SITUATION OF COVID-19 & RESPONSE IN THE GAMBIA

THE REPUBLIC THE GAMBIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
15th OCTOBER 2020
Current Situation, 12th October 2020

- Tests: 19,355
- Cases: 3,644
- Recovered: 2,645
- Deaths: 118 (CFR 3.2%)

First case confirmed on 17th March
Timeline of PHSMs in The Gambia

**17 March**
- Non-essential travels by Government officials, suspended
- Public gatherings are suspended
- Schools, including universities closed
- Lmos (open markets) and Gamos suspended

**23 March**
- Closure of border with Senegal and airspace

**26th March - SOPE declared**
- Essential Commodities Emergency Powers Regulations 2020, aimed to avoid price hikes of essential commodities;
- Restrictions on Open Markets and Shopping Areas Emergency Powers Regulations 2020;
- Closure and Restrictions on Non-Essential Public Places Emergency Powers Regulation 2020; and
- Restrictions on Public Transportation Emergency Powers Regulations 2020

**3rd April**
- NA extends SOPE by 45 days

**19th May**
- HE Extends SOPE by 21 days

**10th June**
- HE Extends SOPE by 21 days

**1st July**
- HE Extends SOPE by 7 days

**4th June**
- Reopening of places of worship and market opening hours; MOH 'Mass Gatherings Guidance'

**8th July**
- HE Extends SOPE by 7 days

**15th July**
- HE Extends SOPE by 21 days

**30th July**
- Compulsory mask wearing, closure of non-essential public places, prohibition of mass gatherings, fines introduced

**6th August – New SOPE**
- Curfew, closure of places of worship, restricted market opening

**17th September**
- SOPE lifted

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- Restrictions on Open Markets and Shopping Areas Emergency Powers Regulations 2020;
- Closure and Restrictions on Non-Essential Public Places Emergency Powers Regulation 2020; and
- Restrictions on Public Transportation Emergency Powers Regulations 2020

**27th August**
- HE Extends SOPE by 21 days

**17th September**
- SOPE lifted

**10-14 Oct**
- Reopening of non-essential public places
Seven-day Average Testing (R) vs New Cases (L)

- **Sum of New Cases Seven-Day Av.**
- **Sum of MOH Tests Seven-Day Av.**

**Daily New Cases**
- **Daily Tests**

- Chart displaying the relationship between daily new cases and daily tests over a period from March to October.
Deaths and Seven-day Rolling Average

Analysis:
Number of deaths reported on a given day **peaked at 14 on 17th August**, with a peak average of 6.3 deaths per week
- Average of fewer than one death per week since late August

Note: Data as of 9th October (SitRep 167)
Further Mortality Summary

COVID-19 Deaths by Sex

- Male: 51
- Female: 67

COVID-19 Related Deaths

- No of COVID-19 Related deaths: 118
- COVID-19 Deaths Confirmed Posthumously: 44
- Deaths by Existing cases: 74
Achievements

• Government leadership and commitment
  • Dedicated funding for response
  • Imposition of strict PHSMs at the onset of the outbreak
• Whole-of-Government Approach
• Strong partner support and involvement of the private sector
• Mandatory facility based quarantine and isolation
• Establishment of national capacity for PCR testing subsequent expansion to two sites in the country making the total number to 4
• Local production of some PPEs, hand sanitizers, COVID19 specimen collection booths and fabrication of containers for treatment centers
• Training of critical response staff (case management, surveillance, etc)
• Strengthening of the Health Care System by the procurement of life-saving equipment and ambulances
Challenges

• Low self-reporting of people with COVID19 symptoms for testing during low transmission period
• Scaling up and maintaining contact tracing activities during high transmission period
• Rumors, myths and denial of COVID19 particular in the regions
• Politicizing Covid-19 pandemic
• Inadequate community engagement and risk communication
• Decrease in turnout of clients/patients for routine essential health services
• Pandemic fatigue with low compliance of public to preventive measures.
• Case management challenges – few intensive care personnel
• Delays in procurement since most of what we need is not available locally
Priorities

Operationalize regional treatment centers

Set up three additional PCR Sites and increase sample collection sites

Intensify risk communication to improve compliance to non-pharmaceutical measures

Improve subnational coordination and decentralization of response

Continuity of essential health services

Intensify surveillance at all levels
Thank You