all clades are still similar in their phenotype and no major impact on countermeasures (diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines) is expected.

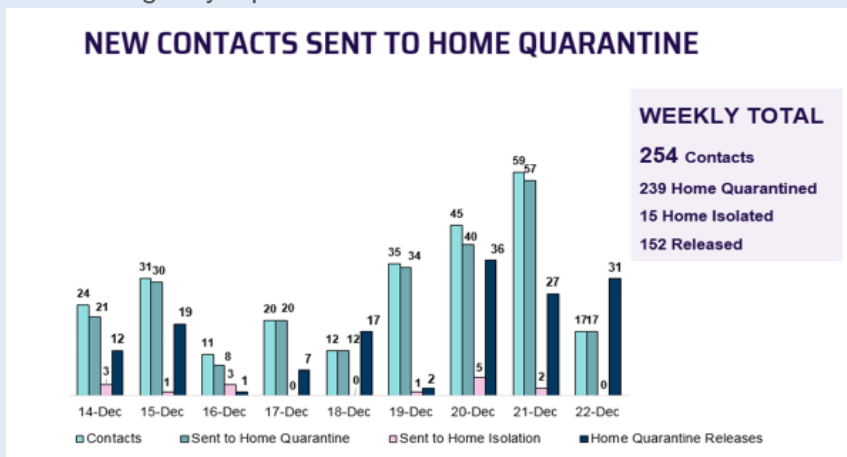


254 contacts were identified by the Rapid Response team Over the week of 14-22 December, 2020. 15 of them tested positive and were isolated at home. 239 of them are under observation at home quarantine. During the same week 152 people under isolation or quarantine were released

after they met discharge criteria. 4 COVID-19 case are currently being treated in the ICU and amongst them a 57 year old female is critical and supported by ventilator.

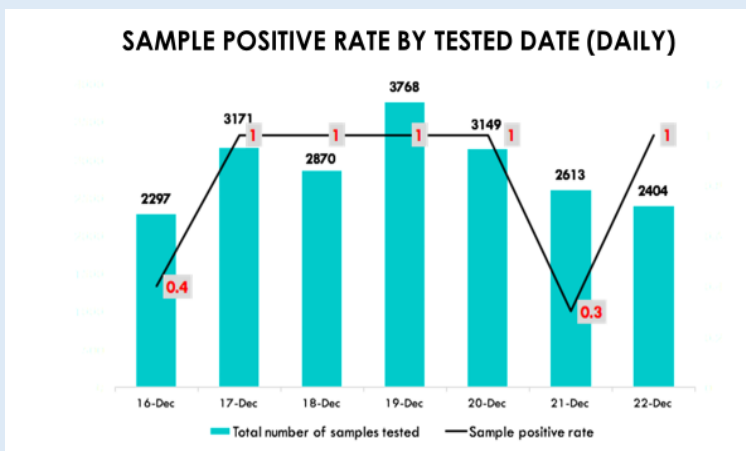
There are currently only 38 active cases in the atolls. Increasing imported cases are also being observed amongst incoming travelers. Active cases outside of the greater Male' region are being observed in operational and non-operational resorts rather than in the inhabited islands. The bigger clusters of cases reported earlier in the month have all recovered. These clusters were reported in Haa Dhaalu Atoll (12 cases), Laamu atoll (58 cases) and Seenu Gan cluster (56 imported cases). Island task force implemented the control measures in close consultation of the Health Emergency Operation Center and active involvement of the Island Rapid Response Teams.

Early detection, isolation and management of COVID-19 cases and improving compliance of Public Health and Social Measures have been the two important groups of intervention in the Maldives. The ongoing efforts have been

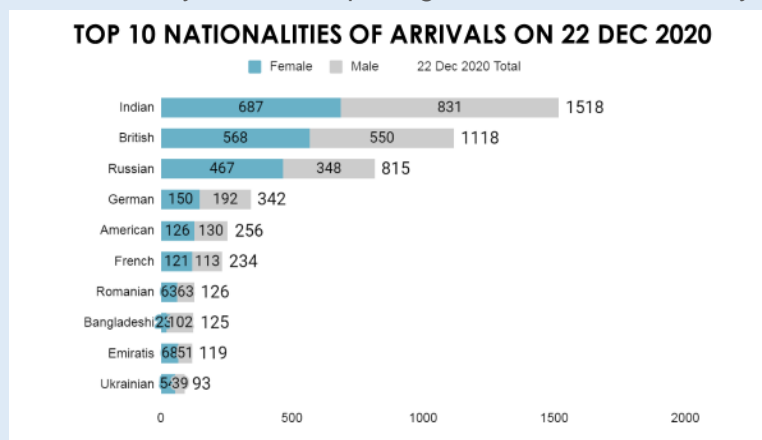


effective and further supported by increase in the case doubling time from 206 days in week 25 – to 239 days currently.

