

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 27 / 01 / 2021

Cases reporting

- Total confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country has seen an increase to **14,993 cases**.
- **411 new cases have been identified – an increase since last week**. There are **1083 active cases** in the country currently.
- The country has maintained the daily testing with at least **3500-4500 samples tested in a day** – bringing total number of samples tested to 390,396. Sample positivity rate is currently at 1-2% - including departure samples of tourists.
- **TWO additional deaths** were reported during the week, bringing up number of **deaths to 51 (0.34%)**.
- **285 recoveries** were reported during the week, bringing the total recoveries to 13,851 with recovery rate at **92.38%**.
- There are 80 people hospitalized with moderate to severe disease – with 2 persons in the ICU and both on ventilator care.
- Cases continue to be concentrated more to the greater Male' region, with **582 cases** reported currently.
- The wedding cluster from Male' City in SHE building has also reported a total of **104 positive cases** since the first case reported in December 2020.
- In the atolls, the number of cases has been maintained at **121 active cases across 24 islands** – both locals and expats – majority of cases being reported from the southern atoll Gaaf Alif Dheevadhoo cluster.
- The cluster from Gaaf Alifu Dheevadhoo has increased to **83 positive cases**; random sampling has been started in the island to see the extent of transmission.
- More cases have been detected from nearby islands upon contact tracing – from Gaaf Alif Dhaandhoo has increased to 11 cases, Gaaf Alif Villingili with 2 cases and from Laamu Fonadhoo 4 cases. All identified contacts have been quarantined and the monitoring status has been lifted from all 4 islands.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, the number continues to rise, with **360 cases** currently active cases in **53 resorts** – cases reported more among staff with over **200 cases** among local and foreign staff in the resorts.
- 4 resorts reported evolving clusters – 84 cases from Obilu Sangeli resort, 86 cases from Sun Siyam Olhuveli resort, 18 cases evolving from Anantara Kihavah Resort and 15 cases from Adhaaran resort – all in Kaafu atoll.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The HPA and HEOC has released new guidelines for COVID-19 safety in Cinemas and Theaters, which is scheduled to reopen from January 25th – since the first closure of cinemas on March 30th 2020.
- Maldives received 100,000 doses of COVIDSHIELD vaccine as donations from India – currently kept in HPA cold chain storage at the recommended 2-8 degrees Celsius – until the necessary approvals for vaccination to start.
- The HPA and HEOC has announced that COVID-19 vaccination is not mandatory for all citizens – with the first round of vaccinations planned for Health professionals, social workers followed by senior citizens. Children under 16 years of age and pregnant women will not be vaccinated as of now.
- Scaled up efforts are being made on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and the Health Protection Agency to safeguard the health of tourists and tourism sector employees alike.

- The Ministry of Tourism has amended the Quarantine procedures for resort employees due to the increased numbers reported among staff in the resorts – according to which, resort employees MUST observe a ten-day mandatory quarantine – even for travel between resorts.
- In addition to this, the HEOC has put forward a new regulation – for all resort employees required to have a negative PCR test at the end of quarantine to be cleared for work.
- Over 30,000 passengers have arrived in the Maldives since the beginning of 2021, with an average of 3,456 arrivals every day.
- Despite reopening of schools in the second week of January, no outbreaks have been reported from any educational establishment, minus the sporadic cases among students – all outside of the school environment.

WCO activities

- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations with the latest updates from IHR Committee meetings.
- Mobilizing additional resources for the COVID-19 response including vaccine introduction.
- Ongoing Technical support to Ministry of Health to develop National Complain Management System for Health facilities.
- Facilitated RMNCAH essential service disruption mapping (UN and MOH).
- In consultation with SEARO facilitated Maldives data mapping for SRMNCAH, VAW and HA.
- Assistance provided in acquiring manufacture price for essential medicines (Asia) to support the government effort to revise the medicine prices and set MRP.
- Drafting and finalizing the OCR operational Plan for 2021.

WHO support provided to Member State

- Facilitated submission of the COVAX vaccine application part B and National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan to the COVAX facility.
- Continuing support, technical assistance and high-level advocacy for COVID-19 response with HECC.
- Continued technical support to complete the National Vaccine Deployment Plan for COVID19 vaccine and consistent contribution to the COVID 19 vaccine steering committee and technical subgroup meetings.
- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations during contact tracing on Sea Planes.