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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 04 / 05 / 2020

Cases reporting

- The first DEATH of COVID-19 has been reported amongst an 83-year-old Female.
- 527 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the Maldives – 507 active cases.
- 12 cases of local transmission outside of Male’ City was found in Shaviyani Atoll (north) which is linked to a positive case.
- 1547 People are in Quarantine and 452 in isolation facilities across Maldives.
- 8327 samples have been tested, 8064 tested negative and results for 151 samples are pending.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The lockdown has been extended in the Greater Male’ Region till 14 May 2020.
- Ministry of Health is accelerating surveillance including amongst migrant community to identify, test, isolate and manage cases to reduce COVID-19 transmission in the capital.
- Under Public Health Emergency; DG-Public Health issued a Notice to quarantine migrant workers living in vulnerable locations regardless of their legal status and those were probable contacts.
- COVID19 Diagnostics has been expanded within Male’ by starting to test with the RT PCR machine in Maldives Police Services Forensic Laboratory – with WHO provided kits.
- The construction of a quarantine facility in the island of Gulhifalhu, Kaafu Atoll, was completed with a capacity of 665 beds, within nine days.
- Special accommodation arrangements have been made by the government for frontline HCWs, Police Officers and members of RRTs who choose not to go home.
- The People’s Majlis (parliament) approved to bring amendments Fiscal Responsibility Act to enable the Government to borrow MVR 4.4 billion from the Central Bank to manage cashflow for the estimated cost for COVID19 response of MVR 1.4 billion in Maldives.
- The HPA launched a contact tracing application – TraceEkee – in efforts to mitigate community spread through community-driven detailed contact tracing.

WCO activities

- Processing request to expand COVID-19 diagnostic capacity at two Atolls outside Male’.
- Supporting to establish 2 ten bedded ICUs in regions.
- Leading Health and WASH Working group of UNCT Maldives.
- Continuing to support risk communication as a member of media and communication group.

WHO support provided to Member State

- Strengthened ongoing Infection Prevention & Control activities with provision of additional PPEs.
- Facilitate tele-interactions between NEOC team and SEARO team to strengthen response to COVID-19 outbreak at Male.
- Supported estimations for preparedness to transmission scenarios in Greater Male and atolls.
- Promoting vector control to mitigate increase in Dengue cases.

Support requested from SEARO
Facilitate expeditious procurement of 5 Medical Camp Kits

Laboratory: 4 GeneXperts, 25000 COVID-19 cartridges and 50 E-gene Kits.

Support / Coordination from SEARO and other agencies

Needs assessment to upgrade IGMH Lab to BSL 3 level.