

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 15 / 07 / 2020

Cases reporting

- Over 63,559 samples tested in the country 130 days since first case.
- 2,801 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 14 deaths reported – 261 new cases since last report.
- 2,302 people (82%) have recovered. 470 cases are active. 34 are hospitalized with moderate or severe disease.
- 99.28% of cases belong to known and existing clusters – more Maldivians among new cases than foreigners.
- 47 people are in Quarantine and 371 in isolation facilities across Maldives.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- His Excellency President of Maldives toured the Velana International Airport on 14 July 2020 to observe preparations at the airport ahead of the reopening of Maldives' borders for international travel.
- A drill was conducted at the airport to better prepare in the context of the pandemic.
- 9 cases have been reported outside of Male' City – 3 in Raa Dhuvaafaru island, 2 in AA Thoddoo island, 1 in Kaafu Himmafushi island and 2 cases in Haa Dhaal atoll Nohivaran island and 1 case in Kudafari Island.
- Testing capacities have been expended outside of Male' City – in Addu Equatorial Hospital in South, Kulhudhuffushi Regional Hospital in the North and Ungufaroo at Baa Atoll through WHO support.
- HPA in collaboration with Male' City Council and Ministry of Economic Development has started inspection of public spaces, restaurants and government offices, to see if the places are open in compliance with the HPA workplace guidelines.
- Additional COVID-19 cases have not been reported from Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital after the hospital adopted stricter service policies in patients receiving treatment at the Intensive Care Unit.
- As at 09 July 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health efforts stood at MVR 1,042.9 million; a 1.4 % increase from the week before. In this review period 53.1 % of total health spending was committed-spending. The weekly government COVID-19 expenditure report is available <https://www.finance.gov.mv/public/attachments/5Uc2RI7zyTxgwg9N76C9szeLOtAfdqhUtpt4zxgm.pdf>
- Over 1000 Bangladeshi undocumented immigrants have been repatriated over the past two weeks

WCO activities

- As member of "Presidential Task Force on Resilience Building"; WHO Maldives is providing technical inputs to "Essential health services and health system strengthening" and "Essential service and social protection" sub groups as the country aspires to build back better.
- Active participation in the daily Health Emergency Coordination Committee meetings held at HEOC, chaired by Minister of Health.
- Facilitation of country technical documentations and coordination with National Verification Committee (NVC), Maldives Technical Advisory Group for Immunization (MTAGI) and Health Protection Agency (HPA) towards elimination of Rubella, through active participation

WHO support provided to Member State

- "COVID 19 International Border Health Response Guidelines for Points of Entry: was developed with WHO support. WHO provided critical inputs to the guideline.
- WHO representative participated in the Airport drill and provided inputs to strengthen infection privation and control measures.
- Additional 4000 E Gene Assays were handed over to the Ministry of Health.

- Handed over equipment to set up ICU including beds, mattresses, portable suction machines; laboratory equipment, bio safety cabinets as well as RNA extraction machines.
- Handed over essential items for People with Disabilities to Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services.

Support requested from SEARO

- Maintain pipeline supply of E -gene Kits and send 10,000 GeneXpert cartridges.

Support / Coordination from SEARO and other agencies

- Share details to upgrade IGMH Lab to BSL 3 level.