



## **Government announces precautionary steps to safeguard population from COVID 19**

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has instructed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Health Protection Agency (HPA) to coordinate nationwide efforts to safeguard the Maldives from the risk of COVID 19.

Under the President's direction and in light of the World Health Organization's declaration of COVID 19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, with a Very High Risk, the NDMA and HPA have established a national Emergency Operations Centre, to oversee the activities of stakeholder agencies.

Maldives has not reported a confirmed case of COVID19. However, because of the rapid spread of the virus worldwide, following the example of other states, the government has deemed it prudent to establish stringent precautionary measures well in advance.

These measures include:

- Establishing a travel clinic in Male'. The travel clinic will be available to individuals who have travelled into the Maldives and passed the initial screening measures at the ports, but require additional screening.
- Flu clinic: a designated flu clinic will be established this week at Senahiya hospital for individuals presenting with symptoms of the common cold and seasonal flu.
- Emergency drill: a special emergency drill has been scheduled to take place on March 3 2020 in Male'. The simulation for this drill centres on the positive identification of a case of Covid 19 in a household in Male'. This drill is a means of strengthening existing precautions and will provide additional instruction on steps that should be taken to quarantine households and minimize the risk of further spread.

As part of the Government's long term preparations against COVID19, the public is requested to pay close attention to the public awareness messages and instructions issued by relevant national authorities to minimize the risk of COVID19 in Maldives. The Government thanks the public for their ongoing support in the carrying out of these precautionary measures.

3 March 2020