



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 17th - 18th 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 **344th** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- Seven (**7**) new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020 to 197**
- The decedents were **5 males and 2 females** with ages ranging from **32-96 years**
 - Died while on admission in the COVID 19 treatment centres
 - Four (**4**) of the cases died on the **17th**
- **241** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **7,161**
- **139** and **102** cases were reported on the **17th** and **18th** respectively
 - Of the **204** cases with known reasons for testing, **105 (51%)** tested for travelling, **33 (16%)** for suspicion of COVID-19 after being sick, **35 (17%)** contact with a confirmed case and **21 (10%)** wanted to know COVID 19 status
- The cases are composed of **148 males and 92 females** with a median age of **35 years (Range: less than 1 - 87years)**
- A total of **706** new laboratory test results were received (**15** from **MRCG** and **691** from **NPHL**)
 - Of these, **241** tested positive representing a **34.1 % test positivity rate**
- Forty-five (**45**) new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **20** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Twenty (**24**) COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy
- No new contacts were traced
- Currently, no one is in hotel quarantine, **884** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.8%**

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **191,869,905**
- Recoveries: **174,685,236**
- Deaths: **4,115,864**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **53,573**
- Recoveries: **43,802**
- Deaths: **1,236**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **7,161**
- Recoveries: **6,080**
- Deaths: **197**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

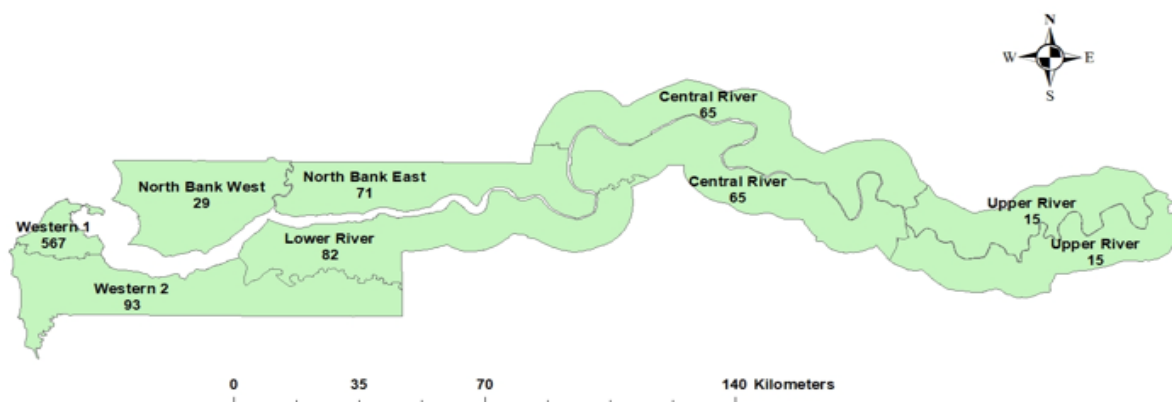


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of pandemic to 30th June 2021

Table 1: Shows the test positivity rate from 14th -18th July 2021, The Gambia

Date	Negative	Positive	Inconclusive	Total	Test Positivity
14/7/2021	282	87	5	374	23.4
15/7/2021	305	114	7	426	26.8
16/7/2021	307	109	2	418	26.1
17/7/2021	248	139	0	387	35.9
18/7/2021	217	102	0	319	32.0
Total	1359	551	14	1924	28.6

- Western 1 Health Region has a disproportionately higher number of cases than all the health regions (See Fig. 1)
- Below are the age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively (See Fig. 2 and 3)

