

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 28 / 04 / 2021

### Cases reporting

- **28,202 confirmed cases** have been reported till date.
- **975 new cases have been reported since last week**, and there are **3,710 active cases** in the country currently – more than **2,072 active cases** are in the greater **Male' region**.
- **ONE additional death** was reported during the week and mortality rate 0.25% with **71 deaths**.
- Over 726,802 samples have been tested till date. **Sample positivity rate** is currently at **5%**.
- Cases continue to be seen more among **contacts** of positives and from departure samples from tourists and travelers. Most affected age groups are ages 21-40 years. More males affected than females.
- **725 new recoveries** were reported during the week. 24,416 (**86.58%**) have recovered. **126 people are hospitalized** with moderate to severe disease, 4 cases in ICU and 2 persons on ventilator care.
- Cases in atolls are increasing with currently **1,142 active cases** across **75 islands outside Male**. Cases are reported from **all the atolls**. (899 Maldivians and 243 foreigners)
- In some guesthouse islands in Kaafu atoll, few departure samples and quarantine release samples has been adding to active cases. In Kaafu Maafushi island, there are 191 active cases. Since the island houses the biggest prison in Maldives, special tracing and investigation is ongoing in Maafushi. Random samples are being collected.
- A new cluster is evolving from Alifu Alif Atoll, in island of Mathiveri, with 128 active cases. 6 islands in addition to Mathiveri island has been placed under monitoring with 80 active cases across the 6 islands.
- In Lhaviyani Atoll, Felivaru island currently reports only 9 active cases out of over 200 cases since the last 3 weeks. In the neighboring island of Naifarufu, the cases are also reduced to 118 active cases, and Hinnavaru island with 09 cases as well as Olhuvelifushi island with only 07 active cases.
- Eydhafushi island in Baa atoll is also under monitoring after 4 persons upon quarantine release tested positive, and 57 contacts have now tested positive.
- In tourist establishments and operational resorts, there are currently only 567 active cases across 105 resorts. Cases are seen more among tourists than staffs as of now.

### Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The Maldives overall vaccine coverage now stands at 66.23% for first dose and 17.49% as second dose.
- A total of 291,227 have received first dose and 76,923 has received second dose.
- This include Covishield 228,570 (1st dose), 74840 ( 2nd dose), Sinopharm 61913( 1st dose), 2080 ( 2nd dose) and Pfizer 744 ( 1st dose) and 3 ( second dose).
- Ministry of Tourism revealed that a total of 37,886 workers employed in the tourism sector have received their first doses of Covid-19 vaccines since 4 February 2021, stressing the importance of vaccinating tourism sector employees especially noting their sacrifices as frontline workers in an industry that is critical to the Maldivian economy.
- Parliamentary Committee on Judiciary has approved the amendment bill to the Public Health Protection Act to give the President the power to declare health emergencies; the power was previously with Director general Public Health since declaring of PHE in March 2020.
- The Ministry of Tourism publicized its latest statistics on Saturday, revealing that 369,841 visitors have arrived in the country in 2021, mostly from India.

- With the ongoing increase of cases, the HEOC in partnership with Ministry of Tourism and Maldives Immigration has added a travel safety measure from 22nd April 2021 onwards; travelers from India are now required to undergo a 10 day mandatory quarantine even if they are fully vaccinated; and enter with a negative PCR test.
- The Director General of Public Health announced that travelers from India to Maldives and those who have spent over 24 hours in transit in India are required to present proof of a negative PCR test when entering Maldives.
- Indian tourists are temporarily banned from staying at local guesthouses and hotels but can continue to stay at local resorts and city hotels located away from local population.
- There is **no restriction** of travel from India to Maldives (under the Maldives-India travel bubble); and no travel restrictions of measures for quarantine for any other tourist arrival.  
<https://visitmaldives.s3.amazonaws.com/QoQQ7Zov/k0lbh4.pdf>

### WCO activities

- Active participation in the daily National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group meetings.
- WHO facilitated two regional and global meetings - National Program, COVIDTAG, MTAGI and AEFI committee chairs participated in the training.
- Supporting IPC Measures: such as ongoing efforts to monitor the vaccination sites for IPC related support.
- Facilitated Training of Trainers conducted for physicians on clinical management of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.
- Supported participation of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) team in various weekly training to strengthen stroke care services.

### WHO support provided to Member State

- Providing guidance to HEOC/HPA and TAG on WHO recommendations with the latest updates from IHR Committee meetings.
- COVAX facility Q and A session on briefing on the recent scientific reviews of the AstraZeneca (AZ) COVID-19 vaccine joined by the WHO pharmacovigilance and strategic advisory group of experts on immunization (SAGE) teams with the following agenda items.
- Supporting the ongoing stakeholder consultation meetings for NHA 2018-2020 data collection.
- Facilitated Maldives participation in RHIS training and PRINCE2 certification.