

## 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Emergency Readiness/ Response

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 03 / 02 / 2021

### Cases reporting

- COVID-19 cases in the country has been increasing over the week, with total confirmed cases at **16,056 cases**.
- **723 new cases have been identified – a significant increase since last week**. There are **1,806 active cases** in the country currently – 1,184 cases active in the greater Male' region.
- The daily testing rate has also been increased, with at least **3500-4500 samples tested in a day** – bringing total number of samples tested to 413,766. Sample positivity rate is currently at 3-4% - including departure samples of tourists.
- **ONE additional death** was reported again during the week, bringing up number of **deaths to 52 (0.32%)**.
- **339 recoveries** were reported during the week, bringing the total recoveries to 14,190 with recovery rate at **88.38%**.
- There are 184 people hospitalized with moderate to severe disease – with 2 persons in the ICU.
- The wedding cluster from Male' City in SHE building has also reported a total of **104 positive cases** since the first case reported in December 2020 – with 13 cases currently active and 90 persons recovered.
- In the atolls, the number of cases has been maintained at **132 active cases across 39 islands** – both locals and expats combined – majority of cases being reported from the southern atoll Gaaf Alif Dhevvdhoo cluster and the emerging cluster in Meemu Atoll.
- The cluster from Gaaf Alifu Dhevvdhoo is currently reporting **85 active cases**; including cases from the nearby islands linked to the case – from Gaaf Alif Dhaandhoo with 12 cases, Gaaf Alif Villingili with 1 case and from Laamu Fonadhoo also only 1 case. All identified contacts have been quarantined and the monitoring status has been lifted from all 4 islands.
- A new cluster has been quickly evolving from Meemu Atoll island of Kolhufushi, with **25 active cases** currently reported, and over 52 people have been identified as direct contacts.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, the number continues to rise – with a total of 452 cases reported from 17 resorts across the country.
- With the sudden spike in numbers, HPA announced a **curfew from 1200hrs to 0400hrs** in the capital region, in addition to **prohibiting large gatherings**, as an attempt to control the spread of the virus.

### Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- Maldives has officially started off COVID-19 vaccination on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, in 3 regions - capital Male', southernmost Addu city and Kulhudhufushi city in the north – with 282 persons receiving the COVISHIELD vaccine, donated by India to Maldives.
- The campaign was led by His Excellency President Ibrahim Solih, along with frontline workers as well as Speaker of Parliament, Chief Justice, state dignitaries, frontline healthcare staff, and elderly and persons with comorbidities, received their initial dose of the two-dose vaccine on Monday.
- The Health Protection Agency (HPA), on Monday, announced a large-scale inspection of all public service providers due to a spike – inspections to be conducted with the assistance of Maldives Police Service to ensure whether establishments in the Greater Male' region are adhering to the HPA guidelines.
- The HEOC has also reinstated mandatory quarantine for persons traveling from Greater Mal' region to Inhabited islands; also for all international arrivals EXCEPT TOURISTS to have mandatory quarantine for 10 days.

- Ministry of Tourism revealed that the number of tourist arrivals to Maldives decreased by 67 percent in 2020, amid the restrictions and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- MoT continues to monitor the resort establishments closely, with special priority given for employees working in the hospitality business.
- Priority is given to vaccine advocacy and to promote vaccination among all population, even though COVID-19 vaccine isn't mandatory.

### WCO activities

- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations with the latest updates from IHR Committee meetings.
- Technical guidance and support provided to National Vaccine Steering committee, and subgroups.
- Mobilizing additional resources for the COVID-19 response including vaccine introduction.
- Ongoing Technical support to Ministry of Health to develop National Complaint Management System for Health facilities.

### WHO support provided to Member State

- Facilitated submission of the COVAX vaccine application part B and National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan to the COVAX facility.
- Continuing support, technical assistance and high-level advocacy for COVID-19 response with HECC.
- Facilitated RMNCAH essential service disruption mapping (UN and MOH) in consultation with SEARO facilitated Maldives data mapping for SRMNCAH, VAW and HA.
- Assistance provided in acquiring manufacture price for essential medicines (Asia) to support the government effort to revise the medicine prices and set MRP.
- Drafting and finalizing the OCR operational Plan for 2021.