

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 22 / 09 / 2021

Cases reporting

- 83,875 confirmed cases; 805 new cases reported within the week (maintained since last report); 1,694 active cases in the country (972 locals and 744 foreigners).
- TWO new deaths reported during the week and mortality rate currently at 0.27% with 229 deaths.
- 990 new recoveries were reported during the week, total 81,939 persons that is 98% have recovered.
- 5,166 samples tested in the last 24hours – 220 new cases reported (164 cases outside of the GMR). Sample positivity rate is at 2% in GMR and 13% in atolls; 13 persons are hospitalized with moderate to severe disease.
- Outside of the GMR in the atolls, as of 21st September 2021, there are 907 active cases across 44 inhabited islands in 16 atolls.
- The number of islands affected has decreased since last week continuing to report small sporadic clusters of 1-2 cases in some islands and only one affected island in some atolls. There are currently only 18 islands under monitoring status.
- The highest number reported in the atolls is from the Southernmost atoll of Addu City, with 218 active cases across 5 districts. The curfew in the city has been extended for one more week with the atoll placed under monitoring status.
- In the Northern atoll of Haa dhaalu island of Nolvivaram case numbers have reduced to 101 active cases. In neighboring atoll, Shaviyani in island of Milandhoo, there are 89 active cases.
- In Raa Atoll Dhuvaafaru island, the case numbers have reduced to 76 active cases – the island been under monitoring since end of May 2021.
- In the south, in Gnaviyani Atoll island of Fuvah Mulak City, the active case numbers have reduced to 41 active cases. Monitoring measures from the island city has been lifted after one month since a spike in cases since August 2021.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The Maldives total vaccinated coverage now stands at 71.66% for first dose and 60.92% as second dose as of TOTAL population (545,847). Only 28% of the total population remain to be vaccinated.
- The Ministry of Education stated 22,093 students across 141 public and private schools have received both doses of the vaccine, while 35,989 students from 218 schools received the first dose as of 17 September 2021.
- In its latest weekly statistics, the Ministry of Tourism revealed that the arrivals number between September 1 – 15 is a 7.6% increase from the figure recorded during the same period in 2019.
- The government has revealed that after weeks of remaining hopeful of being moved up to the United Kingdom's Travel Amber List, Maldives has been removed from the country's Travel Red list – a big priority for the government for tourism and trade.
- As of 16 September 2021, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 2,108.7 million; 0.09% increase from the week before. In this review period, 34.1% of total health and social spending was committed-spending.

WCO activities

- Active participation in the daily National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group meetings.
- Leading the UN Health and Wash group and UN Crisis Management Team.
- Participate in the peer-review meetings and finalize the WHO Work Plan for 2022-23.
- Conducting monitoring trips to vaccine centers in islands in the North Male' Atoll.
- Facilitating health care waste management assessments in Haa Dhaalu and Shaviyani Atolls.

WHO support provided to Member State

- Providing ongoing support to prepare and participate in Regional Committee meeting.
- Facilitated sending of COVID-19 samples for 9th round of genomic sequencing to IGIB New Delhi.
- Trainings on Climate Resilient Water Safety Planning | 13-16 Sept 2021 facilitated.
- Provided WHO support to start off the TB screening in Himmafushi Prison in line with EndingTB.

Challenges

- Lack of in-country capacity for genomic sequencing.
- Not enough Doctors and Nurses trained in critical care, especially in the islands and atolls outside of the Greater Male' region.
- Lack of Procurement Management System in country.