



UPDATES ON THE COVID-19 SITUATION IN THE MALDIVES

7th October 2020



1. Re-opening of borders & Tourist Facilities

With the re-opening of our borders on 15th July 2020, the tourism industry of the Maldives has begun to flourish at a steady pace once again.

As of 06th October 2020, 223 tourist establishments have re-opened and started their operations accounting for more than 24,000 beds in various tourist facility such as resorts, hotels and vessels

2. Ensuring safety and security of our guests and locals

The country has also welcomed more than 17,000 tourists since the border re-opening. Since the re-opening, quite a few changes have been brought to tourism policies, notably the requisite to present a Negative COVID-19 test result on arrival (from 10th September 2020), being one of the key steps to ensuring that Maldives is truly made a safe destination for all.

Safe Travel Stamp by World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)

We were granted the Safe Travels Stamp by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) on 15th September 2020. This trends the path for a better, optimistic future for the whole industry.

'Airport Health Accreditation' by Airports Council International (ACI)

On September 03rd, 2020 Velana International Airport (VIA) has received 'Airport Health Accreditation' by Airports Council International (ACI). VIA is the second airport in the Asia Pacific region to receive accreditation.

Digital Kiosk at Velana International Airport

Ooredoo Maldives inaugurated a Digital Kiosk at Velana International Airport especially for tourists. The Digital Kiosk is a 24-hour self service which provide access to;

- Tourist SIM Cards
- Bill Payments
- Recharge Services
- M-Faisaa Cash in Services

The main aim of providing contactless and fast services is to ensure safety for tourists.

3. Allowing monitored inter-resorts/Split Stay movements

After contemplating on numerous requests from tourist establishments and tourists themselves, split-stay requests or inter-resort movements are now being approved and monitored by the Ministry, in coordination with Health Protection Agency (HPA). Our number one priority has always been to assure our guests and staff have a safe environment, and this is now more important than ever in these unprecedented and challenging times.

4. Re-starting of Local Tourism

Moreover, with guesthouses and local tourism set to resume on 15th October 2020, we are expecting promising results and a significant boost in our journey towards recovery of the tourism industry. To ensure safety of our citizens and the visitors to the local islands, we will ensure health standards are met as per the guidelines in these guesthouses island, prior to their opening. As such, a guideline is being formulated to administer the opening of guesthouses which will require all tourists departing from guests houses in local islands to undertake a PCR test within 72 hours prior to their departure.

5. Current Situation of COVID-19 in the Maldives

1068 Total Active
803 Locals
255 Foreign workers
10 Tourists

9,466 Total Recovered
5,936 Locals
3,554 Foreign workers
57 Tourists

Currently over 1000 samples are being tested daily (as at 7th October 2020) including departure results, as testing facilities are widespread and conveniently available for tourists whether they are in a resort or a liveaboard vessel.

As of 7th October 2020, we have 3 COVID-19 hospital facilities in greater male' area with 263 bed and additional 5 COVID-19 hospital facilities across the country with 183 beds. Out of these beds 177 are vacant, respectively.

ISOLATION FACILITIES – ONLY POSITIVES (LOCALS)

Facility Name	Capacity (rooms)	Pax	Local	Foreigners	Occupied Rooms	Vacancy
Eriyadhoo Isolation Facility	48 rooms	37	32	05	31	17
Fun Island Isolation Facility	54 rooms	75	71	04	41	13
Velidhoo Isolation Facility	68 rooms	38	36	02	25	43
Manta Isolation Facility	21 rooms	23	23	00	19	02
Express Inn Isolation Facility	15 rooms	12	12	00	13	02
Central Isolation Facility	64 rooms	54	38	16	45	19
TOTAL	270	239	212	27	174	96

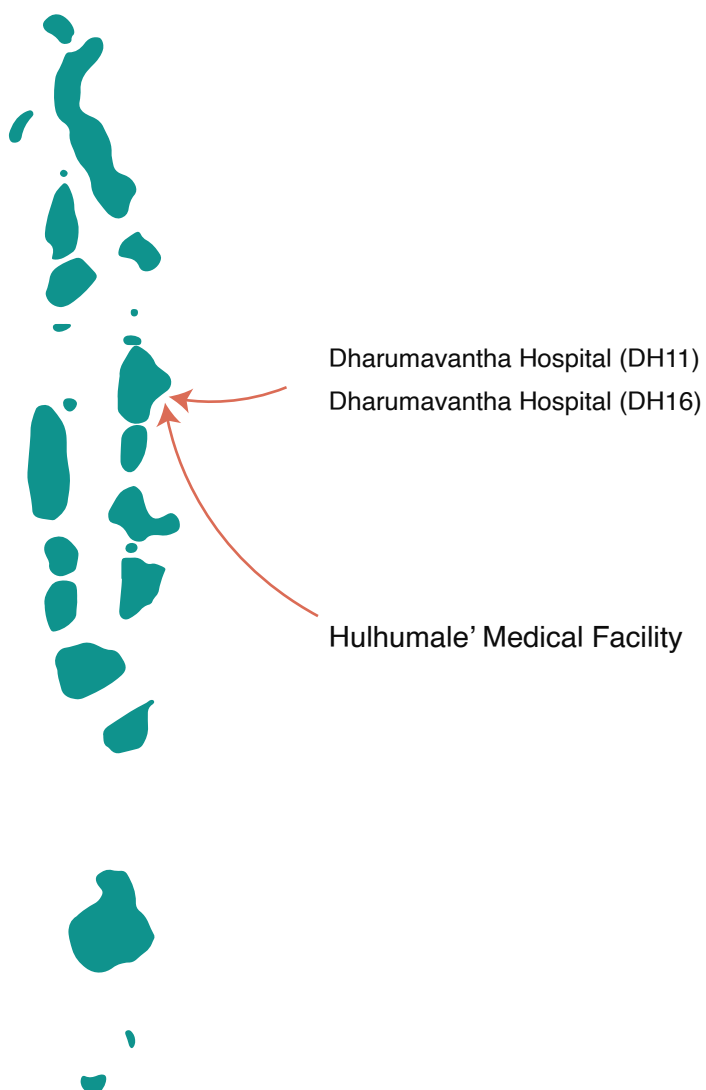
ISOLATION FACILITIES – ONLY POSITIVES (FOREIGNERS)

