

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 13 / 01 / 2021

Cases reporting

- Total confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country has reached at **14,159**.
- The daily testing has been increased to **3000-3500 samples a day** – bringing total number of samples tested to 345,551. Sample positivity rate is maintained at 1-2% including departure samples of tourists.
- **266 new cases have been identified since last week**. There are **738 cases active** in the country currently.
- An additional death was reported during the week, number of **deaths** have come up to **49** (0.35%).
- Over the last week, over **90 recoveries** were reported. Recovery rate is maintained at **95%**.
- **92 cases** have been confirmed from the **wedding event cluster** in Male' City out of the 120 total persons in attendance. Over 260 contacts were identified, and remaining contacts are under observation.
- A **new cluster** is evolving from the southern atoll Gaafu Alifu, in the island of Dhevvadhoo (a total population of 1300 persons). A family of 6 had traveled from Male' City and were quarantined together. Upon release testing, a family member tested positive, but they had come out of quarantine and gone in to the community. The island has been put under monitoring and contact tracing initiated. There have been over **163 contacts** identified – including **4 positive cases from Laamu atoll** having link and contact history to the case.
- A fishing boat with 29 persons has also been quarantined for having contact with the Dhevvadhoo outbreak. Currently, there are total of **16 positive cases from Dhevvadhoo cluster** including the cases in Laamu atoll.
- Cases continue to be reported more from the greater Male' region, with 472 cases reported currently.
- In the atolls, we have **46 positive cases** reported from **22 islands** across the 20 atolls. 99% of all cases in the atolls have link of travel history to greater Male' area.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, we have currently **152 positive cases** reported from **34 resorts**; more positive cases among staff than tourists.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- Maldives has updated the National COVID-19 preparedness and response guidelines, with updated case definitions – including the new testing strategy of testing ALL who have any COVID-19 like symptoms. <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Updated-Covid-19-Case-Definitions-circular-9th-Jan.pdf>
- The country has finalized and endorsed the National Vaccine Deployment plan for COVID-19 and submitted to WHO SEARO.
- The HEOC has urged the resorts to take special precautions to prevent an outbreak in the resorts, especially with more tourists anticipated to arrive in the next days. It has been prioritized by the country to strengthen and protect the health of Hospitality industry.
- The Ministry of Tourism Since reopening borders, 108 individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 from tourist facilities in the Maldives – which is less than 1% of positivity rate.
- All schools in the capital city of Male' from kindergarten to grade 12 reopened after a lengthy interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic - with schooling in the new normal to involve significant changes which are intended to ensure the protection of students. Under the protocol rolled out by the Ministry of Education as protective measures to limit the spread of disease, overall sessions will be limited to 4 to 5 hours.

- As of 31 December 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 1,395.8 million; a 1.6% increase from the week before. In this review period 41.9% of total health and social spending was committed-spending. In terms of week-on-week spending, MoH registered the highest spending compared to its peers at MVR 18.8 million.

WCO activities

- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations during contact tracing on Sea Planes.
- Mobilizing additional resources for the COVID-19 response
- Updating the National Health Laboratory Standards for Maldives, currently under finalization.
- Providing support to the National TB program to develop a digital education kit for TB patients.
- Continued Technical support to Maldives Blood Services to review and revise Thalassemia treatment protocol.
- Continued Technical support to Ministry of Health for producing National Health Accounts (2018-2020).
- Continued Technical support to Ministry of Health to develop National Complain Management System for Health facilities.

WHO support provided to Member State

- Facilitated submission of the COVAX vaccine application part B and National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan to the COVAX facility.
- Continuing support, technical assistance and high-level advocacy for COVID-19 response with HECC.
- WHO facilitated the handover ceremony between the EU and the Ministry of Health, in an official ceremony to mark the significant contribution to Maldives COVID-19 preparedness and response.
- Provided technical support and facilitated submission to SEARO of the VIRAF.2.0 tool (Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool) tool.
- Continued contribution to the COVID 19 vaccine steering committee and technical subgroup assignments