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| Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19 | | Location: The Gambia | |
| Date of Report: 19th - 20th December 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 411th 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 registered, bringing the total to 342 (Crude Case-Fatality Ratio, 3.39%)
- Nine(9) new cases were registered (Cumulative cases 10,087)
- Three (3), and 6 cases were reported on the 19th and 20th respectively
- The test positivity rate is 0.24% (9/379), NPHL – 364 (8 positives) and MRCG – 15 (1 Positives)
 - No case is currently on oxygen therapy
- Five (5) cases were discharged after at least 10 days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation and zero (0) from COVID-19 treatment centres
- As of 19th December 2021, the following number of people have been vaccinated with:
 - **Johnson & Johnson:**
 - Only 1 dose: 199,920
 - **Sinopharm:**
 - Dose 1: 4,500
 - Dose 2: 3,315
 - **AstraZeneca:**
 - Dose 1: 40,661
 - Dose 2: 27,880,
- **TARGET POPULATION** (based on microplanning estimates - 1,564,214)
 - Proportion of target population fully vaccinated (2 doses of AZ/Sinopharm or 1 dose of J&J): 14.8%
 - Proportion of target population that received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose (AZ or J&J OR Sinopharm): 15.7%
- **TOTAL POPULATION** (Based on final MoH population projections for 2021 - 2,438,899)
 - Proportion of total population fully vaccinated (2 doses of AZ/Sinopharm or 1 dose of J&J): 9.5%
 - Proportion of total population that received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose (AZ or J&J or Sinopharm): 10.0%

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: 276,768,483
- Recoveries: 248,279,739
- Deaths: 5,388,733

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: 74,223
- Recoveries: 72,246
- Deaths: 1,890

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: 10,087
- Active Cases: 57
- Recoveries: 9,688
- Deaths: 342

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

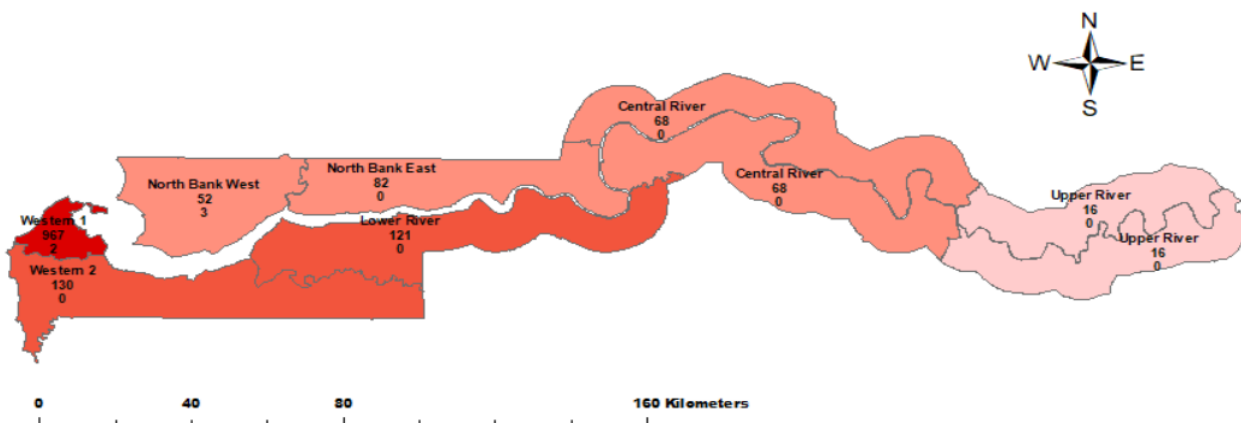


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Covid-19 Cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region Since the start of the Pandemic to 30th November (Number Above) and October only (Number below) in The Gambia

- 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 date of sample collection, respectively (**See Fig. 2 and 3**)

