

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 12 / 05 / 2021

Cases reporting

- **38,520 confirmed cases** have been reported till date.
- **5,596 new cases have been reported since last week**, and there are **11,692 active cases** in the country, highest ever active cases to date – more than 6,000 active cases are in the greater **Male' region**.
- **THIRTEEN additional deaths** were reported during the week and mortality rate 0.23% with **87 deaths**.
- Over 780,100 samples have been tested till date. **Sample positivity rate** is currently at 24% - **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. More positives under the age of 18 are being reported, currently 290 active cases under the age of 18 years.
- **1455 new recoveries** were reported during the week. 26,795 (75%) have recovered. **230 people are hospitalized** with moderate to severe disease, 12 cases in ICU and 4 persons on ventilator care.
- Cases in atolls are increasing with currently over 3,103 active cases across **83 islands outside Male, the highest number outside of Male' region**. The majority of cases were identified post quarantine upon testing, in addition to contacts of positives. This is highest ever number outside of greater Male' region.
- Only 4 islands report more than 300 cases – Lhaviyani Naifaru with 478 cases, Kaafu Maafushi with 487 cases, 258 cases in Alif Alifu Atoll and 267 active cases from fish factory island of Laamu Maandhoo.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, there are currently only 513 active cases across 110 resorts. Cases are seen more among staffs more than tourists for the week.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The Maldives overall vaccine coverage now stands at 53.08% for first dose and 23.96% as second dose as of TOTAL population.
- A total of 301,707 have received first dose and 136,205 has received second dose.
- WHO continue to provide the technical support to the Vaccine Effectiveness Study that is planned by HPA and MNU.
- With the ongoing surge of cases, the Minister of Health has announced the extension of curfew imposed in the greater Male' region from 4pm – 4am until further notice.
- The opening hours of flu clinics and sample collection centers has been increased, with the efforts to open more sample collection centers ongoing.
- Several Public health and social measures have been introduced as well, such as mandatory closure of all offices (including private), restaurants only open for take away and delivery, closure of salons, gyms, and all schools and colleges to have classes online only. Congregational prayers has also been temporarily stopped.
- Non-essential travel between islands has also been stopped, with travel allowed only with HPA permits, with a mandatory quarantine of 14 days – irrespective of their vaccination status.
- With the increase in cases, HEOC has announced new PHS measures for the greater Male' area from 5-15th May 2021 – which includes closure of offices, vehicle restrictions from 12am-4am, closure of schools and parks.

- 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.
- Despite the imposing of travel measures, Maldives has welcomed 20,273 tourists into the country in May 2021, and total more than 410,100 travelers, staying for an average of 9 days for guest.

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.
- Participation in Wolbachia introduction briefing meeting to partners and interested parties was held and technical brainstorming session was held among the working group.
- Supporting IPC Measures: such as ongoing efforts to monitor the vaccination sites for IPC related support.
- Ongoing support for AEFI casualties assessments.

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.
- Facilitated Maldives participation in virtual regional meeting on Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development
- Engagement of National Consultant for Coverage Assessment of RMNCHA platforms.
- Coordinated country response to WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2021.