



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 24th September 2020	Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.
Prepared by:	Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia

I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 154th national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 16th March 2020

- No new COVID-19 related death registered
 - All 4 recently collected posthumous samples tested negative for COVID-19
- 9 new positive cases registered, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to 3,564
 - This represents a 3.8% test positivity rate (9 out of 238 total tests performed)
 - The median age of the new cases is 30 years (range: 0 to 55 years)
- 238 new laboratory test results received (110 from MRC and 128 from NPHL)
 - Of these, 2 new tests returned indeterminant
- 27 new COVID-19 patients have recovered and got discharged
- While 12 new people were taken into quarantine, no discharges were made over the last 24 hours
- The country currently has 79 people in quarantine, 1,393 active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of 3.1%
 - *The bulk of the active cases are asymptomatic and are as such self-isolating at home pending the manifestation of symptoms

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **32,402,332**
- Recoveries: **23,919,089**
- Deaths: **987,153**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **14,816**
- Recoveries: **11,818**
- Deaths: **304**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **3,564**
- Recoveries: **2,061**
- Deaths: **110**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



Figure 1: Distribution of COVID-19 cases, The Gambia, September 2020

- The only age category with a few more female cases than males is the “age 20 and less” category (See Fig. 3)

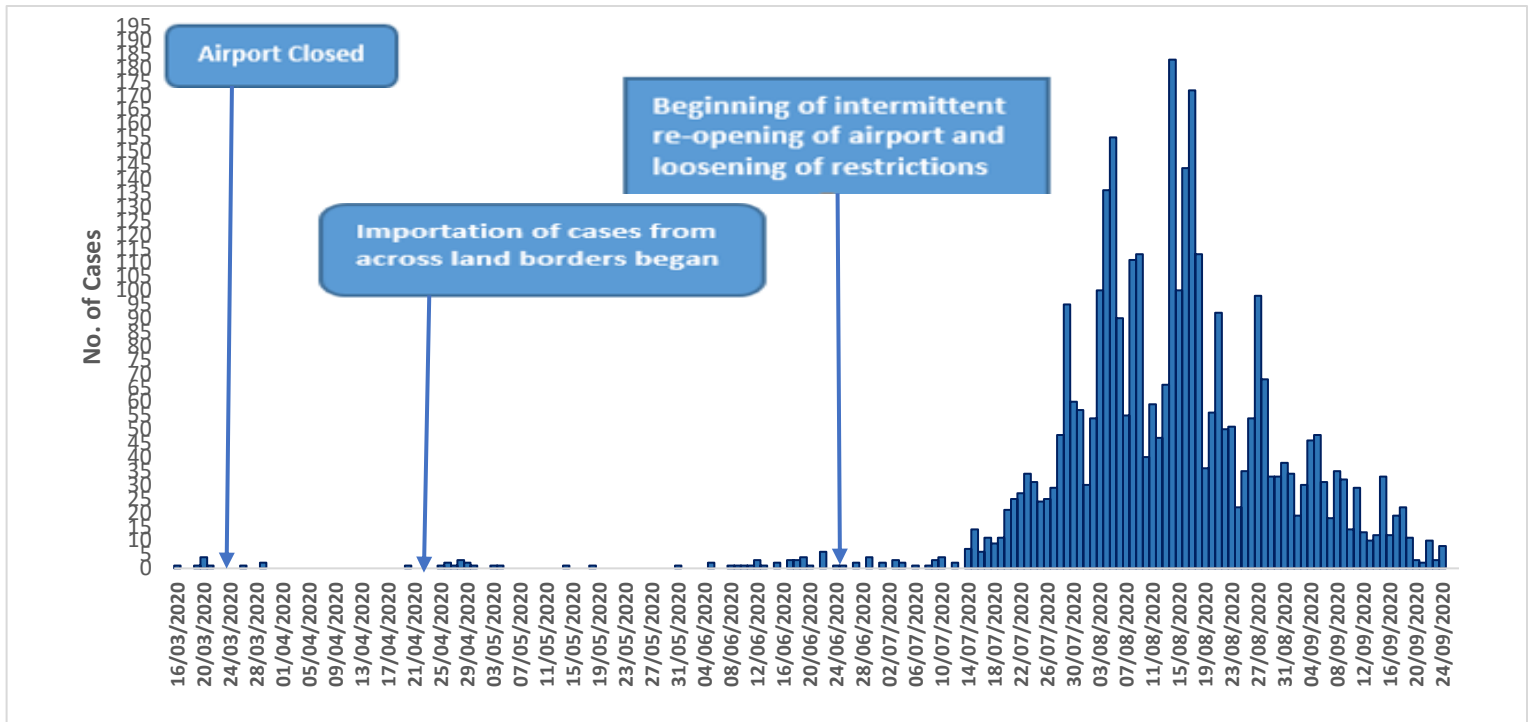


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases by Date Reported, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020*.

* A considerable amount of time elapsed between date of reporting and the date of laboratory confirmation of some cases

- Three main waves of infection occurred – the pre airport closure wave, the importation from Senegal wave and the intermittent airport re-opening and loosening of restrictions wave (See Fig. 4)

Table 1: Summary of New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2020

Status	New	Cumulative
No. of active cases in institutional isolation	72	
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support	3	
No. of patients recovered and discharged	27	
In Quarantine	12	79
Completed Quarantine	0	2,553
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	0	
No. of Contacts being monitored	1,168	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	7,491
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	30
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	222 (16)***	17,349
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	9 (0)	3,564
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	211 (16)***	12,701
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	2(0)***	

* Follow-up completed prior to the 17th March (when the first confirmed case was reported)

** Includes both low-risk and high-risk contacts and not mutually exclusive with number quarantined (as some have been quarantined)

*** Includes repeat tests in bracket

III. Major Response Activities

Table 2: Major response activities undertaken newly, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2020

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 238 new laboratory test results received (110 from MRC and 128 from NPHL) Of these, 2 new tests returned inconclusive or indeterminant and 9 new tests were positive for COVID-19
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 COVID-19 patients recovered and got discharged

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- Dwindling compliance with mask-wearing requirements
- Low turn-out at COVID-19 sample collection sites resulting in fewer number of daily tests
- Denial, misinformation, stigma and discrimination against COVID-19 affected families
- Despite the impending increase in the number of sample collection sites, rapid response and contact tracing teams are contending with transportation difficulties
- The Case Management Pillar of the COVID-19 response is grappling with transportation difficulties to move clinicians around the treatment centers according to their shifts
- The lack of a strong and reliable Internet connection at the NPHL is hampering the implementation of e-surveillance at the laboratory
- Existence of pervasive community transmission of COVID-19 in the country, especially in Western 1 and 2 Health Regions
- Uptick of COVID-19 among healthcare workers

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Thorough enforcement of the mandatory mask-wearing regulation
- Allocation of more vehicles and motor cycles to rapid response and contact tracing teams
- Urgent provision of more vehicles to ease the movement of clinicians
- Ensure there is reliable internet access at the NPHL to support the effective implementation of e-surveillance
- Imposition of stringent lockdown measures in the country in order to curb the spread of the virus
- IPC measures should be strictly adhered to in all public and private health healthcare facilities
- Provision of adequate stocks of PPEs to all health facilities
- Health workers to observe all COVID-19 preventive measures including the donning of appropriate PPEs at all times
- Intensify RCCE activities at community level in a bid to curtail the ongoing community transmission and dispel misinformation and denial

For comments or questions, please contact:
Sana .M. Sambou
Public Health Emergency Operations Center
Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, The Gambia
Email: sanasambou@hotmail.com Phone: +220 3516320/2422949

PARTNERS

