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| Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19 | Location: The Gambia |
| Date of Report: 12th July 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 **341st** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- Three (**3**) new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020 to 188**
- The Decedents were 2 females and 1 male, aged **36,73** and **42** years old respectively with at least one of the following:
 - severe covid-19 pneumonia, hypertension, Diabetes Keto Acidosis (DKA) and Acute Kidney injury (AKI)
- One hundred and seven (**107**) new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **6,521**
 - Of the **86** cases with known reasons for testing, **59 (69%)** tested for travelling while **15 (17%)** tested to know their COVID-19 status
- The cases are composed of **59** males and **47** females with a median age of **34** years (**Range: 2 - 75 years**)
- A total of **238** new laboratory test results were received (**40** from MRCG and **198** from NPHL)
 - Of these, 107 tested positive representing a **44.0%** test positivity rate
- Twenty-six (**26**) new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **8** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Twelve (**12**) COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy
- Twenty-eight (**28**) new contacts were traced and are being monitored
- Currently, no one is in hotel quarantine, **371** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.9%**
- As of **25th June 2021**, **31,254** and **12,303** people received the **1st** and **2nd** doses of **AstraZeneca** vaccine respectively, bringing the total number ever vaccinated to **43,557**
- So far **11,218 (798 New) Rapid Diagnostic Tests** were conducted at the Airport for travelers as of **12th July 2021**.
 - Of these, **only three (3)** tested positive for both RDT and PCR. They were all treated and

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **188,408,074**
- Recoveries: **172,198,828**
- Deaths: **4,061,281**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **46,863**
- Recoveries: **42,547**
- Deaths: **1,201**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **6,521**
- Recoveries: **5,962**
- Deaths: **188**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

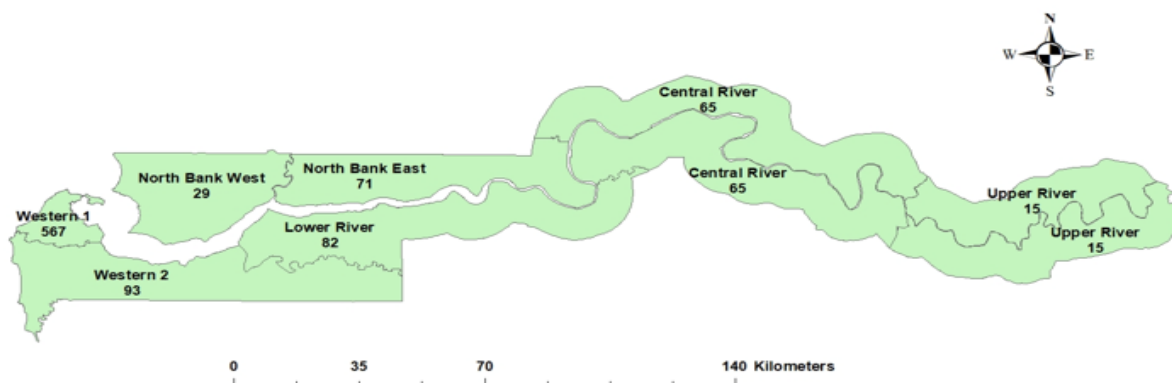


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of pandemic to 30th June 2021

- 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).