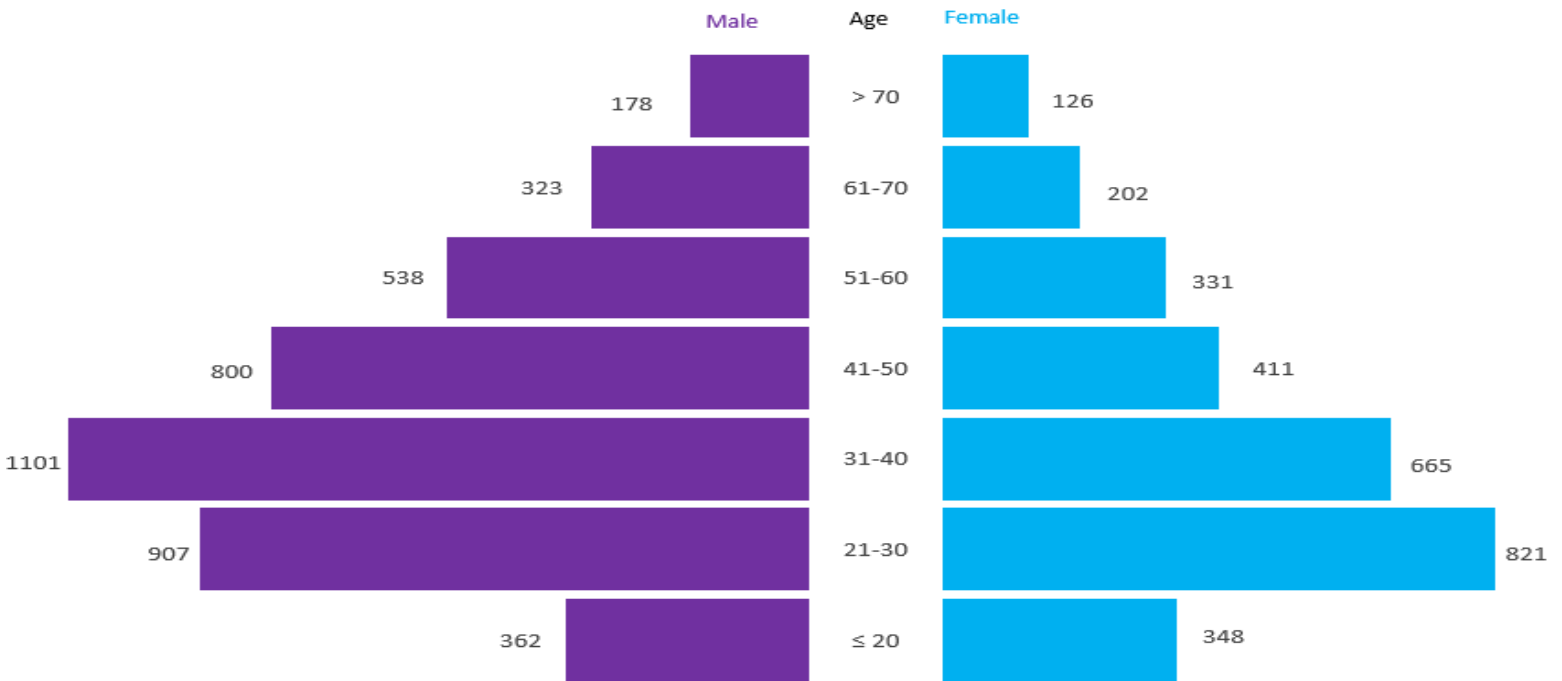


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

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

About 59% of the confirmed cases are males (See Fig. 2)

About 58.6% of the confirmed cases are 40 years below (See Fig. 2)

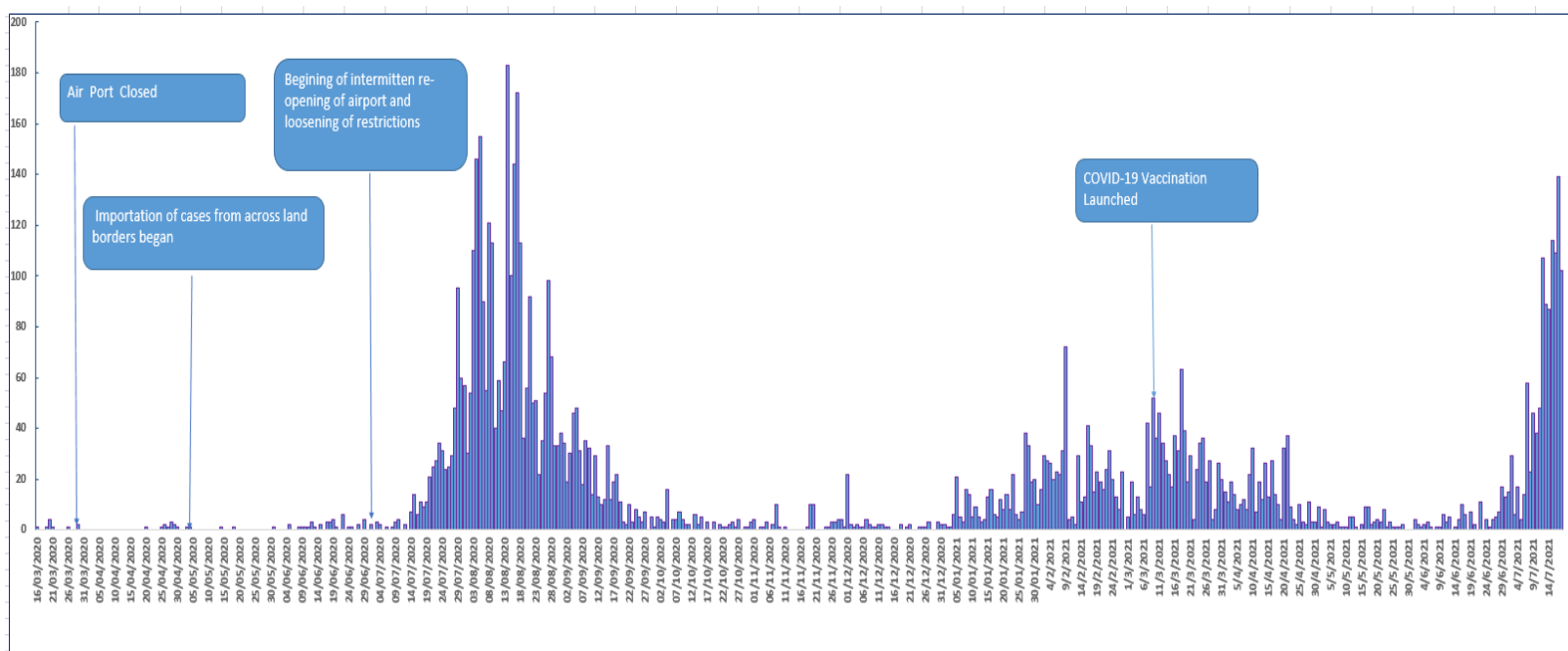


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*.

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. 3**)

Status	New	Cumulative
No. of active cases in institutional isolation		84
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		24
No. of patients recovered and discharged	65	
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**	0	
No. of Contacts being monitored	125	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	16,957
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	706(0)***	83,904
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	241(0)	7,161
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	465(0)***	75,652
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"> • <i>Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels</i>
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A total of 706 new laboratory test results received 15 from MRCG and 691 from NPHL)</i> • <i>Of these, No test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 241 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Seven(7) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Forty-five (45) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>No new contacts were traced and monitored</i> • <i>Twenty-four (24) COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy</i>

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

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

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PARTNERS

