

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

**Country: MALDIVES**

**Date: 29 / 09 / 2021**

### Cases reporting

- 84,484 confirmed cases; 704 new cases reported within the week (decreased since last report); 1,566 active cases in the country.
- TWO new deaths reported during the week and mortality rate currently at 0.27% with 231 deaths.
- 830 new recoveries were reported during the week, total 82,769 persons that is 98% have recovered.
- 4,403 samples tested in the last 24hours – 95 new cases reported (61 cases outside of the GMR and 32 in GMR). Sample positivity rate is at 3% overall. 19 persons are hospitalized with moderate to severe disease.
- Outside of the GMR in the atolls, as of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021, there are 845 active cases across 46 inhabited islands in 16 atolls. There are currently only 12 islands under monitoring status.
- The highest number outside of GMR continues to be from the Southernmost atoll of Addu City, with 212 active cases across 5 districts. The atoll continues to be under monitoring with PHSM implemented and extended for an additional week.
- In the Northern atoll of Haa dhaalu island of Nolvivaram case numbers have reduced since last week to 43 active cases. In neighboring atoll, Shaviyani in island of Milandhoo, the active cases are reduced to 43 cases.
- In the south, in Gaafu Alifu Atoll, COVID-19 cases are reported from 4 islands – highest number from GA. Gemanafushi island with 130 active cases, Maamendhoo island with 95 active cases, Villingili island with 48 cases and Kolamaafushi island with 7 active cases.

### Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- The Maldives total vaccinated coverage now stands at 71.81% for first dose and 61.79% as second dose as of TOTAL population (545,847).
- As of 26th September 2021, the Ministry of Education revealed that 35, 989 students from 218 schools have received first dose of the vaccine, while 87,697 students from 178 schools have completed the second dose of vaccine. Over 27,000 students have completed both doses of vaccine.
- Health Protection Agency (HPA) revises the travel guidelines, allowing individuals who are ineligible for the COVID-19 vaccine to travel without quarantine to certain islands.
- The new guideline states an exemption is provided to individuals who cannot receive the vaccine due to a valid reason. This includes individuals who have received a document stating they cannot be vaccinated, and children who do not fulfill the age requirement for vaccination.
- HPA has also revealed that ALL those individual(s) who have not completed the recommended dose(s) of a Covid-19 Vaccine shall bear ALL the expenses associated with obtaining the negative PCR test result for Covid-19 prior to travel as well as the release sample at the end of the 14 days of travel quarantine.
- The Ministry of Tourism, in its daily statistics publicized on Wednesday, revealed that a total of 84,129 tourists had arrived in the Maldives between September 1 – 21.
- As of 23 September 2021, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 2,109.4 million; 0.09% increase from the week before. In this review period, 33.7% of total health and social spending was committed-spending.

## WCO activities

- Active participation in the daily National Vaccine Steering Group and Operations Group meetings.
- Leading the UN Health and Wash group and UN Crisis Management Team.
- Provide technical guidance and recommendation to MoH on which facilities can conduct genomic sequencing.
- Supporting the MoH to review and finalize a COVID-19 RCCE plan for islands and atolls.

## WHO support provided to Member State

- Providing ongoing support to prepare and participate in Regional Committee meeting.
- Facilitated sending of COVID-19 samples for 9<sup>th</sup> round of genomic sequencing to IGIB New Delhi.
- Supported and participated in the stakeholder meetings for costing of NSP for HIV, Hepatitis and STIs.
- Providing support through consultancy to develop HIV Patient confidentiality SOP.

## Challenges

- No designated Public Health Laboratory or National health laboratory.
- Need for continued capacity strengthening on critical care for doctors in islands and atolls.
- Need for supply and procurement management system.