



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 21 th - 24 th December 2021		Investigation Start Date: 17 th March 2020 as of 18hrs.	
Prepared by:	Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, MoH, The Gambia		

I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the 412th 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, 3.37%)**
- **Forty-nine (49)** new cases were registered (**Cumulative cases 10,136**)
- **Seven (7), 18, 11** and **13** cases were reported on the **21st, 22nd, 23rd**, and **24th** respectively
- The test positivity rate is **4.4% (49/1103)**, **NPHL – 1028 (37 positives)** and **MRCG – 75 (12 Positives)**
 - No case is currently on **oxygen therapy**
- **Six (6)** 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

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **280,067,857**
- 🌿 Recoveries: **250,290,043**
- ➡ Deaths: **5,415,876**

Senegal

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **74,412**
- 🌿 Recoveries: **72,317**
- ➡ Deaths: **1,890**

The Gambia

- 👤 Confirmed Cases: **10,136**
- 👤 Active Cases: **100**
- 🌿 Recoveries: **9,694**
- ➡ Deaths: **342**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

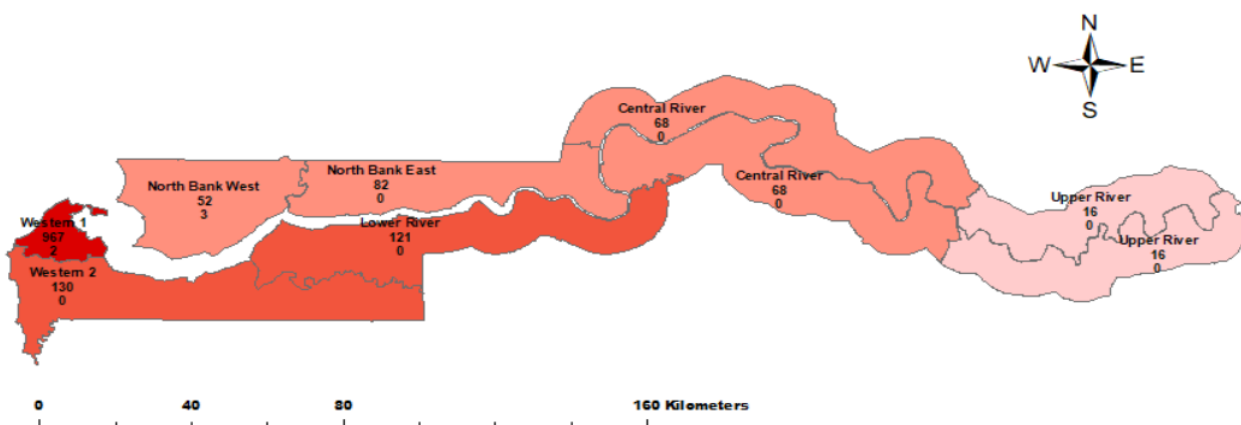


Fig 1: Geographic Distribution of Covid-19 Cases per 100,000 Pop. by Region Since the start of the Pandemic to 30th November (Number Above) and October only (Number below) in The Gambia

- 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**)

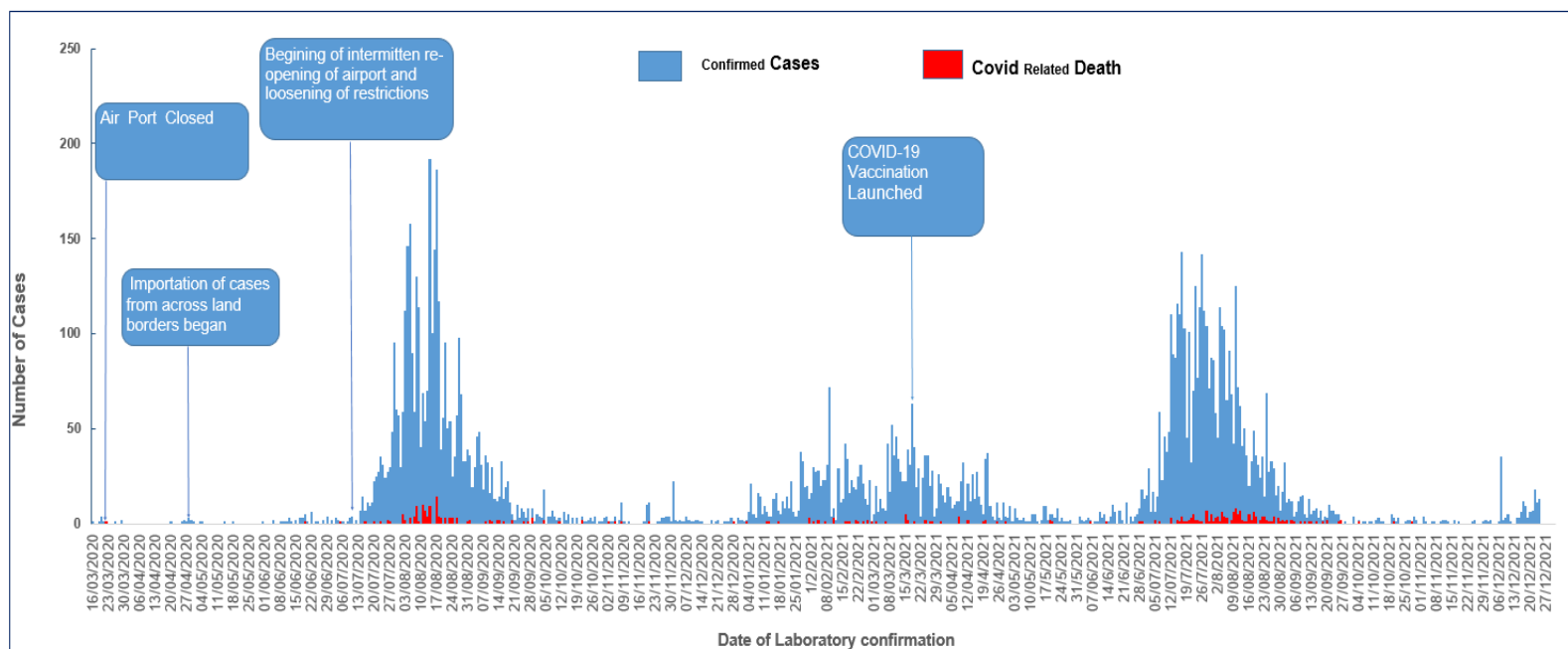


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-24th December 2021^a.

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		N/A
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		N/A
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**	10	
No. of Contacts being monitored	10	
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)***	1103(0)	132,147
Positive test result (Repeat Tests)***	49(0)	10,136
Negative test result (Repeat Tests)***	1054(0)	120,753
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 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"> • <i>Coordination meetings held at central level</i>
Surveillance/ Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A total of 1103 new laboratory test results received 1028 from NPHL and 75 from MRCG</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, no test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 49 new samples tested positive</i> ○ <i>A new sample collection site has been opened at the SeneGambia in collaboration with The Gambia Tourism Board</i>
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 • 10 new contacts traced and monitored • No COVID-19 patient is currently on oxygen therapy

IV. GAPS/CHALLENGES:

- Increase in the number of people at the sample collection sites by the tourists
- 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:

- Increase the number of sample collection sites
- 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:
Amadou Woury Jallow
 Public Health Emergency Operations Center
 Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, The Gambia
Email: amadou.jallow@gmail.com **Phone:** +220 3921415/2639690/9921415

PARTNERS

