

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 10 / 03 / 2021

Cases reporting

- **20,919 confirmed cases** have been reported till date.
- **940 new cases have been reported since last week**, and there are **2,595 active cases** in the country currently – more than **1,800 active cases** are in the greater **Male’ region**.
- **TWO additional deaths** were reported during the week and mortality rate 0.31% with **64 deaths**.
- 555,623 samples have been tested till date. **Sample positivity rate** is currently at **4-5%**. Cases continue to be seen more among **contacts** of positives.
- **910 new recoveries** were reported during the week. 18,253 (**87.5%**) have recovered. **179 people are hospitalized** with moderate to severe disease, 2 persons in ICU and none on ventilator.
- There are currently **144 active cases** across **41 islands outside Male**.
- In the northern most part of Maldives in Haa Alif Atoll Baarah Island, **9 people** who were under home quarantine tested positive for COVID-19. Currently, the island reports total of **30 active cases**, all contacts of the positives.
- The cluster from **Seenu Atoll** currently report only **25 active cases**, **67 recoveries** have been confirmed by **Addu EOC**.
- In **Gnaviyani Atoll** Fuvah Mulak, only **10 cases are active**. Random sampling has been done and **NO additional positives** identified.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, a total of **416 cases** have been reported from **89 resorts** across the country.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- Maldives COVID-19 vaccination campaign is in full swing one month since initiation, having vaccinated over 157,813 totals to date out of which, 66,534 were from atolls.
- The HEOC, HPA and Maldives Red Crescent has initiated vaccination for undocumented migrants in the Maldives. Foreign workers will receive the vaccine free of cost, once they register with the MRC. During the week, over 156 undocumented workers have received the vaccine, and over 1490 persons have registered to receive the jab.
- An additional restrictive public health and social measure has been introduced by the HEOC – regarding traveling from Male’ city to islands, which can be done **ONLY** with special permission for essential travel, must have a negative PCR result with a sample taken 72 hours prior to traveling.
- Maldives Airports Company has also launched an airport-wide vaccination campaign, under which they have vaccinated over 45% of staff, with an average of 114 vaccinations per day at the airport vaccination center.
- The Minister of Tourism announced that currently, there are currently less than 75 tourist COVID-19 active cases in the country. Having had 198,116 arrivals since January, there were only 575 who tested positive, 0.29%.
- The long delayed Local Council Elections is being planned for April 2021, and guidelines and recommendations on how to hold safe elections during COVID-19 is being discussed between HPA and Elections Commission of Maldives.

WCO activities

- WCO also has facilitated several trainings and webinars for country teams including the MTAGI, AEFI and National Program.
- Support in hiring a support staff for the disability and well-being division of Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services.
- Supporting IPC Measures such as ongoing efforts to monitor the vaccination sites for IPC related support.
- Provided feedback from WHO regarding IPC measures on Sea Planes and Safari/Yachts.

WHO support provided to Member State

- Madam RD Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh during a virtual handover ceremony handed over cold chain, laboratory supplies and other essential items to strengthen Health System to Hon. Minister of Health Ahmed Naseem.
- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations with the latest updates from IHR Committee meetings.
- Regular sharing of WHO guidelines and recommendations for informed and evidence-based decisions during response.
- Providing support to HEOC with the help of technical Focal Points at SEARO to address vaccine related misconceptions.