

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 17 / 03 / 2021

Cases reporting

- **21,572 confirmed cases** have been reported till date.
- **653 new cases have been reported since last week**, and there are **2,410 active cases** in the country currently – more than **1,743 active cases** are in the greater **Male' region**.
- **NO additional deaths** were reported during the week and mortality rate 0.31% with **64 deaths**.
- 581,192 samples have been tested till date. **Sample positivity rate** is down to **2-3%**. Cases continue to be seen more among **contacts** of positives.
- **840 new recoveries** were reported during the week. 19,093 (**88.5%**) have recovered. **125 people are hospitalized** with moderate to severe disease, 1 person in ICU and none on ventilator.
- There are currently **164 active cases** across **37 islands outside Male**.
- From the cluster in the north in Haa Alif Atoll Baarah Island, currently reports total of **34 active cases**, all contacts of the positives.
- The cluster from **Seenu Atoll** currently report only **01 active case**, **91 recoveries** have been confirmed by **Addu EOC and no deaths**.
- In **Gnaviyani Atoll** Fuvah Mulak, only **5 cases are active**.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, a total of **449 cases** have been reported from **89 resorts** across the country. Cases seen more among staff than tourists.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- Maldives COVID-19 vaccination campaign has vaccinated 45% of the eligible population, with over 212,711 in total to date out of which, 91,081 were from atolls.
- HPA has announced that so far, there has been 1427 minor AEFI cases reported including 7 deaths, and all the cases are under investigation by the National AEFI committee.
- The country is currently planning out the campaign for second dose, with guidelines being developed on vaccination during upcoming Ramadan.
- The Maldives Food and Drug Authority (MFDA) has announced emergency-use approvals for the Sinopharm and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines in the Maldives, to boost work to immunize the nation's population against Covid-19 through fast-tracked vaccination efforts across the country.
- The country has already received 18,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine and is currently awaiting an additional 200,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine from China.
- The HEOC, HPA and Maldives Red Crescent has initiated vaccination for undocumented migrants in the Maldives. Foreign workers will receive the vaccine free of cost, once they register with the MRC. Total of over 440 undocumented workers have received the vaccine.
- The Ministry of Education has announced that Male' City schools will remain closed, and online classes will continue from grades LKG up to the six for an additional week. The O'Level and A'Level examinations will be held in May and June 2021.
- The government has issued over MVR 300 million as income support allowances rolled out under the government's economic relief package introduced in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

WCO activities

- WCO also has facilitated several trainings and webinars for country teams including the MTAGI, AEFI and National Program.
- Providing support to the National TB program to develop a digital education kit for TB patients.
- Facilitated Maldives participation in Regional consultation of drafting road map for GAPP (Global Action Plan on Physical Activity) implementation.
- Supporting IPC Measures such as ongoing efforts to monitor the vaccination sites for IPC related support.
- Provided feedback from WHO regarding IPC measures on Sea Planes and Safari/Yachts as well as fishing boats.
- In coordination with SEARO, facilitated research capacity assessment exercise (virtual) in Maldives

WHO support provided to Member State

- 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.
- Providing support to HEOC with the help of technical Focal Points at SEARO to address vaccine related misconceptions.
- Review of regional hemoglobinopathies document (Maldives chapter by country experts).