

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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 30 / 09 / 2020

Cases reporting

- **Over 150,000 samples tested to date, maintaining one of the highest rates of COVID-19 testing per 1000 population globally.**
- **10,157 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 and **34 deaths (0.33%)** reported. **387 new cases since last week.**
- Cases continue to be seen mostly from Greater Male' region. Over 1,100 active cases are currently reported from the Male' region, with 100% of all atoll cases having link to travel from greater Male' area.
- Outside of Greater Male' Region - **38 active cases in 22 inhabited islands** during the last week – 33 locals and 05 expats.
- Outside of Male' area, the island where the greatest number of positive cases is in Hoadedhdhoo island, Gaaf Dhaal Atoll in the south of the country – with currently only 09 cases active out of the total 44 cases.
- In the north of the country, Haa Dhaalu Atoll Kulhudhuffushi island has reported 5 active cases with the island currently under monitoring for contact tracing purposes.
- In the resorts – currently there are **35 active** COVID-19 cases have been reported in **23 resorts** – 24 staffs and 11 tourists. This includes staff from non-operational resorts as well.
- **8,950 people (88.12%) have recovered. 1,166 cases are currently active.**
- **83 are hospitalized with moderate or severe disease with 3 cases in ICU and 1 on ventilator support.**
- **99.80% of cases belong to known and existing clusters – more Maldivians (63.13%) among the active cases.**
- **620 people** are in **isolation** facilities across Maldives and rest **101** persons under home isolation.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- HE President Ibrahim Solih ratified COVID-19 special measures bill, to support the Maldives recovery and resilience efforts pertaining to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; to be implemented 60 days after the ongoing public health emergency expires.
- HE Vice President of Maldives continue to lead the HEOC operations, including discussion with the partners to finalize guidelines for reopening of guesthouse local tourism on October 15th 2020.
- The HEOC team has completed an airport inspection during the week, in anticipation of more tourist arrivals in October due to Guesthouses reopening - to see the terminal capacity as well as the needs and gaps in order to ensure safety at all points of entry.
- The Ministry of Tourism has launched 'Maldives Border Miles' loyalty program under which visitors will have the opportunity to earn points each time they cross the border with added points for special occasions.
- The Education Ministry has finalized SOPs and finalized separate and special exam arrangements to be made for A level students who may test positive for COVID-19 or find themselves required to undergo quarantine during the period.
- The Maldives Police Services MPS announced that total amount of MVR 6 million has been received as penalties for violating COVID-19 safety measures such as movement during curfew hours as well as mask wearing.
- As of 24 September 2020, total spending towards COVID-19 health and social efforts stood at MVR 1,284.1 million; a 0.7 % increase from the week before. In this review period 49.5 % of total health and social spending was committed-spending.
- In terms of week-on-week spending, the disbursement of front-line allowances for MNDF and Maldives Police Service employees stood out amongst all expenditures.
- <https://www.finance.gov.mv/public/attachments/D3VtuAwYot4ESFwUbvgIQkcQrqOtkFn39EquEKcU.pdf>

WCO activities

- Actively participate at daily HECC meetings to support the country's COVID-19 response.
- Lead and facilitated meeting of 6th UNCT Health and WASH working group meeting for COVID-19 response support to the country.
- Developing the digital training package for Immunization in consultation with the EMPOWER School, Maldives Technical Advisory Group on Immunization, Health Protection Agency and UNICEF.
- Facilitating finalization of plans for Intensification of Measles and Rubella Immunization at peripheral parts of the country.
- Facilitated preparation of annual polio report and country participation in the 13th meeting Regional Certification Commission for Polio Eradication - virtual 22-24 Sep 2020.
- Facilitated the initial discussions between Ministry of Gender Family and Social Services and WHO HQ to conduct an assessment of access to assistive technology in Maldives.
- Supported recruitment of additional staff to strengthen HECC response.
- Supported transfer of COVID-19 samples to RRL- Thailand for Genotyping.
- Regularly sharing information and advice with UN partner and other stakeholders

WHO support provided to Member State

- Supporting the refurbishing and renovation work at Home for People with Special Needs (HPSN) for the equipment set up of the high dependency unit. This work is part of the support provided to strengthen the emergency preparedness of HPSN.
- Handed over various essential equipment required to establish COVID-19 diagnostics and treatment at regional level in South and North Atolls – including items to set up ICU in two regions.
- Shared WHO communication and guidelines on Long-term effects of COVID-19 and evaluation report of the RDT on EUL.