



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 18th May 2021		Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.	
Prepared by:	Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia		

I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 316th national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the 16th March 2020

- **No** new COVID-19-related death was registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020** to **175**
- **2** new cases registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **5,968**
- **100%** were ill seeking healthcare due to suspicion of COVID-19
- The cases were all males aged **47 & 48** years
- A total of **192** new laboratory test results received (**20** from MRCG and **172** from NPHL)
 - Of these, **2** new samples tested positive, representing a **1.0%** test positivity rate
- **No** COVID-19 patient was newly discharged from treatment centres, while **10** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- **Only 4** COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy
- The country currently has no one in hotel quarantine, **66** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.9%**
- **25,776** people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 as of **14th May 2021**
- So far **3,909** Rapid diagnostic tests were conducted at the Airport for travelers as of **17th May 2021**.
 - Of these, **only 2** tested positive so far for both RDT and PCR, treated and discharged.
- **42** new clients received Psychological First Aid (PFA) Services provided by MoH, DSW and Paradise Foundation, thus bringing the number of clients attended to **1,747** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as of **6th May 2021**.

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **165,343,985**
- Recoveries: **145,616,582**
- Deaths: **3,426,255**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **40,925**
- Recoveries: **39,649**
- Deaths: **1,128**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **5,968**
- Recoveries: **5,727**
- Deaths: **175**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

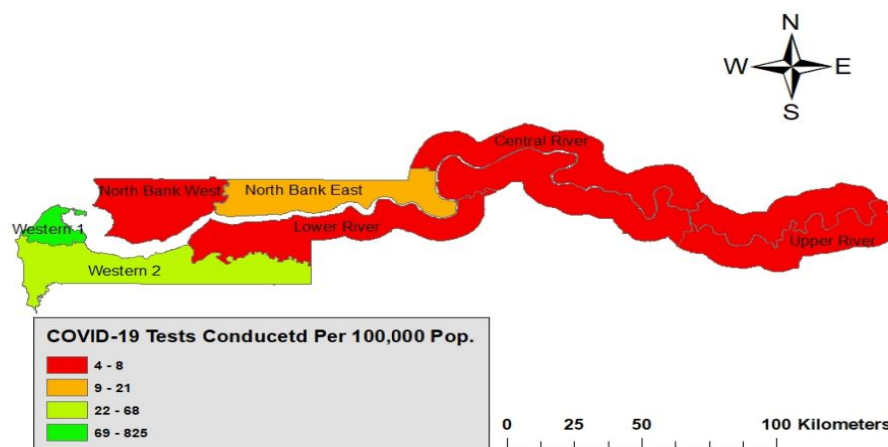


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Recent COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, March 16-14 April 2021

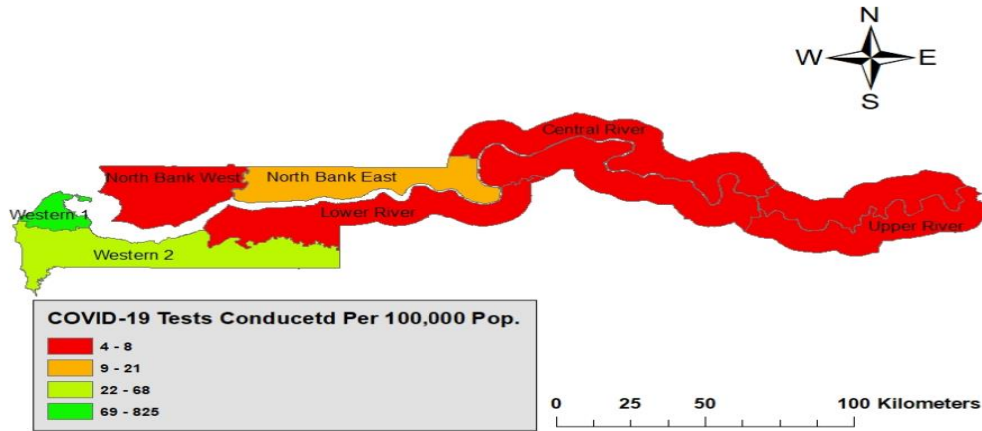


Fig 2: Geographic Distribution of Recent Tests Conducted Per 100,000 Pop. by Region, March 16-14 April 2021

- Western 1 Health Region has a disproportionately higher number of cases than all the health regions (**See Fig. 1**)
- Despite being far-flung from current testing sites, North Bank East has sent in more samples per 100,000 population than all other regions in the hinterland, over the last 30 days (**See Fig. 2**)

Figures 3 and 4 are the age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively.