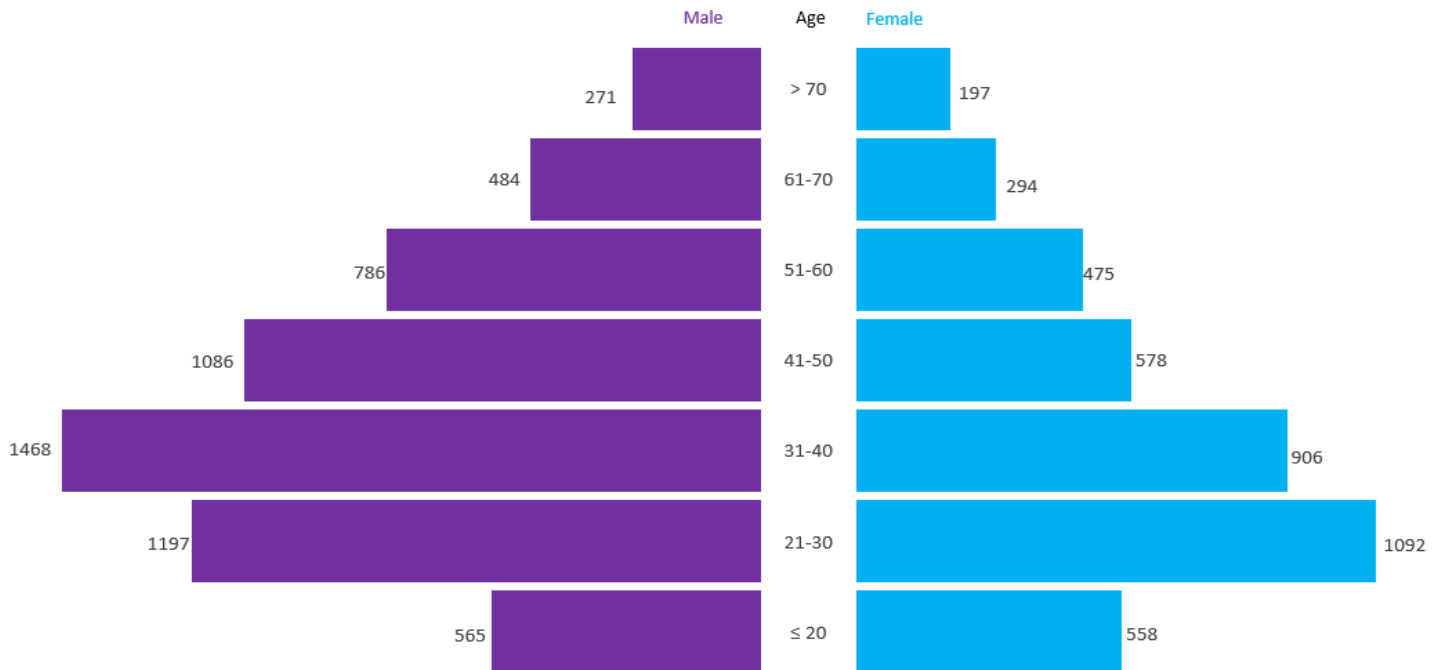


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

* 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 59% of the confirmed cases are 40 years below (**See Fig. 2**)

