

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 23 / 12 / 2020

Cases reporting

- **Over 291,924 samples tested to date.** Number of tests done per day have been increased, with over 3700 samples tested during the week – the highest number tested per day in the last week. Sample positivity is maintained at 1-2% despite this.
- **Over the last week, 199 recoveries were reported, and the total number of recoveries have come up to 12,929 total recoveries and the recovery rate coming up to 96%. Only 517 cases are currently active in the country.**
- **Total confirmed cases have reached 13,501 cases. With NO additional deaths** reported during the week, number of deaths remain at **48 (0.36%)**. **122 new cases since last week (decreased from the week before).**
- **A total of 40 persons are hospitalized, all admitted in facilities in the greater Male' region, with moderate to severe disease - with 5 persons admitted in ICU and none on ventilator support.**
- 99.85% of cases belong to known and existing clusters – more Maldivians (62.9%) among the active cases even in and outside of Greater Male' region.
- **124 people** are in **isolation** facilities across Maldives and the rest under home isolation. Currently 222 persons are under home quarantine.
- Cases continue to be concentrated mostly to Greater Male' region. **379** 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.
- Out of 516 active cases, 379 are in Male' Area, 45 cases in 23 inhabited islands, 57 in operational resorts, 12 on liveboards (yacht/safari) and 28 in resorts under development as well as industrial islands.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- State of emergency is in effect until at least January 2021 – 7th time extended since first announced in March 2020.
- With the lower number of cases reported, the frequency of HECC meetings have been reduced to 3 days a week – but with focus on atoll level preparedness and hospital readiness.
- HPA has also announced ease of restrictive measures – such as the curfew imposed in Greater Male' region from 12am – 4am has been lifted since 20th December 2020 (9months after first imposition).
- Maldives has also announced that all entrants to Maldives except tourists, as well as those traveling from the capital city of Male, resorts, or any inhabited island with guesthouses, can undergo a reduced home quarantine of 10 days. Others, in addition to those with a positive COVID-19 test and their contacts, must undergo a 14-day quarantine.
- Quarantine exemptions may be availed by essential workers and short-term travelers to inhabited islands with negative results of a RT-PCR COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to departure.
- Maldivians are allowed to go to resorts and guesthouse islands – with a negative PCR test prior to travel. There is no mandatory quarantine if traveling back to Male' (but mandatory quarantine for persons travelling to any other island other than Greater Male' region).
- The Health Protection Agency (HPA) also announced that sports activities will now be allowed to resume, and ceremonies and other events can be held – but under the strict guidelines released by HPA for this.

- The HEOC has also concluded the 4th round of mass inspections of cafes, restaurants, shops, salons and other similar establishments – this is in partnership with Maldives Police Service (MPS), Male' City Council and Housing Development Corporation (HDC) – to inspect adherence to HPA and WHO guidelines.
- The government also established new regulations and guidelines imposing fines up to MVR 100,000 for violating safety guidelines set by the Director General of Public Health.
- The fines are applicable to citizens as well as legal entities such as companies and organizations. The highest fines are imposed on legal entities in the event that they repeatedly violate guidelines.
- WHO in partnership with the Ministry of Health and partners, is working to finalize the plan for vaccine introduction and deployment in the country.
- The HEOC also announced that the government is working with World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF to procure the equipment and facilities required to store and maintain COVID-19 vaccines. Noting vaccination will take place in Male' as well as the atolls the cold chain storage systems will be established in the atolls as well.
- The Ministry of education has announced that Schools are to be reopened based on the situation of respective region for the second term of the current academic year – such as islands with no COVID-19 cases can reopen schools from foundation stage until 12th grade – under the new WHO guidance on school reopening.
- Minister of Tourism Dr Abdulla Mausoom, on Sunday, expressed his optimism that the country may likely welcome another 40,000 tourists over the remaining 10 days before year-end – a much needed economic boost for the country – especially with the decrease in cases reported in resorts despite increase in tourist influx.
- As of 17 December 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 1,362.6 million; a 1.5% increase from the week before. In this review period 43.8% 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 at MVR 18.3 million. The majority of their spending was on their Supplies and Requisites for Service Provision.
- Over the review period, other agencies only reported small incremental changes in their spending.
- <https://www.finance.gov.mv/public/attachments/6Mmz478vluh30rCep2Y825mAzoSBzp5bEewyzP7x.pdf>

WCO activities

- Continuing support, technical assistance and high-level advocacy for COVID-19 response with HECC.
- WHO team met with Minister of Health on 14th and 17th December to discuss on COVID-19 vaccine as per his request.
- Country submitted the National Vaccine Request to COVAX facility on 7th of December 2020.
- Global Webinar on vaccine safety surveillance was held on 15th December 2020 UNRC meeting to update on COVID-19 vaccine was held on 16th December 2020.
- 7th meeting of Health and WASH was held on 16th December 2020.
- Occupational Health and Safety Campaign was launched on 19th December 2020.
- Work started on developing a National Complain Management software for all health facilities in Maldives.
- Continued support to scale up DHIS II public health module implementation in the Maldives.

WHO support provided to Member State

- Supporting preparedness for COVID-19 vaccine deployment and expanding cold chain system in preparation for COVID19 vaccine introduction.
- Providing technical support to the Ministry of Health to develop a NATIONAL PUBLIC COMPLAINT SYSTEM for all health facilities in Maldives.
- Facilitated country participation on High-Level Leadership Meeting on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2020.