

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 16 / 12 / 2020

Cases reporting

- **Over 271,346 samples tested to date.** Number of tests done per day have been increased a bit with over 2300 samples tested during the week. Sample positivity rate continues to be maintained at about 1-2%.
- **The total number of recoveries have come up to 12,730 with 95.15% of total recoveries. Only 593 cases are currently active in the country.**
- **Total confirmed cases have reached 13,379 cases. An additional death** was reported in the week, total deaths reported have come up to **48 (0.36%). 166 new cases since last week (decreased from the week before).**
- **A total of 70 persons are hospitalized, all admitted in facilities in the greater Male' region, with moderate disease with no cases in ICU or ventilator support.**
- **There are currently no cases admitted outside Male' Region**
- 99.85% of cases belong to known and existing clusters – more Maldivians (63.11%) among the active cases even in and outside of Greater Male' region.
- **167 people** are in **isolation** facilities across Maldives and the rest under home isolation.
- Cases continue to be concentrated mostly to Greater Male' region. **484** of the active cases are currently reported from the Male' region, with 99% of all cases in the atolls having link to history travel from greater Male' area and quarantine.
- Out of 593 active cases, 484 are in Male' Area, 37 in atolls, 41 in operational resorts, 30 in other tourist establishments (yacht/Safari) as well as industrial islands.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The Minister of Health and DGPH continue to lead the HECC meetings on a regular basis, with a targeted focus on the island and atoll COVID-19 task forces.
- The HEOC and HPA has released a new COVID-19 guideline for groups of 10 or more people staying in shared accommodations have been updated and published on the COVID19 website.
- HECC emphasize on the need to strengthen preventive measures amidst ease of restrictions and the need to focus on close monitoring.
- H.E President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih declared that the Government will prioritize upholding and promoting human rights without favor or discrimination as part of its resilience and recovery efforts following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Vice President H.E Faisal Naseem has held discussions with relevant stakeholders regarding streamlining airport services ahead of the peak tourism season in the Maldives. The discussions focused on prioritizing the health and safety of workers and tourists during the ongoing pandemic.
- Luxury resort brand Soneva donated medical supplies worth USD 27,000 to hospitals and medical centers in the atolls of Noonu and Baa on Thursday to support the countries COVID-19 response.
- The Ministry of Tourism has announced that Male' Region guesthouses/hotels will be open from 15th December 2020 for tourists, which was limited to only transit passengers since border reopening under the strict guidance of TAG and HEOC.
- Following this announcement, a new guideline has been finalized and released by HPA – regarding the safety measures required for re-opening of tourist guest houses and hotels in Greater Male' region.

- The Minister of Tourism also mentioned that over half a million tourists will arrive in Maldives by the end of December 2020, a progressive growth in tourist arrivals since reopening of borders in July 2020.
- The Ministry of Economic Development has announced that over 8,500 undocumented migrant workers have been repatriated, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – in the governments target to send back at least 20,000 undocumented workers before the end of 2020.
- As of 10 December 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 1,342.6 million; a 0.4% increase from the week before. In this review period 43.2% 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 5.1 million. The majority of their spending was on their Operational Services and on Allowances to Employees.
- Over the review period, other agencies only reported small incremental changes in their spending (full report in the link below).
- <https://www.finance.gov.mv/public/attachments/4kClmo8cKb8GCDbdqlpxSiqopouRXlq7v23rylcy.pdf>

WCO activities

- Continuing support, technical assistance and high-level advocacy for COVID-19 response with HECC.
- Continuing facilitating support for COVID19 vaccine introduction
- Country submitted the National Vaccine Request to COVAX facility on 7th of December 2020
- Continuing support in Essential Health Services

WHO support provided to Member State

- Facilitated country participation on High-Level Leadership Meeting on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2020
- Supporting preparedness for COVID-19 vaccine deployment and expanding cold chain system in preparation for COVID19 vaccine introduction