

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 21 / 10 / 2020

### Cases reporting

- **Over 178,000 samples tested to date**, with an increase of testing during the week of 1300-1500 samples at least per day, and a decrease in sample positivity dropped to 2% during the week.
- **10,200 people (90.81%) have recovered. 988 cases are currently active across the country.**
- **11,232 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 and **TWO** additional death reported in the week, total deaths have come up to **37 deaths (0.33%)** reported. **289 new cases since last week - cases continue to show decline in the last 7 days.**
- **39 are hospitalized with moderate or severe disease with NO cases in ICU and currently no one on ventilator support.**
- **99.82% of cases belong to known and existing clusters – more Maldivians (64.12%) among the active cases even in and outside of Greater Male' region.**
- **354 people** are in **isolation** facilities across Maldives and rest under home isolation with more than 600 persons under home Quarantine.
- Cases continue to be concentrated mostly to Greater Male' region. 872 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.
- Outside of Greater Male' Region - **75 active cases were reported in 21 inhabited islands** during the last week – 71 locals and 04 expats.
- In the north of the country, Haa Dhaalu Atoll Kulhudhuffushi island has reported an additional 4 cases during the week, with total 11 active cases within the island – linked to a new emerging cluster of Maldives Police Services – with single cases links in 4 different islands in the North – with over 185 contacts identified; and island placed under monitoring by HEOC.
- In the central region, Laamu atoll continues to report the highest number of cases with currently 33 active cases – 25 recoveries were reported during the week and no additional cases identified.
- In the South, all 55 cases reported has recovered since and currently there are **NO** cases in Seenu Atoll Ganas of today.
- In the resorts – currently there are 41 **active** COVID-19 cases across 18 **resorts** – 25 staffs and 16 tourists. This includes staff from non-operational resorts as well.

### Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The HEOC in partnership with Maldives National University has launched a COVID-19 antibody test survey of school students – under the strict protocols and guidance of WHO.
- Total number of active cases have decreased after more than 71 days of seeing active case numbers in thousands - with confirmed cases continued to be found mostly among contacts of active cases, from flu clinics and through active surveillance.
- Flu Clinic positivity rate as well as sample positivity rate is also declining and other indicators for monitoring of restrictions show positive changes.
- The government has reopened the atolls and islands for local Guesthouse tourism; with 22 guesthouses reopened in 12 islands across the country – under strict guidance of Ministry of Tourism and HEOC.
- The Ministry of Education has announced that teaching will NOT resume for grades 6 and below in 2020, but classes have commenced for grades 7-12<sup>th</sup> under the instructions and guidelines set by the Health Protection Agency (HPA).
- As of 15 October 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 1,280.8 million; a 0.7 % increase from the week before. In this review period 47.2 % 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 - approximately MVR 4.7 million and MVR3.8 million were spent on Supplies & Requisites for Service Provision and Operational Services, respectively. The remaining agencies did not register any spending's or spending's were relatively negligible over the review period.
- <https://www.finance.gov.mv/public/attachments/5KsKuUGv5pF3sIBTagy9U4uKG45aeB8DA7LYcN2Q.pdf>

### WCO activities

- Actively participate at daily HECC meetings to support the country's COVID-19 response.
- WHO worked with HPA to conduct a review of the preparatory work to introduce COVID-19 vaccine to Maldives.
- Regularly sharing information and advice with UN partner and other stakeholders.
- Conducted prioritization exercise to identify outcomes and outputs for 2022-2023 Workplan.

### WHO support provided to Member State

- Working with SEARO team to mobilize 15,000 PCR test kits for COVID-19 diagnosis on an urgent basis.
- WHO completed the cold chain assessment of the country, and prepared a report based on the findings.
- Supported recruitment of additional staff to strengthen HEOC and HECC response including supporting staff for Risk Communication and Documentation.
- Handed over disinfectants, PPEs and handwashing stations to Ministry of Education to strengthen preparedness in schools.