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| Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19 | | Location: The Gambia | |
| Date of Report: 19th - 21st 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 **345th** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- Eleven (**11**) new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020 to 208**
- The decedents were **6 males and 5 females** with ages ranging from **20 - 85 years**
 - All manifested severe covid pneumonia and died while on admission in the Covid 19 treatment centres
 - **Two (2), 2, 2 and 5** patients died on the **20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd**
- **172** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **7,333**
- **44,99 and 29** cases were reported on the **19th, 20th and 21st** respectively
 - Of the **122** cases with known reasons for testing, **79 (65%)** tested for travelling, **17 (14%)** for suspicion of COVID-19 after being sick, **9(7%)** contact with a confirmed case and **13(11%)** wanted to know covid 19 status
- The cases are composed of **99 males and 72 females** with a median age of **35 years (Range: less than 2 – 72 years)**
- A total of **735** new laboratory test results were received (**61** from MRCG and **674** from NPHL)
 - Of these, **172** tested positive representing a **23.4 % test positivity rate**
- Thirty-three (**33**) new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **92** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Eighteen (**18**) COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy
- Twenty-four (**24**) new contacts were traced and are being monitored
- Currently, no one is in hotel quarantine, **920** active cases and a crude **case-fatality ratio of 2.8%**
- So far **12,622 Rapid Diagnostic Tests** were conducted at the Airport for travelers.
 - Of these, **only four (4)** tested positive for both RDT and PCR. They were all treated and discharged

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **194,219,064**
- Recoveries: **176,286,493**
- Deaths: **4,163,629**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **55,861**
- Recoveries: **44,611**
- Deaths: **1,264**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **7,333**
- Recoveries: **6,205**
- Deaths: **208**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

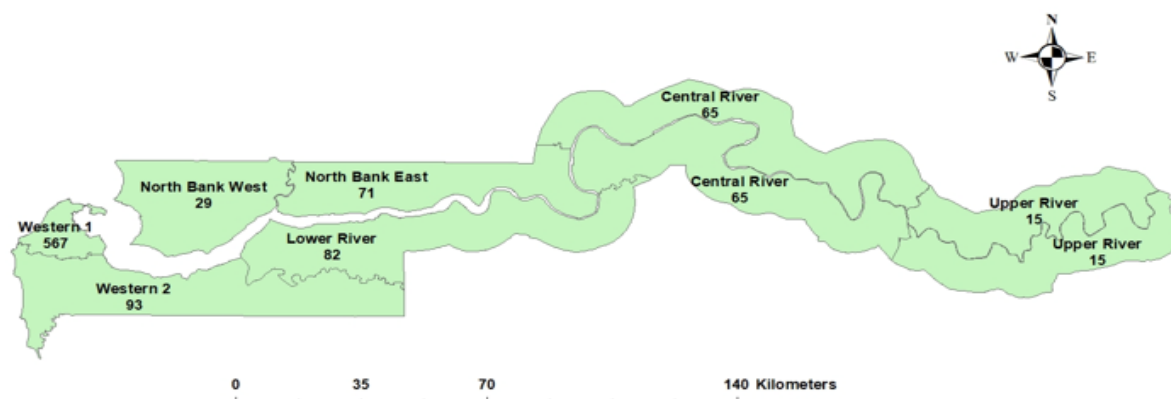


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of pandemic to 30th June 2021

- Western 1 Health Region has a disproportionately higher number of cases than all the health regions (See Fig. 1)

Table1: Shows the test positivity rate from 14th -21st 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 |
| 19/7/2021 | 153 | 44 | 0 | 197 | 22.3 |
| 20/7/2021 | 221 | 99 | 0 | 320 | 30.9 |
| 21/7/2021 | 189 | 29 | 0 | 218 | 13.3 |
| Total | 1922 | 723 | 14 | 2,659 | 27.2 |

- 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)

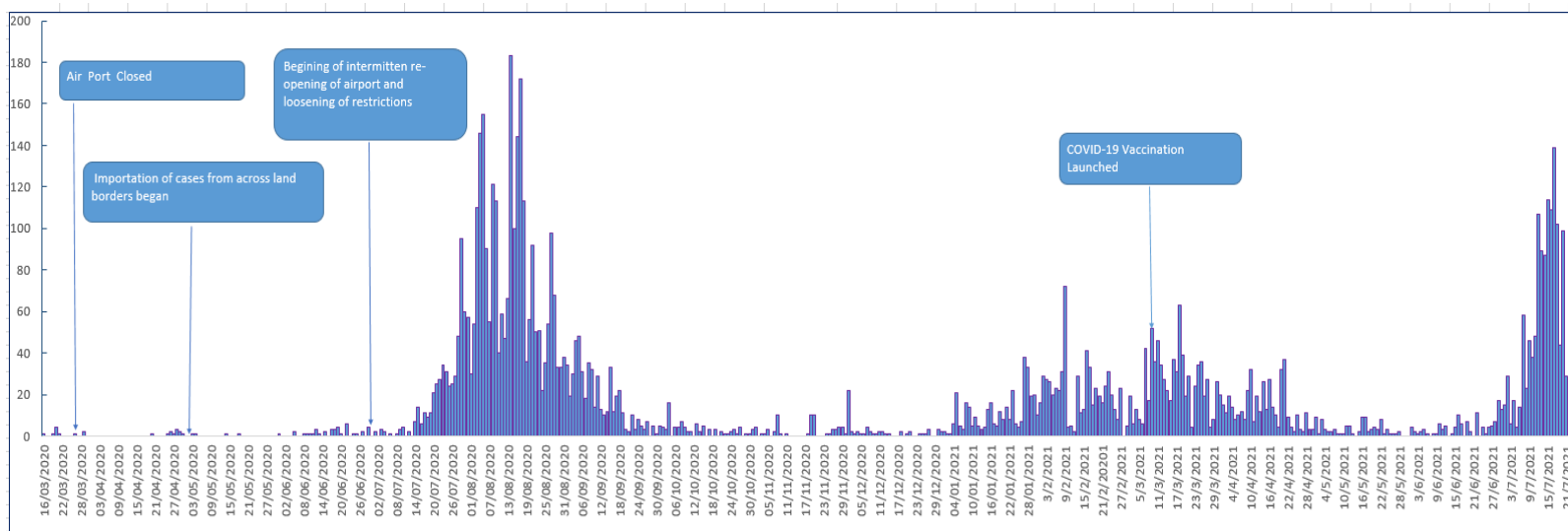


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*.

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 | | 61 |
| No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support | | 18 |
| No. of patients recovered and discharged | 125 | |
| 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** | 24 | |
| No. of Contacts being monitored | 140 | |
| No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up | 9 | 16,966 |
| No. of Contacts lost to follow-up | 0 | 58 |
| Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))*** | 735(0)*** | 84,639 |
| Positive test result (Repeat Test (s)) | 172(0) | 7,333 |
| Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))*** | 563(0)*** | 76,215 |
| 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 735 new laboratory test results received 15 from MRCG and 674 from NPHL)</i> • <i>Of these, No test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 172 new samples tested positive</i> |
| Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eleven (11) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Thirty-three (33) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>Twenty-four (24) new contacts were traced and monitored</i> • <i>Eighteen (18) 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

