

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 10 / 02 / 2021

Cases reporting

- **16,909 cases** confirmed cases have been reported.
- **853 new cases have been identified in the week– an increase since last week.** There are **2,075 active cases** in the country currently – 1,449 cases active in the greater Male' region.
- The daily testing rate has been maintained with at least **4000-4500 samples tested in a day** – bringing total number of samples tested to 438,240. Sample positivity rate is currently at 3-4% - including departure samples of tourists.
- **THREE additional deaths** were reported again during the week, bringing up number of **deaths to 55** (0.33%).
- **582 recoveries** were reported during the week, bringing the total recoveries to 14,772 with recovery rate at **87%.**
- There are 198 people hospitalized with moderate to severe disease – with 2 persons in the ICU and no cases on ventilator. From the 198 persons hospitalized, 117 persons have preexisting comorbidities.
- In the atolls, the number of cases has been maintained at **145 active cases across 36 islands** – both locals and expats combined.
- The cluster from Meemu Kolhufushi currently reports **26 cases**, including the additional 15 cases reported during the week.
- A new cluster has been quickly evolving from Southern most atoll, Seenu Atoll in 3 islands, Seenu Hulhudhoo with **25 active cases**, Seenu Hithadhoo with **14 cases** and Seenu Feydhoo with **4 cases**; over 55 contacts have been identified and the **atoll placed under monitoring.** Contacts have been identified in nearby Gaafu Alifu Atoll and Gaafu Dhaalu atoll.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, the number continues to rise – with a total of **415 cases** reported from **63 resorts** across the country. Cases are reported more among staff with **304 staffs** reporting positive, in addition to **111 tourists.**
- With the sudden spike in numbers, HPA announced various restrictive measures to since the beginning of February 2021 including restricting parties and all gatherings, and reintroducing mandatory quarantine for all travelers into the country, as well as between atolls.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- Maldives has officially started off COVID-19 vaccination on 1st February 2021, expanded to 10 regions – in addition to the capital Male', southernmost Addu city and Kulhudhuffushi city in the north. Vaccination has now expanded to 10 more Atolls.
- Within 1 week, 12,934 persons have received COVISHIELD vaccine, donated by India to Maldives. Vaccination is opened to the frontline and HCWs and ALL persons above 50 years of age, in addition to persons with comorbidities.
- The HEOC is coordinating with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to ensure safety during congregational prayers, in addition to promoting COVID-19 vaccination among mosque attendees.
- The Ministry of Tourism has announced that the tourist positivity rate has been maintained at 0.9% since the borders opened in July 2020 (over 550,000 tourists have arrived)
- Mask is mandatory across the country, with any person not adhering to be fined MVR 1,000 by the police.

- Mass inspection campaigns has been expanded to all islands with COVID-19 active cases – this is in addition to the random sampling done for surveillance purposes to see the extent of transmission.

WCO activities

- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations with the latest updates from IHR Committee meetings.
- Training on use of GeneXpert for diagnosis of COVID-19, TB, HIV and Hep B/C has started off, with the help of SEARO and Cepheid for laboratory technicians in 7 regions of the Maldives.
- Mobilizing additional resources for the COVID-19 response including vaccine introduction.
- Supported consultancy to review the national medicine regulatory system.

WHO support provided to Member State

- Supporting COVID-19 vaccination Campaign
- Facilitated submission of all documents to COVAX facility required to receive vaccines from the first wave allocation.
- Continuing support, technical assistance and high-level advocacy for COVID-19 response with HECC.
- IPC Measures:
- Development and finalization of the National IPC guidelines was supported by WHO, currently under finalization.
- WHO Supported to develop the HAI prevention guidelines, currently under review with the SEARO technical colleagues.
- National Laboratory standards have been developed by a local consultant, which is also under review with SEARO technical team.