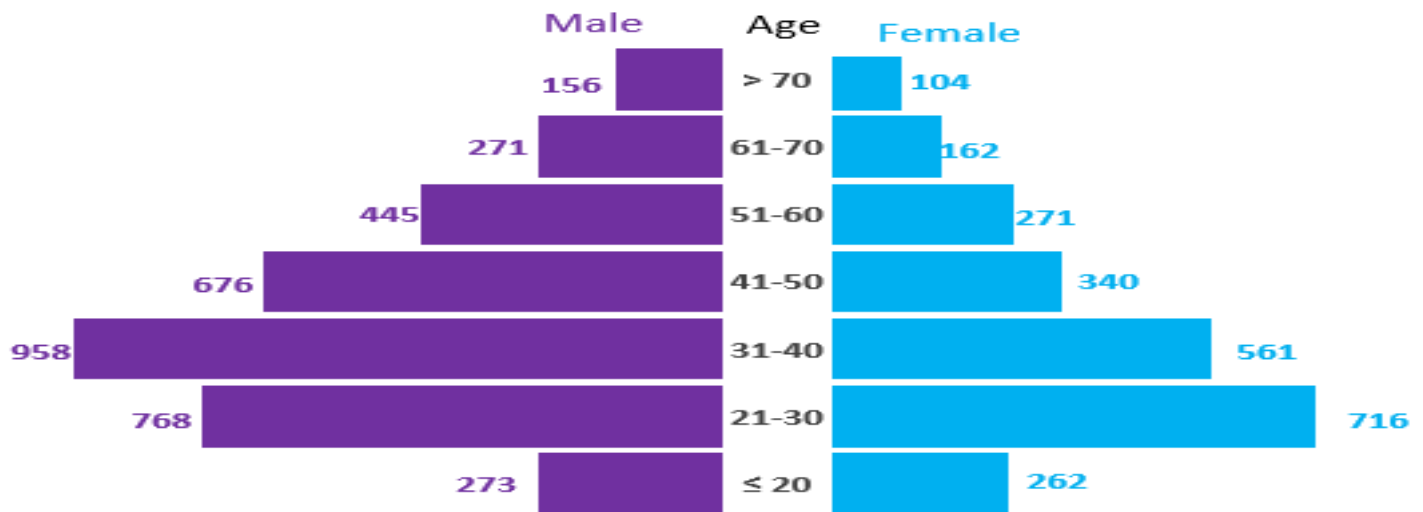


Fig 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

* This excludes the 27 confirmed cases whose demographic information are not yet available

About 59% of the confirmed cases are males (**See Fig. 3**)

About 62% of the confirmed cases are below age 40 (**See Fig. 3**)