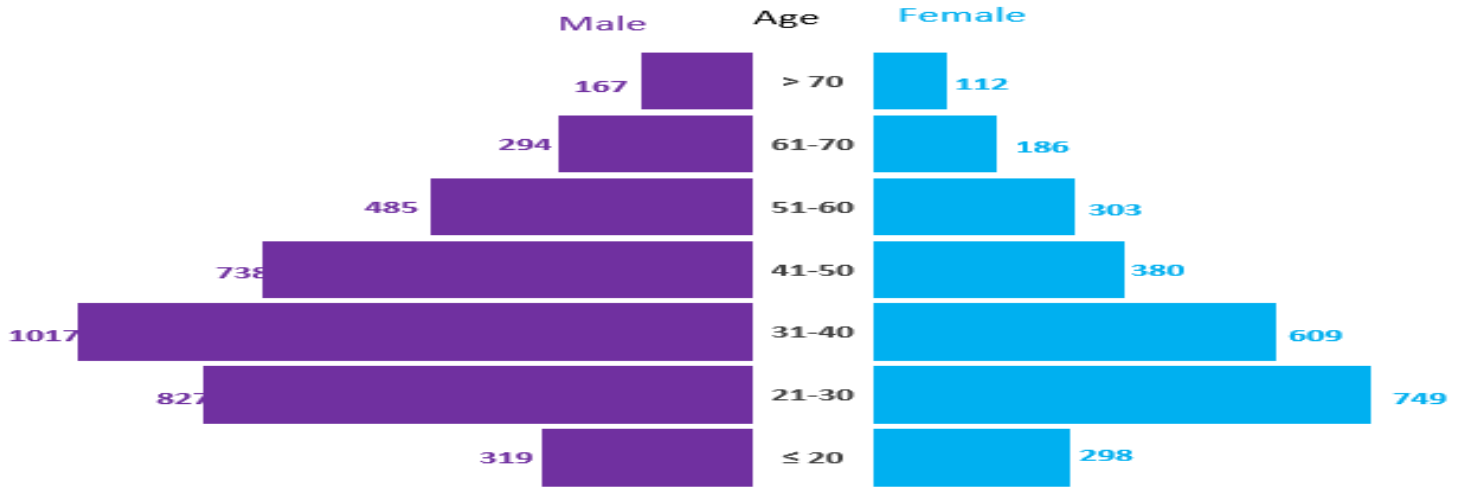


Fig 3: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

* 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**)

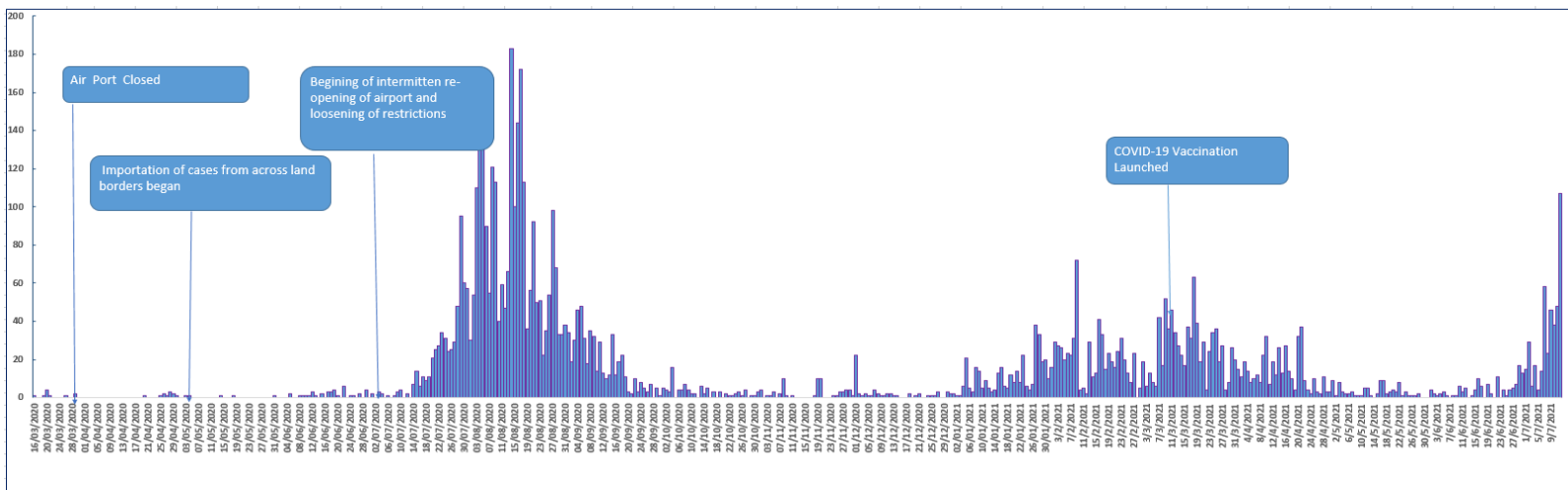


Fig. 4: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*.

