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

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 30 / 03 / 2020

Cases reporting

- 17 confirmed cases and NO DEATHS of COVID-19 reported in the Maldives.
- 2 Maldivian nationals – first ever Maldivian COVID19 positive cases - had been under quarantine since arrival for having travel history from the UK.
- The other 2 new cases were confirmed in 2 foreign nationals who are currently back in Italy under treatment.
- All 13 cases out of the first reported COVID19 cases in Maldives have recovered. 5 persons are under close observations after testing double negatives are at IGMH and Dharumavantha Hospital 11th floor.
- Over a thousand samples have been tested for COVID19.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- Maldives to start screening for all individuals in quarantine facilities and will be tested for COVID-19 to be discharged from quarantine facilities once the test results are confirmed.
- A total of 4660 individuals visited the various flu clinics in the Maldives. In the last 24 hours, 257 individuals visited flu clinics.
- On 28 March 2020, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs advised against congregational prayers in the Greater Male’ Region until 4 April 2020.
- Health Protection Agency ordered the closure of all gyms in addition to closure of all cinemas and film theaters in the Greater Male’ Region until further notice.
- Issuance of all on-arrival visas remain suspended, effective 00:00 hrs on 27 March 2020 except for all diplomatic personnel from accredited missions, official delegations from foreign governments, international organizations and agencies will be exempted from the restriction.
- Maldivian Airlines announced that cargo flights would operate to a select few countries to transport medical and food supplies.
- On 29 March 2020, the Asian Development Bank provided $500,000 from the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to help finance the Government of Maldives’ response to COVID-19.

WCO activities

- WHO continues to closely work and technically support the MOH and NEOC.
- Timely sharing of updated WHO guidelines and recommendations on a regular basis.
- WHO Rep hosted the first UN Health and WASH working group meeting on 26 March to coordinate the activities outlined in the CPRP.
- Continuing to support the Critical Care Training for health care professionals of hospitals in greater Male’ region.
- WHO continues to share technical information across 8 pillars of CPRP with partners such as World Bank and others to guide their resources to the country needs.

WHO support provided to Member State

- WHO supported the Critical Care Training for doctors from hospitals at greater Male’ region.
- Facilitated establishment of Go.Data tool in Maldives along with the necessary training.
- Facilitation of several training through webinars and webex on clinical management, IPC etc.
Handed over another batch of COVID-19 test kits for a cumulative total of 6000 reactions.

Support requested from SEARO

- Procurement of additional 750 PPEs kits.
- Procurement of Laboratory supplies especially 50 lab test kits to further strengthen country capacity.
- Technical support for clinical management Severe Cases.
- Support to strengthen healthcare waste management services in Maldives.
- Support for BioSafety Cabinet Certification at IGMH.

Support / Coordination from SEARO and other agencies

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