

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 17 / 02 / 2021

Cases reporting

- **17,953 confirmed cases** have been reported.
- **1,044 new cases have been identified – an increase since last week.** There are **2,328 active cases** in the country currently – majority of active cases are in the greater Male' region.
- **THREE additional deaths** were reported again during the week, bringing up number of **deaths to 58** (0.33%).
- The daily testing rate has also been increased according to the higher needs, with at least **4000-5000 samples tested in a day** – bringing total number of samples tested to 466,545. **Sample positivity rate** is currently at **3-4%** - with departure samples of tourists included, it comes to **5%**.
- **788 new recoveries** were reported during the week, bringing the total recoveries to 15,560 with recovery rate at **86.31%**.
- There are 190 people hospitalized with moderate to severe disease – with 3 persons in the ICU and no cases on ventilator.
- In the atolls, the number of cases has been maintained at **147 active cases across 34 islands** – both locals and expats combined.
- The cluster from Southern most atoll, Seenu Atoll in 3 islands reporting 60 cases; and over 341 contacts have been identified and the **atoll placed under monitoring**. Contacts have been identified in nearby Gaafu Alifu Atoll and Gaafu Dhaalu atoll.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, the number continues to rise – with a total of **434 cases** reported from **63 resorts** across the country. Cases are reported more among staff with **369 staffs** reporting positive, in addition to **125 tourists**.
- In the island resort of Biyaadhoo, the cluster is maintained with the island kept under monitoring, with **53 active cases** currently active.
- The type of samples most tested in the country remains the samples taken from identified **contacts of positives** apart from the clinical samples as well as departure samples for tourists.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- Maldives officially started off COVID-19 vaccination on 1st February 2021, expanded now all 20 atolls – using the COVISHIELD donated by India.
- Total of 43,817 persons have been vaccinated across the country within two weeks of starting.
- Vaccination is opened to the frontline and HCWs and ALL persons above 18 years of age (high risk), in addition to persons with comorbidities.
- From 13th February 2021, HPA extended the vehicle ban implemented in the Greater Male' Region from 1800 hrs to 0600 hrs – with vehicles banned in Male' City, fifth ward Vilimale', reclaimed suburb Hulhumale', airport island Hulhule', landfill island Thilafushi and industrial island Gulhifalhu for a 12-hour period.
- In Gnaviyani Atoll island of Fuah Mulak, a curfew has been imposed due to increase in number of cases reported, with total of 14 cases currently active in the island. The curfew restricts vehicle movement between 8pm-4am, a ban on public gatherings as well as closure of schools for all grades. The atoll has been put under monitoring status and travel to and from the island has been stopped for contact tracing and sampling efforts.

- The Ministry of Education has revealed that all students below grade 6 in studying in the Greater Male' area will have classes conducted online for a period of two weeks, following an advisory by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in light of the increased number of new Covid-19 cases.
- The Ministry of Tourism has announced that the tourist positivity rate has been maintained at 0.9% since the borders opened in July 2020 (over 555,000 tourists have arrived)
- The HEOC in partnership with Maldives Police and City councils continue the Mass inspection campaigns which has been expanded to all islands with COVID-19 active cases – this is in addition to the random sampling done for surveillance purposes to see the extent of transmission.

WCO activities

- 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.
- Mobilizing additional resources for the COVID-19 response including vaccine introduction.
- Supported local consultancy to develop National Drug Policy.

WHO support provided to Member State

- Supporting COVID-19 vaccination Campaign
- Facilitated submission of all documents to COVAX facility required to receive vaccines from the first wave allocation.
- Continuing support, technical assistance and high-level advocacy for COVID-19 response with HECC.
- Participated in the SEAR regional meeting on the CVIC tool and implications for health financing.
- **IPC Measures:**
- Participation in the regional consultation on prioritizing the GPSAP and regional strategy on patient safety to provide WCO feedback.
- Finalization and endorsement of the National Laboratory Policy.