

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 19 / 05 / 2021

Cases reporting

- **47,421 confirmed cases** have been reported till date.
- **6,530 new cases have been reported since last week**, and there are **18,222 active cases** in the country, highest ever active cases to date – more than 15,000 active cases are in the greater **Male' region**.
- **EIGHTEEN additional deaths** were reported during the week and mortality rate 0.23% with 105 **deaths**. More deaths are reported among persons above the age of 55, with mostly only a single dose, or no dose of any vaccination.
- Over 800,000 samples have been tested till date. **Sample positivity rate** is currently at **40% - highest we have seen so far**.
- Cases continue to be seen more among **contacts** of positives and from departure samples from tourists and travelers. Most affected age groups continue to be ages 21-40 years. More males affected than females. More positives under the age of 18 are being reported, currently 1465 active cases under the age of 18 years.
- **2291 new recoveries** were reported during the week. 29,086 (61%) have recovered. **261 people are hospitalized** with moderate to severe disease, 16 cases in ICU and 10 persons on ventilator care. (ages 39-49, 7 persons admitted and 4 ventilated)
- Cases in atolls are increasing with currently over 3,080 active cases across 100 **islands outside Male, the highest number outside of Male' region**. The majority of cases were identified post quarantine upon testing, in addition to contacts of positives. This is highest ever number outside of greater Male' region.
- Only 5 atolls report more than 200 cases – Lhaviyani Naifaru with 363 cases, Kaafu Maafushi with 487 cases (not increased), 228 cases in Alif Alifu Atoll and 179 in Alif Dhaalu Atoll, 229 from Faafu atoll, and 129 from Gnaviyani atoll Fuvah Mulak. There are currently only 33 active cases from fish factory island of Laamu Maandhoo.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, there are currently only 510 active cases across 97 resorts. Cases are seen more among staffs more than tourists for the week.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The Maldives overall vaccine coverage now stands at 53.47% for first dose and 25.98% as second dose as of TOTAL population. A total of 303, 919 have received first dose and 1147,682 has received second dose.
- The country has a huge demand for vaccine, especially for the second dose of COVIDSHEILD vaccine which has been extended to 16 weeks between two doses.
- With the ongoing surge of cases, the Minister of Health has announced the extension of curfew imposed in the greater Male' region from 4pm – 4am till 25th May 2021.
- Several Public health and social measures have also been extended, such as mandatory closure of all offices (including private), restaurants only open for take away and delivery, closure of salons, gyms, and all schools and colleges to have classes online only. Congregational prayers have also been temporarily stopped, in Greater Male' region as well as in Addu and Fuvah Mulak City.
- Maldives Food and Drug Authority (MFDA) has approved the use of Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine in the Maldives, for restricted use in emergency situations for individuals over the age of 18.
- Ministry of Tourism has announced it will be conducting inspections on tourism establishments to check whether the health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are followed in such places which will

be focused on tourism services in inhabited islands due to the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in the Maldives. Inspectors will be checking whether employees at guesthouses and other tourism establishments are adhering to the guidelines on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

- Ministry of Education has decided to extend the closure of schools in the Greater Male' Region until May 20. Schools in the Male' region have been conducting its classes online since last week due to the surge of COVID-19 cases in the capital.
- Ministry of Finance has revealed the expenditure towards COVID-19 health and social efforts has exceeded USD 214 million. As of May 6, 2021, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at USD 214 million, which is a 0.2% increase from the week before. The review showed the majority of expenses were on National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

WCO activities

- Active participation in the daily National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group meetings.
- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations with the latest updates on COVID-19
- Supporting and guiding the Health Protection Agency National TB Program to complete and upload Maldives data to Global TB Data Platform.
- IPC Measures: such as ongoing efforts to monitor the vaccination sites for IPC related support.
- Ongoing support for AEFI casualties assessments.
- Facilitated repair, maintenance and training on PCR for Addu Equatorial Hospital.

WHO support provided to Member State

- WHO continues to monitor the vaccination sites and is actively involved in deliberations of the National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group's.
- WHO continue to provide the technical support to the Vaccine Effectiveness Study that is planned by HPA and MNU.
- Supported procurement of essential logistics for HEOC operations with the expansion of services.
- WHO with the support from SEARO and WCO Thailand supported sending of samples to Thailand for Genotyping for a 3rd round.