

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 30 / 12 / 2020

### Cases reporting

- **The country has tested over 308,873 samples to date.** Number of tests done per day have been maintained at **2700-3500** samples during the week. Sample positivity rate is maintained at **1-2 %**.
- **159 new cases have been identified since last week.** There are 523 cases active in the country. Total confirmed cases have reached 13,660 cases. NO additional deaths reported during the week, number of deaths remain at 48 (0.36%).
- The Health Emergency Operations Center announced a new cluster of 41 cases emerging from the greater Male' region, from a wedding held in a poorly ventilated location - with over 116 contacts identified and quarantined.
- Out of 523 active cases, 384 are in Male' Area, 66 in resorts, 38 in islands. Remaining 35 cases are in islands under development, industrial islands and liveboards.
- Over the last week, **153 recoveries were reported.** Recovery rate currently is **95.77%**.
- **A total of 40 persons are hospitalized,** all admitted in facilities in the greater Male' region, with moderate to severe disease - with 3 persons admitted in ICU and one person on ventilator support.
- 99.85% of cases belong to known and existing clusters.
- Cases continue to be concentrated mostly to Greater Male' region. 99% of all cases in the atolls have link of travel history to greater Male' area.

### Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- With the new strain of COVID-19 circulating in the UK, the Technical Advisory Group at HEOC has announced a new measure as a precaution – for Maldivians and work permit holders traveling from UK to Maldives will require a mandatory quarantine of 10 days and will be released only with a negative PCR test post quarantine.
- Ministry of Education has announced its decision to kick off the new academic year on 10 January 2021, after extending the first semester of 2020 till December over various disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Ministry of Tourism has also released a new guideline to Increase and Improve Security measures at tourist establishment – in line with the technical guidance from HEOC and WHO.
- In addition to the above guideline, the HEOC and MoH has decided to conduct random COVID-19 testing of staffs from resorts and tourist establishments (at least 10% of staff to be included every fortnightly).
- ADK Hospital teamed up with LUX\* Resorts and Trans Maldivian Airways (TMA) to develop a laboratory for COVID-19 testing in Velana International Airport (VIA) at the biggest point of entry in Maldives.
- As of 24 December 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 1,373.4 million; a 0.8% increase from the week before. In this review period 41.3% 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 at MVR 8.1 million.
- The majority of their spending was on their Supplies and Requisites for Service Provision, Capital Equipment, and Operational Services. Another notable expenditure of MVR 6.9 million was made by the Maldives Police Service on their Allowances to Employees. Over the review period, other agencies only reported small incremental changes in their spending.
- <https://www.finance.gov.mv/public/attachments/HS1yaLFKePQmtFqnnJxi7PdMF9TAHw6YGTjhQJlr.pdf>

## WCO activities

- WHO facilitated a call between HE Ahmed Naseem with Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO DG and Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, RD SEAR to discuss further plans to control COVID-19 including vaccine deployment.
- WHO provided strategic support for building resilient health system and reducing carbon foot print of the health sector were handed over to the Minister of Health. The support included Solar panels fitted in 3 Atoll Hospitals, 13 Autoclaves and consumables, one HPLC Machine, 20 Virtual Communication Equipment, Laboratory equipment, PPEs etc
- On the request of H.E Minister of Health, WHO facilitated a call between national and SEARO experts, to discuss strengthening of National Health Laboratory.
- Maldives participated and presented at the SEARO Regional workshop on Immunization.
- RMNCAH essential service disruption mapping was completed in partnership with UN agencies and MoH.

## WHO support provided to Member State

- Continuing support, technical assistance and high-level advocacy for COVID-19 response with HECC.
- Firming up the National Vaccine Deployment plan for the introduction COVID-19 vaccine.
- WHO is supporting to develop state of art Cold Chain System in the country that will be necessary for COVID-19 vaccine introduction and manage vaccine of the EPI Programme currently and in future.
- Providing technical support to the Ministry of Health to develop a NATIONAL PUBLIC COMPLAINT SYSTEM for all health facilities in Maldives.