Facility Name	Capacity	Pax	Foreigners	Occupied Rooms	Vacancy
Hiyaa Isolation Facility	624 beds	84	84	84	540

In isolation facilities, tourists stay in private areas with special arrangements. In addition, they are closely monitored by our health care professionals.

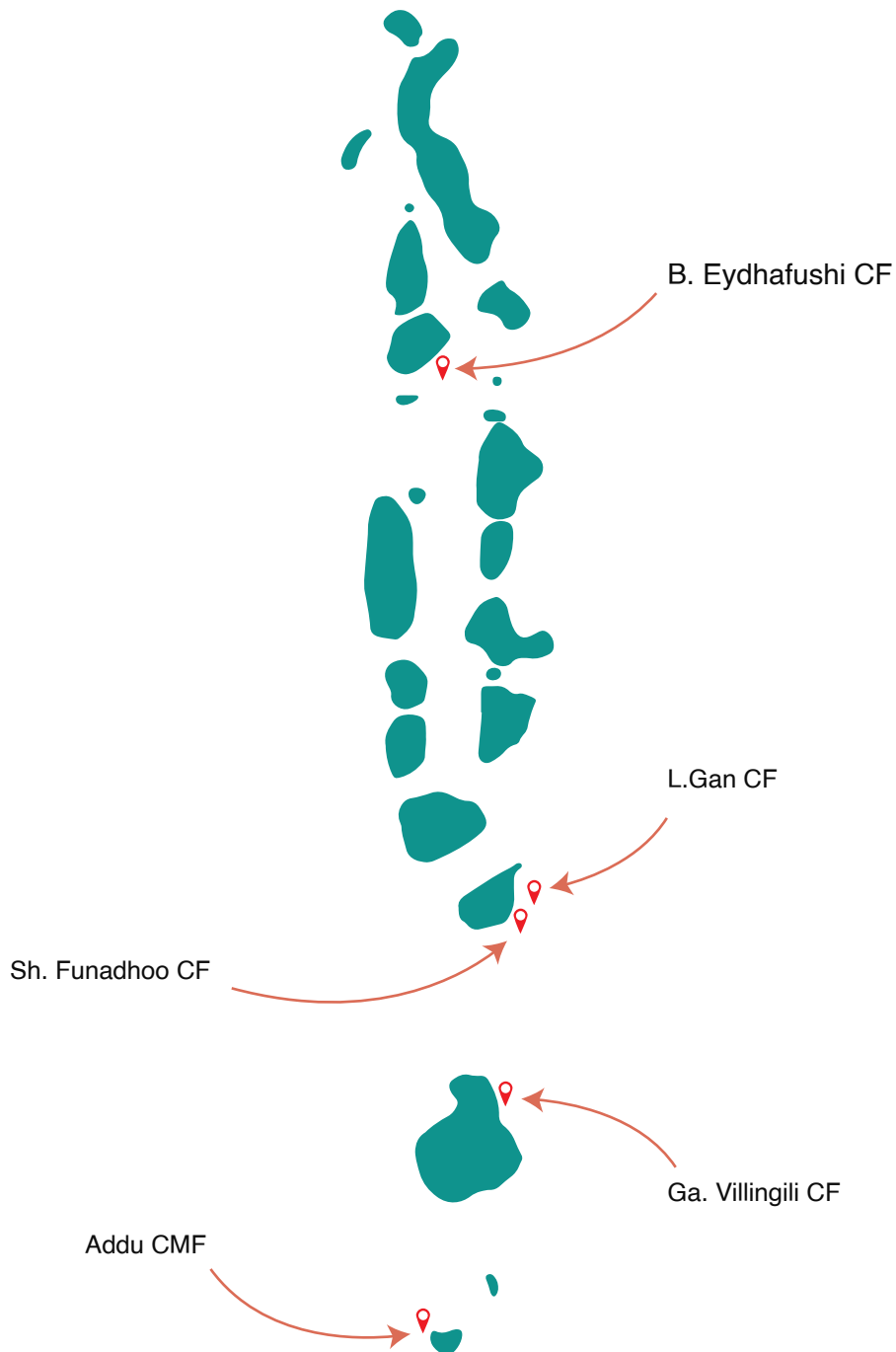
COVID-19 HOSPITAL FACILITIES - GREATER MALE' AREA

