

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 26 / 05 / 2021

Cases reporting

- **58,345 confirmed cases** have been reported till date.
- **40,123 new cases have been reported since last week**, and there are **24,033 active cases** in the country, highest ever active cases to date – more than **18,000 active cases** are in the greater **Male' region**.
- **THIRTY NINE additional deaths** were reported during the week and mortality rate 0.25% with 144 **deaths**. More deaths are reported among persons above the age of 55, with mostly only a single dose, or no dose of any vaccination.
- Over 843,883 samples have been tested till date. **Sample positivity rate** is currently at **26% - decreased from the week before. Sample positivity in GMR alone is 39%**.
- Cases continue to be seen more among **contacts** of positives and from departure samples from tourists and travelers. More positives are being reported from Clinical samples this week.
- Most affected age groups this week is 18-39 years of age. Both males and females are affected similarly. More positives under the age of 18 are being reported, currently 1004 active cases under the age of 10 and 18 years.
- **5073 new recoveries** were reported during the week. 34,159 (59%) have recovered. **253 people are hospitalized** with moderate to severe disease, 15 cases in ICU and 14 persons on ventilator care. (12 persons between ages 30-69 on ventilator care)
- Cases in atolls are increasing with currently over **3,767 active cases** across **122 inhabited islands outside Male, the highest number outside of Male' region**. The majority of cases were identified as contacts of positives in addition to post quarantine upon testing.
- Only 11 islands report more than 100 cases – highest number from Alif Dhaal Atoll Maamingili island with 284 cases, Faafu atoll Nilandhoo island and Feeli island with 212 and 202 active cases, Lhaviyani Naifaru with 120 cases, Lhaviyani Hinnavaru with 145 cases, Kaafu Himmashushi island with 283 and 229 from Gnaviyani atoll Fuvah Mulak. There are currently only 51 active cases from fish factory island of Laamu Maandhoo, but more than 100 cases are reported from nearby islands in the atoll with link to Maandhoo.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, there are currently only **595 active cases** across **111 resorts**. Cases are seen more among staffs more than tourists for the week.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The Maldives overall vaccine coverage now stands at 54.05% for first dose and 28.07% as second dose as of TOTAL population. A total of 568,362 have received first dose and 159,530 has received second dose.
- The country has a huge demand for vaccine, especially for the second dose of COVIDSHEILD vaccine which has been extended to 16 weeks between two doses.
- With the ongoing surge of cases, the Minister of Health has announced further strengthening of restrictive measures in Greater male' region, extending curfew hours from 8am to 4pm allowing persons to go out only with police permits (2 permits per household). Vehicle and movement restriction is not allowed from 4pm-8am (except for emergency purposes).
- Closure of all offices (including private), restaurants only open for take away and delivery, closure of salons, gyms, and all schools and colleges to have classes online only have been extended including suspension of congregational prayers. Travel between islands is also allowed only with a permit and with 14 days mandatory quarantine.

- The HEOC has also announced that the country has a sufficient supply of oxygen, each COVID-19 treatment facility has a reserve of 250 jumbo oxygen cylinders and the total stock contains 2,402 jumbo oxygen cylinders.
- Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) has also announced that only high-risk contacts will be traced for COVID-19 cases in the Greater Male' Region from now on, due to the large number of infections.
- Male' City Council has started cleaning and disinfecting the streets of Male' City as part of its efforts to control the spread of COVID-19.

WCO activities

- Active participation in the daily National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group meetings.
- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations with the latest updates on COVID-19
- Technical support provided to finalize the Zero Leprosy Communication Plan.
- IPC Measures: such as ongoing efforts to monitor the vaccination sites for IPC related support.
- Ongoing support for AEFI casualties assessments.
- Ongoing trainings for HCWs on Donning and Doffing of PPEs in COVID-19 facilities.

WHO support provided to Member State

- WHO continues to monitor the vaccination sites and is actively involved in deliberations of the National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group's.
- WHO has provided over 340 MT of essential medical supplies and medicines to support countries across South-East Asia Region respond to the rapid surge in COVID-19 case.
- Support provided to Ministry of Health in the development of Maldives Accreditation Standard for Hospitals and Health Centres.