



Press Release: 017/2020

### **First cases of COVID-19 confirmed in the Maldives**

The Government of Maldives has today confirmed two cases of COVID-19 in the country. The individuals are foreign nationals who are currently working in the Maldives, and who were in direct contact with an Italian tourist who stayed at Lh. Kuredu Island Resort and was found to be positive for the virus upon his return to Italy.

Samples from the two individuals were taken and tested and they continue to be monitored under isolation and are receiving the necessary medical treatment. The resort is under strict monitoring by national health authorities.

Protocols established by the COVID-19 national taskforce have been initiated and individuals who are believed to have come into contact with the confirmed cases are being monitored.

COVID-19 has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organisation, with a global risk assessment of Very High. The Maldives put in place precautionary measures by establishing thermal screening, local testing facilities, travel advisories, and designated quarantine centers. With the confirmation of a positive case, additional measures such as increased surveillance is now in place. To date, samples have been taken from 33 persons, out of which 31 have tested negative for COVID-19.

Maldivians and visitors to the Maldives are again reminded to maintain a high level of personal hygiene to prevent and contain the potential spread of infection. Any person experiencing symptoms of the virus should immediately call the designated hotline (1676) before visiting a public health facility.



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