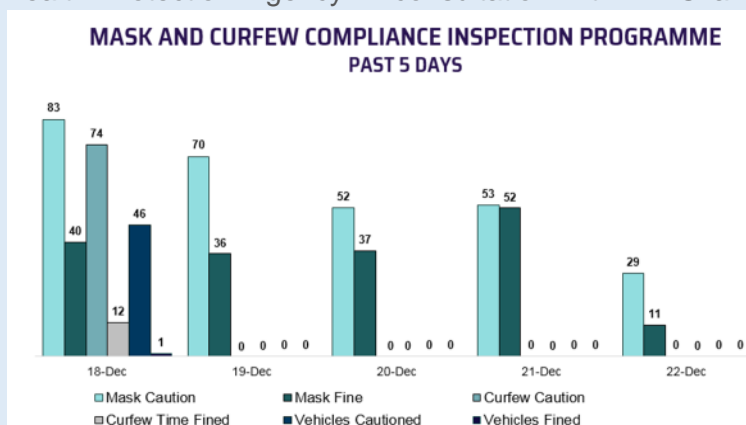
High testing rate has been the hall mark of the Maldives COVID-19 response. Currently the country has expanded testing capacity to more than 3,000 tests per day. Samples collected from suspected COVID-19 cases, contacts of cases, flu clinks, quarantine releases and exit screening are producing low yield. Sample positive rate has been 1 percent or less over the entire week despite the high number of tests which indicate low levels of transmission. WHO's strategic investment in laboratory system strengthening has been a great asset to the government



Roughly 45,000 tourists have visited the country since the opening of the border on 15 July, 2020. More than 4,000 tourists arrivals have been noted from 20 December 2020. Arrivals are expected to increase significantly during the Christmas and New Year season. From 15 October, 2020 the tourists have access to guest houses in inhabited island. Over 1,300 tourists have stayed in island guest houses. The recent arrivals have been predominantly from countries with high COVID-19 transmission. Health Emergency Operations Center continues to be very vigilant, especially as these tourist establishments can trigger community outbreaks. The operations in the guest houses will be guided by the tourism guideline developed by Health Protection Agency in consultation with WHO and Technical Advisory Group.



The Minister of Health has announced that the Public Health Emergency declared due to COVID-19 in the Maldives, has been extended to 4 January 2021. The monitoring unit of the Health Emergency Operating center assess compliance measures in different setting and the Director General of



Public Health announced strict financial penalties for people violating compliance measures on 22 December 2020.

Link to Ministry of Health COVID-19 Dash Board is available at

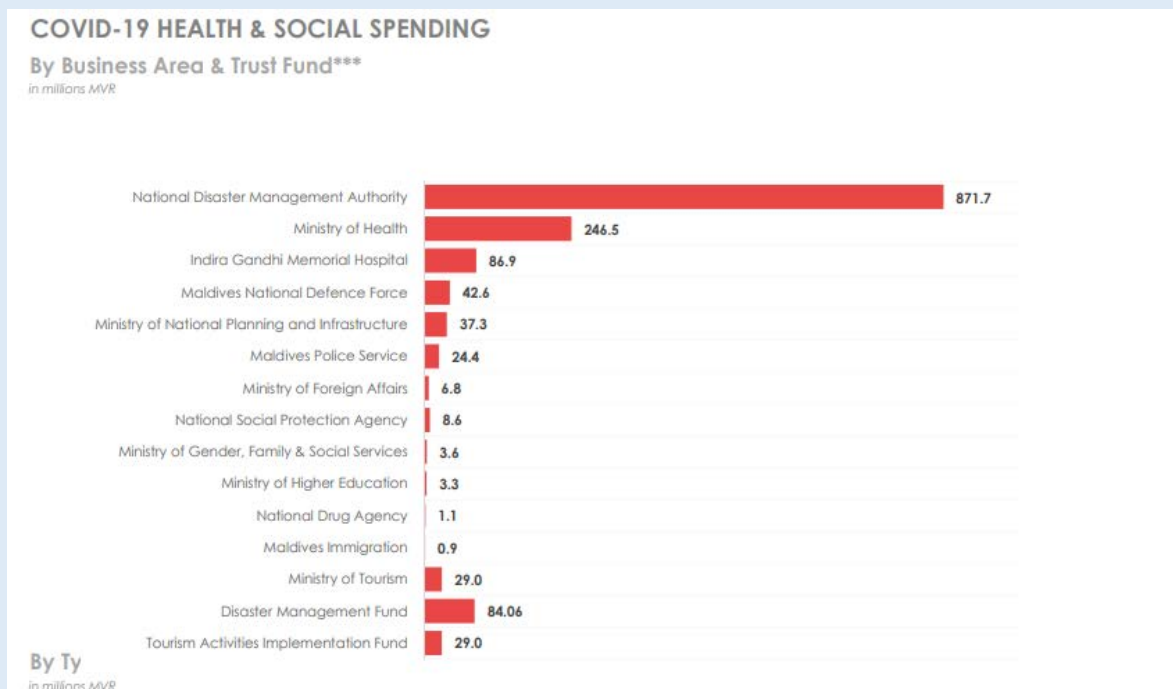
<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/dashboard/?c=0>

Link to WHO Maldives web pages on COVID-19 is available at

[https://www.who.int/maldives/news/detail/31-01-2020-updates-on-novel-corona-virus-\(COVID-19\)](https://www.who.int/maldives/news/detail/31-01-2020-updates-on-novel-corona-virus-(COVID-19))

COVID-19 Weekly Spending Report

As of 17 December 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 1,362.6 million (about USD 90 million); a 1.5% increase from the week before. In this review period 43.8% of total health and social spending was committed-spending. In terms of week-on-week spending, Ministry of Health registered the highest spending compared to its peers. The majority of their spending was on Supplies and Requisites for Service Provision. Over the review period, other agencies only reported small incremental changes in their spending.



As of 17 December 2020, total disbursements made to Emergency Recovery Programme schemes stood at MVR 1,398.5 million, a 1.3% increase from the previous week. Over the review period, MVR 17.8 million (USD 93 million) was disbursed towards the implementation of Income Support Allowance. There were no additional disbursements made towards any of the ERP schemes.