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 | | 92 |
| No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support | | 12 |
| No. of patients recovered and discharged | 34 | |
| In Hotel Quarantine | 0 | 9 |
| Completed Hotel Quarantine | 0 | 5,240 |
| Completed follow-up (asymptomatic people with travel history to affected countries) * | 0 | 310 |
| No. of Contact(s) Identified** | 28 | |
| No. of Contacts being monitored | 122 | |
| No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up | 21 | 16,945 |
| No. of Contacts lost to follow-up | 0 | 58 |
| Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))*** | 238(0)*** | 81,673 |
| Positive test result (Repeat Test (s)) | 107(0) | 6,521 |
| Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))*** | 131(0)*** | 74,079 |
| 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 238 new laboratory test results received 40 from MRCG and 198 from NPHL) • Of these, No test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 107 new sample tested positive |
| Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded • Twenty-six (26) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres • Twenty-eight (28) new contacts traced and are being monitored • Twelve (12) COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy |

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

| Priority group | Dose 1 | | | | | | Dose 2 | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|-----------------|--------|-------|-------------|---------|-------|--------|-----------------|--------|-------|-------------|---------|
| | Fixed | | Outreach/Mobile | | Total | AEFI | | Fixed | | Outreach/Mobile | | Total | AEFI | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | | Non-serious | Serious | Male | Female | Male | Female | | Non-serious | Serious |
| Total Cov-24 | 438 | 266 | 374 | 242 | 1320 | 0 | 0 | 281 | 171 | 159 | 123 | 734 | 0 | 0 |
| Health Care workers | 3246 | 2674 | 302 | 294 | 6516 | 0 | 3 | 1655 | 1503 | 262 | 177 | 3597 | 0 | 0 |
| People with pre-existing conditions | 1537 | 1851 | 555 | 671 | 4614 | 1 | 2 | 809 | 841 | 150 | 147 | 1947 | 0 | 0 |
| Community workers | 4561 | 3107 | 1134 | 1008 | 9810 | 1 | 0 | 1410 | 1082 | 251 | 205 | 2948 | 0 | 0 |
| 65 years and above | 1776 | 1650 | 739 | 656 | 4821 | 0 | 0 | 642 | 692 | 123 | 138 | 1595 | 0 | 0 |
| Teacher | 333 | 195 | 487 | 212 | 1227 | 0 | 0 | 154 | 112 | 65 | 18 | 349 | 0 | 0 |
| Hoteliers | 513 | 304 | 34 | 21 | 872 | 0 | 0 | 153 | 137 | 0 | 0 | 290 | 0 | 0 |
| Security forces | 876 | 266 | 264 | 40 | 1446 | 0 | 0 | 268 | 65 | 74 | 62 | 469 | 0 | 0 |
| 41yrs - 64yrs | 279 | 247 | 175 | 148 | 849 | 0 | 0 | 400 | 337 | 32 | 41 | 810 | 0 | 0 |
| 18yrs - 40 yrs | 380 | 299 | 141 | 279 | 1099 | 0 | 0 | 104 | 136 | 30 | 28 | 298 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Cov-1 | 13501 | 10593 | 3831 | 3329 | 31254 | 2 | 5 | 5595 | 4905 | 987 | 816 | 12303 | 0 | 0 |

Table 4: Total National vaccinated with COVISHIELD (AstraZeneca Vaccine) by priority group as of 10th June 2021

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- 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.
- Difficulty in accessing data on time resulting to a delay in the daily production of the SITREP

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 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
- Response committee leads should endeavor to provide data to the SITREP team on time

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PARTNERS

