

MALDIVES RESPONSE TO COVID-19

SITREP: 31 August 2020



SUMMARY OF SITUATION

Update

Update



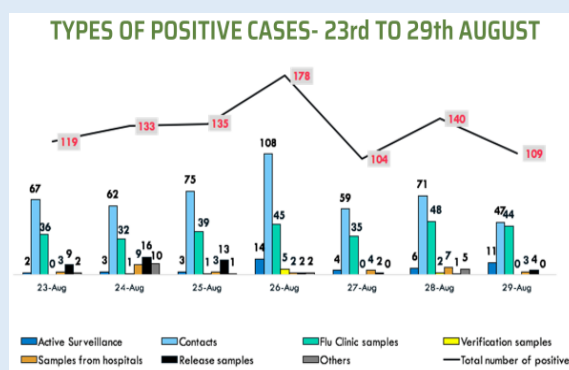
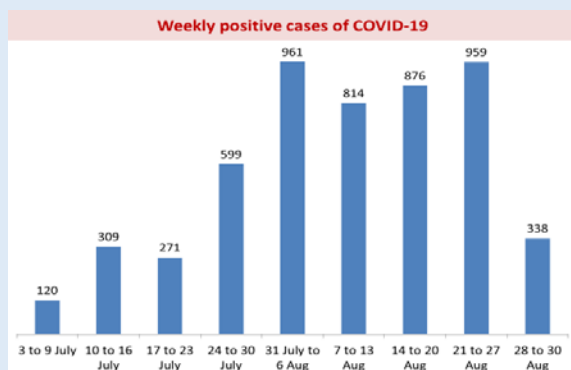
Public health risk alert levels		
National	Level 2	YELLOW
Male' City	Level 4	RED

Confirmed Cases	7,667
Recoveries	5,036 (66%)
Deaths	28
Active Cases	2,597
Distribution of active cases	
Male	2544
S. Feydhoo	3
S. Hithadhoo	2
S. Maradhoo	2
K. Thulusdhoo	1
F. Nilandhoo	2
K. Himmafushi	3
ADh. Maamingili	1
V. Thinadhoo	2
Lh. Hinnavaru	2
Th. Thimarafushi	1
ADh. Omadhoo	1
R. Inguraidhoo	1
R. Dhuvaafaru	5
L. Gan	1
Th. Omadhoo	4
Dh. Rinbidhoo	5
F. Dharaboodhoo	1
M. Mulah	3
B. Eydhafushi	1
K. Maafushi	2
F. Bilehdhoo	1
K. Dhiffushi	1
GA. Villingili	1
K. Guraidhoo	1
Sh. Lhaimagu	1
GA. Dhevvaadhoo	1
Lh. Naifaru	1
Dh. Meedhoo	2
GDh. Thinadhoo	1

Key updates

COVID-19 transmission in the Maldives

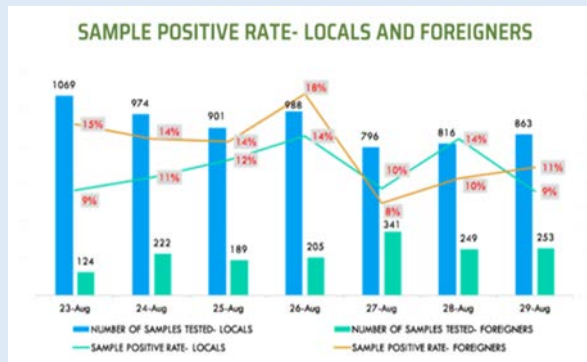
The Maldives is observing the highest number of active cases in the country. Maldives COVID-19 transmission continues to be focused in Male. Majority of the active cases are in Male and 60 in other inhabited islands. Out of the active cases – 2108 are locals and 511 foreigners. More than 97% of reported cases have a link to existing clusters.



223 cases are under home isolation and 1741 are under home quarantine. Confirmed cases are found mostly among contacts of active cases, from flu clinics and through active surveillance. These are indications that there is community transmission.