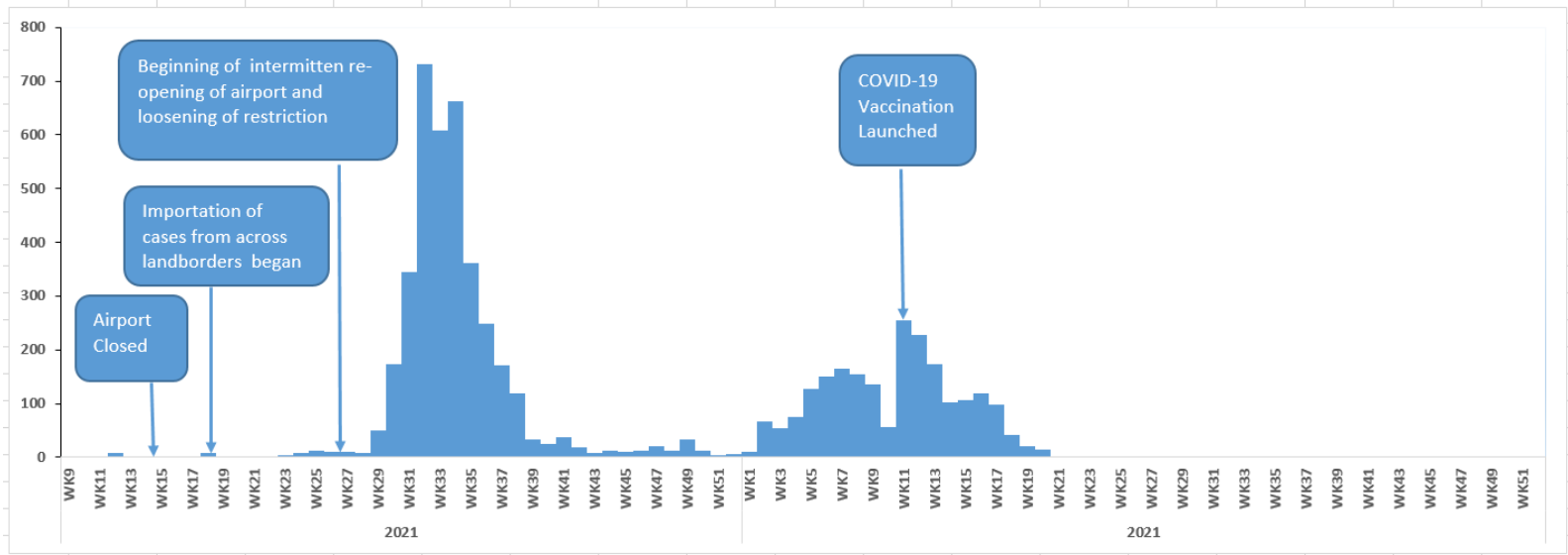


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported Weekly, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*. A considerable amount of time elapsed between date of reporting and the date of laboratory confirmation of some cases

- 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**)

Status	New	Cumulative
No. of active cases in institutional isolation		10
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		4
No. of patients recovered and discharged	10	
In Hotel Quarantine	0	0
Completed Hotel Quarantine	0	5,231
Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) *	0	310
No. of Contact(s) Identified**	0	
No. of Contacts being monitored	0	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	16,787
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	51
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	192(0)***	67,239
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	2(0)	5,968
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	190(0)***	60,219
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	0(0)***	

Table 2: Summary of New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021

* 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

Component	Interventions
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels • Gambian philanthropist and businessman have helped in improving the internet problem at National Public Health Laboratories (NPHL)
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 192 new laboratory test results received 20 from MRCG and 172 from NPHL) • Of these, no test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 2 new samples tested positive
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new COVID-19 related death recorded • No patient was newly discharged from treatment centres • 4 COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy

Table 3: Major response activities undertaken newly, COVID-19 Outbreak, The Gambia, 2021

THE GAMBIA COVID19 VACCINATION DAILY REPORTING							
Priority group	Dose 1				Total	AEFI	
	Fixed		Outreach/Mobile			MILD	SEVERE
	Male	Female	Male	Female			
Total Cov-1	421	253	373	235	1282	0	0
Health Care workers	2994	2482	218	194	5888	0	3
People with pre-existing conditions	1362	1644	402	483	3891	1	0
Community workers	4066	2804	1049	806	8725	1	0
65 years and above	1514	1483	641	545	4183	0	0
Teacher	217	131	352	111	811	0	0
Hoteliers	454	242	33	21	750	0	0
Security forces	728	173	237	23	1161	0	0
41yrs - 64yrs	20	24	30	46	120	0	0
18yrs - 40 yrs	29	19	62	137	247	0	0
Total Cov-1	11384	9002	3024	2366	25776	2	3

Table 4: Total National vaccinated with COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca Vaccine) by priority group as of 14th May 2021

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- High site-specific test positivity rate registered at the Basse COVID-19 testing site
- CBS activities not translating to increase in the number of daily tests being conducted
- Support for innovative countrywide risk communication strategies and activities on COVID-19 is suboptimal
- Security lapses at some of the treatment centers resulting in the abscondence of patients
- 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.
- Weak and unreliable internet connection at the NPHL is hampering the implementation of e-surveillance at the laboratory.
- Inadequate electronic devices and internet bundles for capturing vaccination data at vaccination sites
- Difficulty in accessing data on time resulting to a delay in the production of the SITREP
- No security at the Stadium sample collection site

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- More tests required in the catchment area of the MRC Basse testing site to ascertain the extent of spread of COVID-19
- CBS activities need to be synchronized with MRC's ILI surveillance to spur up testing rates in the hinterland
- Expedite the process of having testing sites in CRR and NBW
- Intensify risk communication and community engagement activities, on COVID-19 at community level, including at LUMOS, in a bid to curtail community transmission and dispel misinformation and denial
- More tests required in the catchment area of the MRC Keneba testing site to ascertain the extent of spread of COVID-19
- Security needs to be beefed up at all COVID-19 treatment/isolation centers to prevent the abscondence of patients
- Strengthen community-based surveillance in order to increase awareness and testing rates
- Thorough enforcement of the mandatory mask-wearing regulation
- 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
- Stakeholders/partners to support in filling the gaps identified in the vaccination campaign process
- Response committee leads should endeavor to provide data to the SITREP team on time
- Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior needs to provide security at the Stadium sample collection site

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

PARTNERS

