

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 24 / 11 / 2020

### Cases reporting

- **Over 230,000 samples tested to date.** Daily testing rates have been maintained during the last week at up to 1500 samples a day. Sample positivity rate has been maintained at about 2-3%.
- **11,615 people have recovered till date and the recovery rate is 91.04%. 1090 cases are currently active in the country.** There are active cases in 14 inhabited islands and 32 resorts including 58 tourists and 233 staff
- **554 new cases were reported since last week. Total confirmed cases till date are 12,758. ONE** additional death was reported in the week.
- 99.84% of cases belong to known and existing clusters – more Maldivians (62.47%) among the active cases even in and outside of Greater Male' region.
- **242 people** are in **isolation** facilities across Maldives with more than **748** persons under home isolation
- **A total of 92 persons are hospitalized, 90 admitted in facilities in the greater Male' region, with moderate or severe disease with 3 cases in ICU or ventilator support.**
- **2 persons admitted in Laamu Atoll COVID-19 facility (all cases from a resort in Dhaalu Atoll).**
- More cases have been reported over the week from the two main clusters. **Airport Cargo (60 positive so far from 317 staff.)** and in a **non-operational resort** under construction **K. Rahfaru Hura ( 107 positive of >2000 staff)**

### Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The two new clusters are being continuously monitored and measures are being implemented as per guidance from HECC
- Efforts are underway to re-strategize communication efforts to ensure complacency does not set in with ease of measures and ensure more transparency in communication to public
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the National Steering Committee for COVID19 vaccine introduction was held on 22<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. Subgroups are being formed as part of the Vaccine Introduction Readiness and meetings being held
- Since border reopening, tourist arrivals have increased by 118% in the fourth month, tallying the total arrivals to **56,541**
- As of 19 November 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at **MVR 1,320.6 million**; a 0.3% increase from the week before. In this review period 45.9% 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 2.0 million. The majority of their spending was on their Operational Services and on Supplies and Requisites for Service Provision. Another notable increase in spending of MVR 1.2 million was from IGMH on their Supplies and Requisites for Service Provision. Over the review period, other agencies only reported small incremental changes in their spending
- Over **MVR 129 million** has been issued through the government's income support allowance programme. According to the Ministry of Finance, the MVR 129.2 million was disbursed to 11,072 individuals by November 19. The income support allowance scheme was introduced by the government in May, as a relief for individuals experiencing financial difficulties as a result of employment issues due to the COVID19 crisis
- <https://www.finance.gov.mv/public/attachments/TlrDy6YC3kVMGPO2CLKRN51m4dwleiKU9hE6bXPF.pdf>

## WCO activities

- Continuing support, technical assistance and high-level advocacy for COVID-19 response with HECC.
- Continuing facilitating support for COVID-19 vaccine introduction
- WHO participated a social media event to mark Hepatitis Day. Hepatitis Ambassador of the Maldives facilitated the event.
- Restarting the STEPS survey after temporary halt due to unavailability of testing strips
- Engaged local consultant to provide technical support for the programmes conducted at the Home for People with Special Needs
- Facilitated Maldives participation in the rATA master training
- Engaged Local Consultant to support the National Immunization Program
- Continuing support in Essential Health Services

## WHO support provided to Member State

- WHO is facilitating discussion to mobilize EMT teams
- Supporting preparedness for COVID-19 vaccine deployment and expanding cold chain system in preparation for COVID19 vaccine introduction