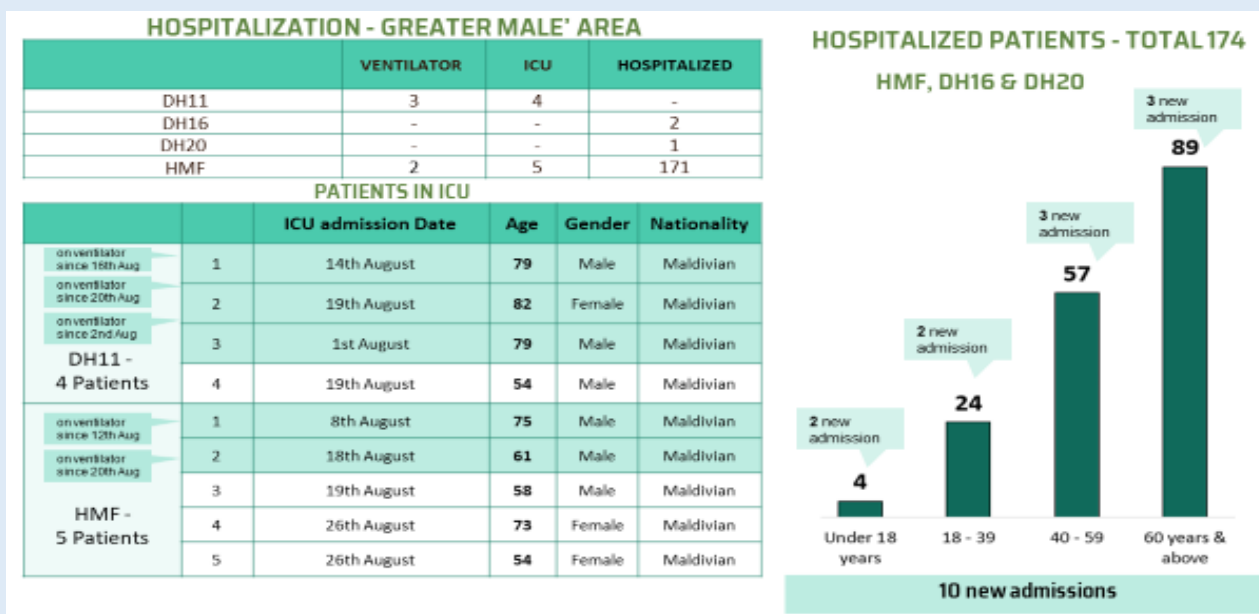
18-28% of contacts have tested positive during the last week of August 2020. Health Protection Agency is reviewing the strategy of isolation of positive case at home. The high positivity rate amongst contacts may be due to average household size of 8 and the small size of the apartments where living and sleeping spaces are shared including with elderly. Home isolation compliance is also being monitored.

Mosques are another place for regular public gathering and a site where both native Maldivians and expat workers regularly pray every day. Sample positivity rate amongst migrants is higher than locals. Efforts have been increased to assess migrant residences and work forces for transmission as sample positivity rates are higher amongst the migrants. HPA is assessing transmission in such settings.



All cases reported in Atolls have a link to Male. Currently there are 53 active cases in 32 inhabited islands. Mechanisms are in place to control imported cases in inhabited islands. Several islands which initially reported 5-10 cases last month, have not recorded a single case after the recoveries.

Currently 174 COVID-19 cases with moderate to severe diseases have been hospitalized. 5 of them are in ventilator and 9 in ICU. 5 cases have been in the ventilator for more than 2 weeks and 4 of them are above 75 years of age.



The RRT are continuing to identify, trace and manage cases and contacts. Since the first community transmitted case was reported, the RRT have traced more than 20,000 contacts. To ensure the sustenance of quality of intervention, WHO continues to offer and support capacity building activities as a priority.

Ministry of Health is transparently sharing information through regular media briefing, social media and through its dashboard. People have been briefed on the increasing number of cases. More cases amongst direct contacts have been observed. HPA has advised all citizens to remain very vigilant and contribute to decrease the transmission in Male by practicing the recommended public health behavior. Ministry of Health continues to maintain focus on the COVID-19 response.

Tourism has resumed in Maldives from 15 July 2020 and more than 7000 tourists have arrived in the country, majority of them from UAE and India. The tourism sector follows stringent guidelines on managing tourist in COVID-19 context. Each resort has quarantine facility and majority isolation facilities. Currently there are 33 active cases in 15 resorts. (15 tourists and 19 staff currently active)

Vice President of Maldives leads the Health Emergency Coordination Committee (HECC): Public Health Emergency extends to 7 August 2020