Facility Name	Capacity	Pax	Local	Foreigners	Vacancy	No. of ICU beds	No. of Isolation beds	No. of Ventilators
Dharumavantha Hospital (DH11)	10	00	00	00	10	10	00	09
Dharumavantha Hospital (DH16)	08	01	01	00	07	00	00	00
Hulhumale' Medical Facility	245	57	52	05	188	28	00	12
TOTAL	263	58	53	05	205	38	00	21



COVID-19 HOSPITAL FACILITIES - OTHER ATOLLS

Facility Name	Capacity	Pax	Local	Foreigners	Vacancy	No. of ICU beds	No. of Isolation beds	No. of Ventilators
Sh. Funadhoo Covid Facility	20	00	00	00	20	20	37	02
B. Eydhafushi Covid Facility	45	00	00	00	45	20	25	02
L. Gan Covid Facility	41	00	00	00	41	15	13	02
Ga. Villingili Covid Facility	43	06	06	06	37	18	05	02
Addu Covid management facility	34	00	00	00	34	20	21	02
TOTAL	183	06	06	00	117	93	101	10



6. Promising Outlook

The steady decline in the total number of COVID-19 cases starting mid-September also further adds to the promising future of our industry. As per HPA statistics, case numbers have dropped from over a 100 in October, on 7th October 2020 with 89.6% recovery rate. There are no reported community spread in any of the islands in Maldives. The only community spread is in Male'. With existing safety measures we will be able to manage any unlikely community spread in islands.

Since border re-opened only one tourist needed to be taken to a medical facility but the case was later moved to a government isolation facility (a dedicated resort island).

6.1 Tourist Arrivals

From 15th July to 05th October, a total of 22,007 tourists arrived in the Maldives.

The top source market for the tourist arrival was Russia with 3598 arrivals, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 2967 tourist arrivals. The United States stood third with 2032 tourist arrivals. Other top source markets of tourist arrivals include the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, France Brazil, Ukraine and Egypt.

Total Arrivals 2020	Arrivals	Growth (%)	Daily Average
Till border closure (Jan-Mar)	382760	-20.8	4,206
July (border opened on 15th July)	1,752	-98.7	117
August	7,628	-94.5	246
September	9,538	-92.1	318
January - September	401,714	-67.9	
October Total (1st - 5th)	3,140	-91.4	628
October - Week-1 (1st - 5th)	3,140	-92.5	628
Total 2020 (1st Jan - 5 Oct)	404,854		
Since border opening (15th Jul- 5th Oct)	22,007		

TOP 10 MARKETS - AFTER OPENING BORDER (FROM 15 JUL - 5 OCT)

Market	Arrivals	Share (%)	Rank
Russia	3,598	16.3	01
United Arab Emirates	2,967	13.5	02
U.S.A.	2,032	9.2	03
United Kingdom	1,787	8.1	04
Spain	1,121	5.1	05
Germany	942	4.3	06
France	768	3.5	07
Brazil	706	3.2	08
Ukraine	652	3.0	09
Egypt	505	2.3	10

6.2 Flight Movements

With 1,011 inbound tourist arrivals on October 2nd, we recorded the highest number of tourist arrivals within a single day to the Maldives since the re-opening of borders- which is an optimistic signal to our tourism industry.

In addition, we have seen a tremendous increase of the resumption of international flights.

SCHEDULED INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS 2020, AFTER OPENING BORDER

September

Operator	Arrivals	No. of Movements
Aeroflot	1,820	12
Air India	551	10
Edelweiss	54	02
Emirates	4,058	50
Etihad Airways	236	24
Indigo	845	16
Maldivian	672	32
Qatar Airways	4,566	60
Srilankan Airlines	565	60
Turkish Airlines	39	04
TOTAL	13,406	242

7. World's first border Miles Program

Maldives has also launched the world's first Border Miles program. The Maldives Border Miles program is implemented in order to increase repeat visits. The program is a three- tiered loyalty program made for the tourists. More points will be earned with the increasing number of visits and the duration of the stay. The Maldives Border Miles is an initiative by Maldives Immigration and developed with the assistance of stakeholders including the Ministry of Tourism, Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation and Maldives Airports Company Limited and is to be implemented on 1st December 2020.

8. Established a travel bubble with India

The air travel bubble between Maldives and India was inaugurated on 11th August 2020. This is the first to be established in South Asia. The bubble permits the movement of Indian tourists, businessmen, work-permit holders to Maldives. India being one of the most important markets of our Tourism Industry, this step will ensure more Indian tourists to the country.

Conclusion

To conclude, as the tourism industry of the Maldives is slowly reviving and moving towards an encouraging future; as the regulatory body of the industry, our key priority will always be to ensure the safety and security of all stakeholders whilst assuring that tourists have an inimitable experience.

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