

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 28 / 10 / 2020

### Cases reporting

- **Over 190,000 samples tested to date**, with the highest number of samples tested within the week – 1500-1800 samples at least per day, and a decrease in sample positivity dropped to 2% during the week.
- **10,563 people (91.6%) have recovered. 925 cases are currently active across the country including resorts.**
- **11,532 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 and **NO** additional death reported in the week, total deaths remain at **37 deaths (0.33%)** reported. **300 new cases since last week - cases continue to show decline in the last 7 days.**
- **37 are hospitalized with moderate or severe disease with 1 case in ICU and currently no one on ventilator support.**
- **99.82% of cases belong to known and existing clusters – more Maldivians (63.74%) among the active cases even in and outside of Greater Male' region.**
- **307 people** are in **isolation** facilities across Maldives and rest under home isolation with more than 329 persons under home Quarantine.
- Cases continue to be concentrated mostly to Greater Male' region. 877 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.
- A new cluster among migrant workers in Hulhumale' Phase 2 in the Greater Male' region was seen during the week – with total 72 cases reported (all symptomatic workers) – more samples collected from this cluster.
- Outside of Greater Male' Region - **48 active cases were reported in 23 inhabited islands** during the last week – 35 locals and 13 expats.
- In the north of the country, Haa Dhaalu Atoll Kulhudhuffushi island has reported no additional cases during the week, with total 12 active cases within the island – linked to the cluster of Maldives Police Services – with single cases links in 4 different islands in the North – with over 185 contacts identified.
- In the central region, Laamu atoll which had reported over 58 cases have reported 51 recoveries during the week – with currently only 7 active cases.
- In the resorts – currently there are **112 active** COVID-19 cases across **26 resorts** – 83 staffs and 29 tourists. This includes staff from non-operational resorts as well (a new group of workers who had traveled to a nonoperational resort for work).

### Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The Ministry of health is conducting a COVID-19 seroprevalence study in partnership with Maldives National University to assess the extent of exposure of the local population to the virus. The participants will be selected randomly over the next two weeks for this study - under the strict protocols and guidance of WHO.
- More cases are seen in nonoperational resorts – with history of travel from Male' City among groups of workers.
- Confirmed cases continued to be found mostly among contacts of active cases, from flu clinics and through active surveillance.
- Flu Clinic positivity rate (5%) as well as sample positivity rate (2%) is also declining and other indicators for monitoring of restrictions show positive changes.
- The government has reopened the atolls and islands for local Guesthouse tourism; with 22 guesthouses reopened in 12 islands across the country – under strict guidance of Ministry of Tourism and HEOC.
- The Ministry of Tourism, on Friday, expanded the permission for split-stays in Maldives, meaning that visitors can holiday in more than one tourist facility including resorts, liveaboards and guesthouses.
- The Ministry of Economic Development has approved a total of MVR 120 million to be disbursed as income support allowances under the government's stimulus package for individuals and households affected by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

- As of 22 October 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 1,296.3 million; a 1.2 % increase from the week before. In this review period 46.3 % 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. Approximately MVR 8.7 million was spent on medical consumables and catering for individuals in covid-19 related facilities. Travel expenses of MoH pertaining to Covid-19 health and social efforts was also relatively higher compared to all other expenses by other peers.
- <https://www.finance.gov.mv/public/attachments/ieNaMv9y5SHiHB7uHGN3sIRfqssz1fusqjgtrNHU.pdf>

### **WCO activities**

- Actively participate at daily HECC meetings to support the country's COVID-19 response.
- Facilitation of initial discussions between Ministry of Gender Family and Social Services and WHO HQ to assess access to assistive technology in Maldives.
- Maldives participation as a panellist at the Launch of WHO Guidance on Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities Webinar 13 October 2020.
- Working with the Canadian International Development Assistance team to mobilize resources for health care waste management.
- Finalizing proposal to European Union to Support operationalization of Hulhumale Isolation Facility, medical waste management and set up ICU in one Regional/Atoll Hospital.
- Prepared MEDVAC SOP for the UN Team in Maldives, delivering another responsibility as the Pandemic Coordinator.
- Support for Designing and Printing of Mosque Etiquette posters for HEOC (In Dhivehi and Bengali).
- Lead and facilitated meeting of 6th UNCT Health and WASH working group meeting for COVID-19 response support to the country.

### **WHO support provided to Member State**

- Handed over a series of laboratory items to set up PCR Lab in Addu and Kulhudufushi.
- Handed over 3 GeneXpert machines and 15000 RT-PCR Kits to the Ministry of Health
- Coordination with Presidents Office for His Excellency the President's participation at the World Mental Health Day Social Media Event by WHO.
- Supporting Influenza surveillance and data entry.
- Support for quarantine and isolation at 'Fiyavathi' orphanage by providing much needed hygiene items, stationaries and tablets for the children and caretakers.
- Support in written and multimedia on "Documentation of COVID-19 response and support by WHO".