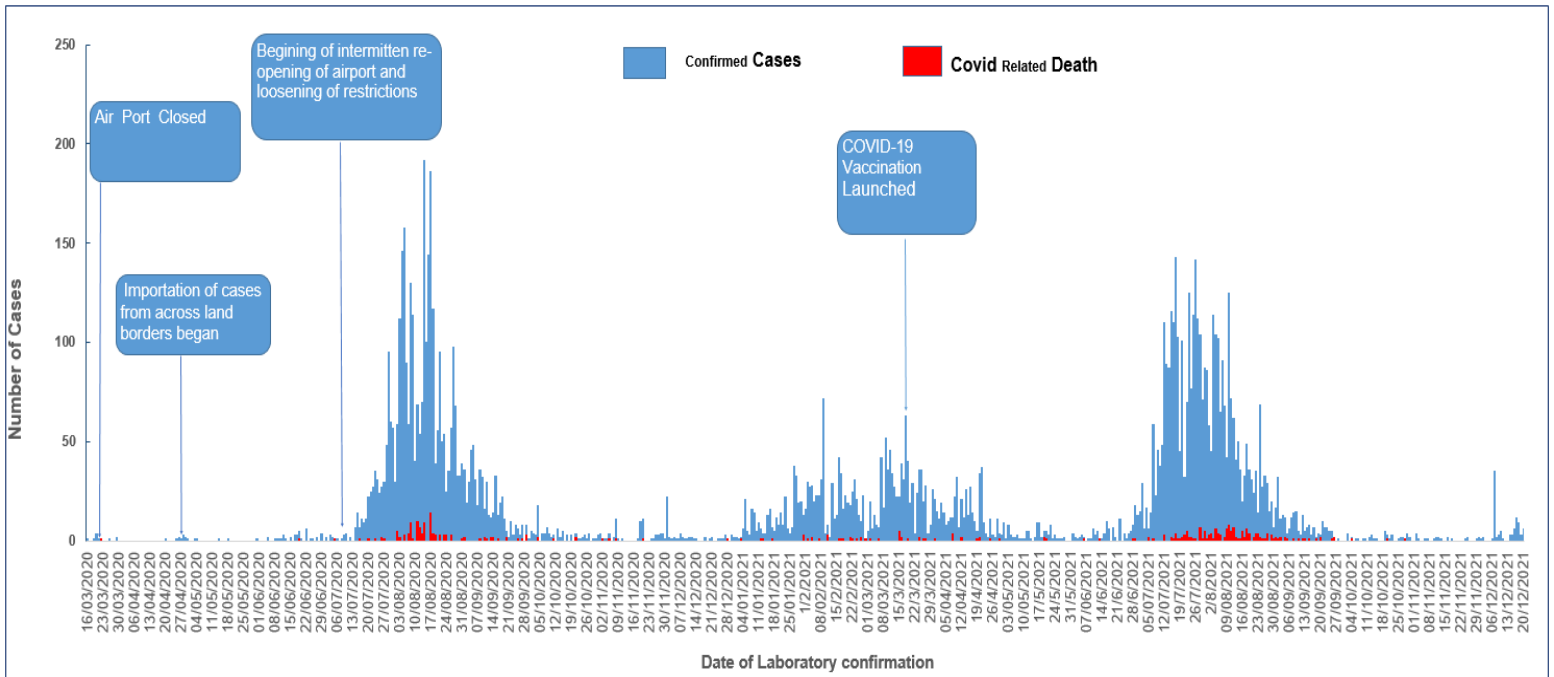


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-20th December 2021*.

- 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

Table 1: Summary of New and Cumulative Public Health Response Outputs, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021

| Status | New | Cumulative |
|---|--------|------------|
| No. of active cases in institutional isolation | | 2 |
| No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support | | 4 |
| No. of patients recovered and discharged | 0 | |
| In Hotel Quarantine | 0 | 19 |
| 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 | 0 | |
| No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up | 0 | 17,119 |
| No. of Contacts lost to follow-up | 0 | 58 |
| Total Tests conducted (Repeat Tests)*** | 379(0) | 131,044 |
| Positive test result (Repeat Tests)*** | 9(0) | 10,087 |
| Negative test result (Repeat Tests)*** | 370(0) | 119,699 |
| Inconclusive test result (Repeat Tests)*** | 0(0) | |

* 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

Table 2: Summary by region (Total doses administered from the beginning of COVID-19 vaccination in The Gambia)

| Region | 12-Dec | 13-Dec | 14-Dec | 15-Dec | 16-Dec | 17-Dec | 19-Dec | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| CRR | 584 | 0 | 217 | 0 | 348 | 0 | 174 | 1,323 |
| LRR | 0 | 38 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 88 |
| NBER | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 |
| NBWR | 0 | 75 | 115 | 24 | 58 | 110 | 3 | 385 |
| WR1 | 20 | 0 | 58 | 128 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 206 |
| WR2 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 |
| Total | 663 | 113 | 499 | 152 | 406 | 110 | 177 | 2,120 |

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

III. MAJOR RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

| Component | Interventions |
|---|---|
| Coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination meetings held at both central and regional levels |
| Surveillance/ Laboratory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 379 new laboratory test results received 364 from NPHL and 15 from MRCG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of these, no test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 9 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 No new contacts traced and monitored No COVID-19 patient is currently on oxygen therapy |

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- CBS activities not replicated in all regions to increase in the number of daily tests being conducted
- Support for innovative countrywide risk communication strategies and activities on COVID-19 is suboptimal
- 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.
- Low COVID-19 vaccination coverage rate

V. NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- CBS activities need to be synchronized with MRC’s ILI surveillance to spur up testing rates in the hinterland.
- Strengthen community-based surveillance in all regions to increase awareness and testing rates
- 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 and vaccine hesitancy
- 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 always including the donning of appropriate PPEs
- Intensify activities geared to increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage at all levels
- Strengthen the capacity of the National Public Health Laboratories to conduct sequencing to identify new variants from positive samples as the COVID-19 virus evolves.

For comments or questions, please contact:
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PARTNERS