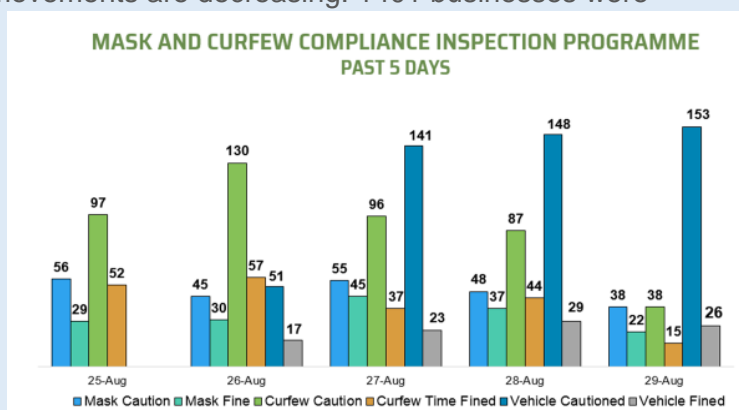
The Health Emergency Coordination Committee meeting (HECC) is being regularly convened under leadership of Mr Faisal Naseem, His Excellency Vice President of the Government of Maldives. The Government of Maldives has extended the State of Public Health Emergency until 7 August 2020 and rolled out a series of stringent measures to reduce the COVID-19 transmission in Male.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) , warned of a second lockdown if COVID - 19 cases are spiking at the current rate. HEOC also stated that the hospital bed occupancy rates for COVID - 19 patients are now at 62% in greater Male’ area, a 55% increase from the 1st week of July when the third phase of easement of restrictions was initiated.

Furthermore, the TAG team noted that healthcare workers are exhausted, with over 120 medical personnel having tested positive to date. As per HEOC, if the healthcare system gets more overwhelmed, the country might have to resort to a triage system in treating positive cases. HECC is re-strategizing and strengthening the governments' COVID-19 response considering the increasing number of cases. The government is working to control COVID-19 without having to return to a second lockdown.

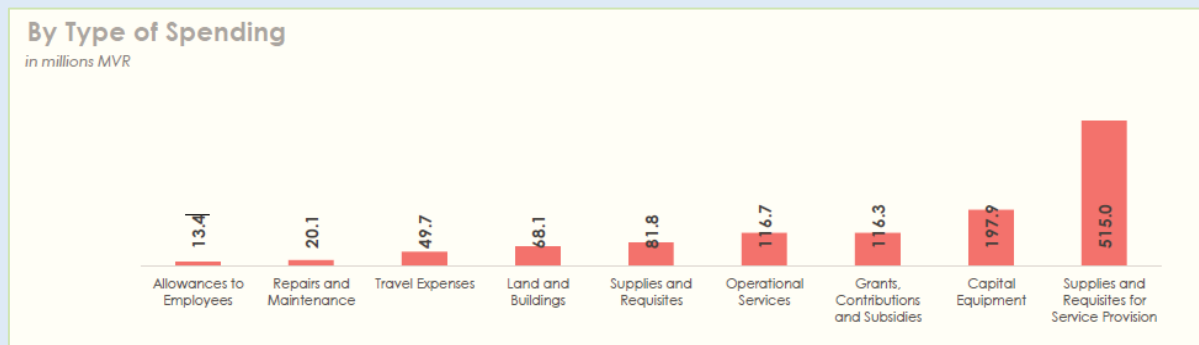
Compliance to public health measures are strictly being monitored. Number of people non-compliant to mask use and curfew time movements are decreasing. 1401 businesses were inspected for public health measure compliance. 89 of them were found non-compliant and shut down. They include 39 food establishments, 39 shops, 11 saloons, 6 markets and 3 gym.

HEOC introduced a new movement restriction effective 23 August,2020. The additional restriction bans all vehicle movements from 8 pm to 5 AM and people movement from 10 PM to reduce transmission. According to the Maldives Police Service, over 800 individuals have been fined for violating the mandatory mask regulation, and action has been taken against over 3200 individuals for violating the curfew.



Government Spending on COVID-19 Response

The Government of Maldives provides weekly update on COVID-19 response expenditure. As of 27 August 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 1,178.9 million (USD 76.5 million), which is an of 2.7% increase from the week before. In this review period 52.2 % of total health and social spending was committed-spending. National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Health and Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital account for 91.5% of all COVID-19 spending on health and social efforts. The expenses related to COVID19 response efforts include travel expenses, expenditures by the MOH on COVID-19 related facilities such as the payment of rent and on catering.



Similarly, the total disbursements made to Economic Response Plan (ERP) schemes showed an increase of 0.9% from the previous week. As of 27 August 2020, total disbursements made to ERP schemes stood at MVR 964.3 million (USD 62.5 million), which includes disbursements made towards the Income Support scheme, COVID-19 Recovery Loan scheme to support businesses and Discount on Utility Bills (Electricity and Water).

A study by 'Official ESTA' revealed that Maldives experienced a 6.9% loss of GDP, ranking 5th globally in terms of percentage of GDP loss due to the severe impact of COVID - 19 on the global tourism industry.