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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 16/ 03 / 2020

Cases reporting

- 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country as of 16th March 2020 (all are foreign nationals)
- 5 foreign Nationals from Kuredu Island Resort (Lhaviyani atoll) have tested positive and recovering well in isolation.
- 2 individuals (an Italian couple) brought to Farukolhu Isolation Centre from Kuramathi Island Resort were tested positive.
- 2 Italians (elderly couple) from Sandies bathala resort who tested positive were transferred to Dharmavantha Hospital 11th floor ICU for close monitoring and further treatment.
- 2 Foreign Nationals from Ananthara Dhigu resort tested positive and is in isolation.
- 2 tourists from a Safari Boat has also tested positive and will be transferred to Farukolhufushi island for isolation.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- Total currently isolated in Farukolhufushi Isolation facility is 09 persons.
- There are currently 17 persons isolated in Villivaru Island.
- 2 Maldivians who returned from Italy (with no symptoms) have been isolated for 14 days in Farukolhufushi island for their travel history.
- 1 Maldivian student studying in Kunming City China, arrived on 10th March and is in isolation for having travelled from China with no symptoms reported.
- 2 Maldivians living in Wuhan evacuated to India for 14-day isolation.
- Contact tracing has been completed in all the above-mentioned islands with a few persons placed under room isolation and self-monitoring.
- HE the President reviews the COVID19 situation daily with the Cabinet.
- Declaration of Public Health Emergency from 12th March for a period of 30 days until 12th April.
- The DGPH banned the travel between tourist resort and inhabited islands; Stopping all excursions to inhabited islands; School, college and University closure; Banning the use of open grounds in Male for gatherings.
- HE the speaker of Majlis invited the WR, HPA and NDMA to update the Peoples Majlis (parliament) on the current ongoing COVID preparedness and response activities.
- Effective from 15th March 2020, passengers and crew with a travel history from Spain, some regions of France and selected regions from Germany additional to previous listed countries (total 8) will not be allowed to enter or transit through Maldives as a temporary travel ban.
- The NEOC is working 24/7 and coordinate the ongoing activities including measures for further strengthening the response given the evolving situation in the country.

WCO activities

- WHO continues to closely work with MOH and EOC and continue to coordinate technical assistance for ensuring compliance to WHO guidelines, including the laboratory testing and contact tracing.
- Technical support for developing the scenario for community transmission in Male and also for building the decentralized capacity for detection, isolation, testing, treatment including ICU care.
- Engagement with high level policy makers for sustained advocacy for evidence-based decisions.
WHO support provided to Member State

- Sitreps are shared daily and new technical documents immediately.
- Facilitation of several training through webinars and webex on clinical management, IPC etc.
- Risk communication including printing of key messages in 8 languages
- WHO handed another batch of COVID19 test kits to Maldives – making the total testing capacity of Maldives to 6000 samples.

Support requested from SEARO

- Support to establish WHO Go.Data tool in Maldives
- Procurement of additional 750 PPEs kits.
- Procurement of Laboratory supplies to further strengthen country capacity.
- Continued technical assistance for building the scenario for community transmission in Male
- Technical and financial assistance for building the regional capacity to detect, test, isolate, treat especially with ICU care;
- Support for BioSafety Cabinet Certification at IGMH.

Support / Coordination from SEARO and other agencies

- Needs assessment to upgrade IGMH Lab to BSL 3 level.