

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 21 / 04 / 2021

Cases reporting

- **26,505 confirmed cases** have been reported till date.
- **746 new cases have been reported since last week**, and there are **2,735 active cases** in the country currently – more than **1,131 active cases** are in the greater **Male' region**.
- **THREE additional deaths** were reported during the week and mortality rate 0.26% with **70 deaths**.
- Over 710,498 samples have been tested till date. **Sample positivity rate** is currently at **5%**.
- Cases continue to be seen more among **contacts** of positives and from departure samples from tourists and travelers. Most affected age groups are ages 21-40 years. More males affected than females.
- **900 new recoveries** were reported during the week. 23,691 (**89%**) have recovered. **65 people are hospitalized** with moderate to severe disease, 6 cases in ICU and 2 persons on ventilator care.
- There are currently **1,017 active cases** across **71 islands outside Male**. Cases are reported from **all the atolls** for the first time since outbreak in Maldives. (733 Maldivians and 284 foreigners)
- In the central Kaafu atoll, in Kaafu Dhiffushi island, the case numbers have decreased, currently reporting **58 active cases**.
- In Lhaviyani atoll, in the industrial island of Felivaru, there are over **260 active cases** (150 random samples and 110 contacts). In the neighboring island of Naifaru, there are **230 active cases**, and in Hinnavaru island only **08 cases**. The atoll continues to be under monitoring.
- A new cluster emerged this week, from Thaa Atoll, in island of Veymandoo, with 108 active cases – after 2 patients transferred to Male' for treatment tested positive for COVID-19; random samples were collected from the island and 6 islands in the atoll have been placed under monitoring for contact tracing.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, a total of **462 cases** have been reported from **106 resorts** across the country with 191 staff and 271 tourists.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- Over 283,973 persons have been vaccinated in Maldives. Second dose with the COVISHIELD vaccination has also started since 3rd April 2021 having vaccinated 51,350. 64% of eligible population has received the first dose, and 10% received second dose.
- Maldives launched Pfizer vaccination on 11th April 2021, for children of 16 & 17 years of age as well as adults above 60 years (persons with comorbidities as well as persons on long term medication for chronic diseases) having vaccinated 311 first dose to date.
- H.E President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih announced that citizens who have had two weeks pass following their second dose of Covid-19 vaccinations will be permitted to travel between islands without quarantine, which was later announced by HEOC that beginning 20 April 2021, travel to islands with 60 percent total vaccinations will be possible without quarantine, for fully vaccinated citizens, after two weeks have passed from their second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.
- The DGPH has also announced ease of travel restrictions, for travelers including tourists, who have completed their two doses of vaccine 2 weeks prior to travel are now exempted from pre-arrival negative PCR requirement. (<https://visitmaldives.s3.amazonaws.com/3qlkmyYX/zkofukx1.pdf>)
- Ministry of Tourism revealed that authorities have given the green light for resort workers to travel to residential islands without the requirement to quarantine, if they have completed two weeks after their second Covid-19 vaccination jab.

- According to the latest statistics publicized by Ministry of Finance, the total expenditure towards social, health and economic response efforts due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, has exceeded MVR 3.3 billion.
- From 1st January 2021 to 7th April 2021, a total of 324,465 tourists arrived in the Maldives. The top source market for the tourist arrival was India with 74,673 arrivals, followed by Russia with 67,996 tourist arrivals.

WCO activities

- WHO regularly monitors the vaccination sites and is actively involved in deliberations of the National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group.
- Provided WHO guidance on use of GeneXpert for diagnosis of COVID-19, in the context of departure sample testing at airports.
- Supporting IPC Measures: such as ongoing efforts to monitor the vaccination sites for IPC related support.
- Supported Subnational External Quality Assessment Project (EQAP) with the support of SEARO and Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs (RCPAQAP) Australia, in which 3 sub national labs in Maldives scored 100%;
- Support to Ministry of Health in identifying experts for the consultancy on Establishing Health facilities Accreditation System 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.
- Facilitated Maldives participation in WHO HQ/SEARO Digital Health Planning training.
- Ongoing support to Maldives National University (MNU) by WCO/SEARO to establish Field Epidemiology Training Program (short term course);
- Technical support for Vaccine Effectiveness study on disease severity planned by Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC)