World Health Organization

Maldives

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

Country: MALDIVES   Date: 29 / 07 / 2020

Cases reporting

- **Over 75,550 samples tested in the country, 144 days since first case.**
- **3,506 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 and **15 deaths reported – 420 new cases since last report.**
- **During the week,** 13 additional cases were reported in 8 inhabited islands outside of Male' City. 2 in Raa Inguraidhoo, 3 in Raa Dhuvaafaru island, 2 in AA Thoddoo island, 1 in Kaafu Himmafushi island and 2 cases in Haa Dhaal atoll Nolhivaran island, 1 in Baa Thulhaadhoo and 2 in Raa Inuraidhoo.
- **2,544** people (72.56%) have **recovered. 932 cases are active. 64 are hospitalized with moderate or severe disease with one case on ventilator.**
- **99.41% of cases belong to known and existing clusters – more Maldivians among the active cases than foreigners.**
- 538 people are in **isolation** facilities across Maldives.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- HE President of Maldives in his Independence Day remarks, urged unity and prioritization of the national interest so that we as a country can overcome the challenges COVID-19 has forced upon all
- A tourist has tested positive for COVID-19 – the first tourist case since the borders reopened on July 15th.
- The HEOC under the advice of Technical Advisory Group has decided to postpone the opening of guesthouses from 1st August to a later date as more cases are seen in islands and atolls.
- The government of Maldives has decided not to allow Congregational Prayers on the occasion of upcoming Holy Eid – prayers to be held at selective exclusive mosques for safety.
- The government has established COVID-19 medical management facilities in five regions of the Maldives and inaugurated them virtually. The COVID-19 facilities in Funadhoo (Shaviyani Atoll), Eydhafushi (Baa Atoll), Gan (Laamu Atoll) and Villingili (Gaafu Alif Atoll) - all include 20 beds in the Intensive Care Unit, 30 for isolation and are equipped will modern technology including ventilators. All these facilities offer COVID-19 diagnosis.
- As at 20 July 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health efforts stood at MVR 1,078.3 million; a 3.4 % increase from the week before. In this review period 53.5 % of total health spending was committed-spending. https://www.finance.gov.mv/public/attachments/R2utA8pQNfgqsFm6CASjm4PB591Sa4LxxY4bkDWE.pdf
- Over 900 tourists have arrived in the country since its reopening of borders in July 15 2020.

WCO activities

- Participation in a meeting with the Presidential taskforce to finalize National Action plan on Health Services Recovery.
- Leading Health and WASH Working Group of the UN Country team to mobilize resources for COVID-19 response and build back better.
- Continues to support the delivery of Essential Health Services in the country.
- Working with the HEOC to advise on best way forward regarding persons with substance abuse problems under isolation and quarantine for COVID-19.
- Maldives Case study on COVID-19 response was shared in the WHO HQ July bulletin on WHO Action in Countries which is available at the following link https://www.paho.org/sites/default/files/who_country_covid-19_case_studies_june_2020_edition_19.7.2020_v2.pdf)

WHO support provided to Member State

- Active member of and continues to provide technical support to the Health Emergency Coordination Committee and TAG

- Facilitated country participation on the virtual webinar arranged by the WHO South East Asia Region to mark the World Hepatitis Day, Partner's forum, RCCE, etc.
- Facilitated a TC between SEARO, IGMH and HPA regarding sending COVID19 samples abroad for genotyping.
- Handed over essential items for People with Disabilities to the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services
- Handed over supplies to set up high dependency unit in Home of People with Special Needs

Support requested from SEARO

- Maintain pipeline supply of additional 20,000 E -gene Kits and send 10,000 GeneXpert cartridges.

Support / Coordination from SEARO and other agencies

- Share details to upgrade IGMH Lab to BSL 3 level.