

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 05 / 05 / 2021

### Cases reporting

- **31,330 confirmed cases** have been reported till date.
- **2,323 new cases have been reported since last week**, and there are **6,033 active cases** in the country, highest ever active cases to date – more than 4,000 active cases are in the greater **Male' region**.
- **THREE additional deaths** were reported during the week and mortality rate 0.23% with **74 deaths**.
- Over 751,100 samples have been tested till date. **Sample positivity rate** is currently at **15% - highest we have seen so far**.
- Cases continue to be seen more among **contacts** of positives and from departure samples from tourists and travelers. Most affected age groups continues to be ages 21-40 years. More males affected than females.
- **924 new recoveries** were reported during the week. 25,340 (**83%**) have recovered. **181 people are hospitalized** with moderate to severe disease, 6 cases in ICU and all 6 persons on ventilator care.
- Cases in atolls are increasing with currently over **1,800 active cases across 72 islands outside Male, the highest number outside of Male' region**.
- There are currently 1804 active cases reported across 69 inhabited islands (1270 local and 534 foreigners). The majority of cases were identified post quarantine upon testing, in addition to contacts of positives.
- The highest number from the atolls is currently reported from a local tourism guesthouse island in Kaafu atoll, Maafushi island. there are over 320 active cases in the island. The island houses the country's biggest prison as well with over 400 inmates; and the island has been placed under monitoring with over 1500 samples collected for random sampling and contact tracing is ongoing.
- In the central Alifu Alifu Atoll, a new cluster has been emerging from another local tourism island – AA Mathiveri island which currently reports over 208 active cases. A tourist had tested positive upon departure sampling, and upon contact tracing, symptomatic contacts were identified. The island as well as 8 neighboring islands have been placed under monitoring, with a few cases with link to travel from Mathiveri identified upon further investigation.
- In Thaa atoll, the cluster continues to grow, with currently 109 active cases reported from the island of Veymandoo. Over 60 cases with link to Veymandoo island has been reported from 6 islands in the atoll, with 7 islands in the atoll placed under monitoring and entry and exit banned from these islands.
- A new group of positives has been reported from the Laamu atoll, in the fish factory island of Maandhoo, with currently over 300 active cases reported.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, there are currently only 567 active cases across 110 resorts. Cases are seen more among tourists than staffs as of now.

### Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The Maldives overall vaccine coverage now stands at 53% for first dose and 18.5% as second dose as of TOTAL population.
- A total of 298,396 have received first dose and 114,240 has received second dose.
- With the ongoing surge of cases, the Minister of Health has announced the extension of state of public health emergency for one additional month, till 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

- With the increase in cases, HEOC has announced new PHS measures for the greater Male' area from 5-15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – which includes closure of offices, vehicle restrictions from 12am-4am, closure of schools and parks.
- The new restriction also makes travel from Male' region to any other area prohibited, except for essential purposes only, and to observe mandatory quarantine once arriving in the island.
- With the increase in cases in industrial islands, travel to and from such islands have also been restricted, travel allowed only with permission from HEOC.
- Despite ease of travel measures earlier, HPA has announced again that all tourists require a negative PCR test to enter in to the Maldives, irrespective of their vaccination status.
- Maldives Correctional Services have revealed that they have begun efforts to identify high-risk prisoners in detainment across the country to check the extent of Covid-19 transmission in Maldivian prisons.
- Despite the closure of schools, the Ministry of Education has announced that the examinations for O'level and A'levels will continue as per schedule, under special arrangements made for COVID-19 situation.
- The ministry of tourism has announced that over 80% of their frontline staff has been vaccinated, in a bid to vaccinate the entire tourism sector.

#### **WCO activities**

- Active participation in the daily National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group meetings.
- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations with the latest updates from IHR Committee meetings.
- Collaborating with HEOC Comms team in developing digital IEC on Vaccines in addition to extending administrative support.
- Supporting IPC Measures: such as ongoing efforts to monitor the vaccination sites for IPC related support.
- Technical support in the revision of the National Health Laboratory Standards for Maldives, currently under finalization.

#### **WHO support provided to Member State**

- WHO continues to monitor the vaccination sites and is actively involved in deliberations of the National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group's.
- Supported consultancy support developed situation analysis of HRH and evaluation of strategic plan 2014-2018;
- Review of regional hemoglobinopathies document (Maldives chapter by country experts);
- Support of local consultancy to review and update the National Pandemic Preparedness Plan PPP.