



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19	Location: The Gambia
Date of Report: 24th – 25th August 2021	Investigation Start Date: 17th March 2020 as of 18hrs.
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I. HIGHLIGHTS

This is the **361st** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- Three (3) new COVID-19-related deaths registered, bringing the total to **314** (Crude case-fatality ratio, **3.3%**)
- The decedents' age ranged from **64 - 85 years (3 males and 0 females)**
 - All had COVID-19 pneumonia and admitted in the COVID 19 treatment centres
 - **one (1)** of them, had diabetes mellitus as a comorbidity
- A total of **93** new cases were registered (cumulative cases, **9,626**)
- The test positivity rate is **13.1% (93/710)** of which **MRCG tested 55 (9 positive)** and **NPHL 655 (84 positive)**
 - Of the total new cases, **39** were **males** and **54 females**, with a **median** age of **33 years (Range: 2 – 77years)**
 - Twenty-six (**26**) cases are currently on **oxygen therapy**
 - For reasons of testing, **24 (26%)** tested for travelling, **24 (26%)** for suspicion of COVID-19, **26 (28%)** wanted to know COVID 19 status, **1(1%)** contact with a confirmed case, and **18 (19%)** for unspecified reasons.
- **Six (6)** cases were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **78** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Two (**2**) new contacts were traced and monitored
- As of **26th August 2021**, the following number of people have been vaccinated with:
 - **Janssen & Janssen:**
 - Only 1 dose:138,099
 - **Sinopharm:**
 - Dose 1: 4,457
 - Dose 2: 942
 - **AstraZeneca:**
 - Dose 1: 31,254
 - Dose 2: 13,164 16,744
- Of the total national target population (**≥ 18 years**) been vaccinated:
 - **10.0%** are fully vaccinated (**2 doses** of AZ/Sinopharm or **1 dose** of J&J)
 - **11.1%** received at least **one** COVID-19 vaccine dose (**AZ** or **J&J** or **Sinopharm**)

COVID-19 SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Globally

- Confirmed Cases: **216,120,229**
- Recoveries: **193,106,022**
- Deaths: **4,497,291**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **72,533**
- Recoveries: **60,107**
- Deaths: **1,729**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **9,626**
- Active Cases: **118**
- Recoveries: **9194**
- Deaths: **314**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

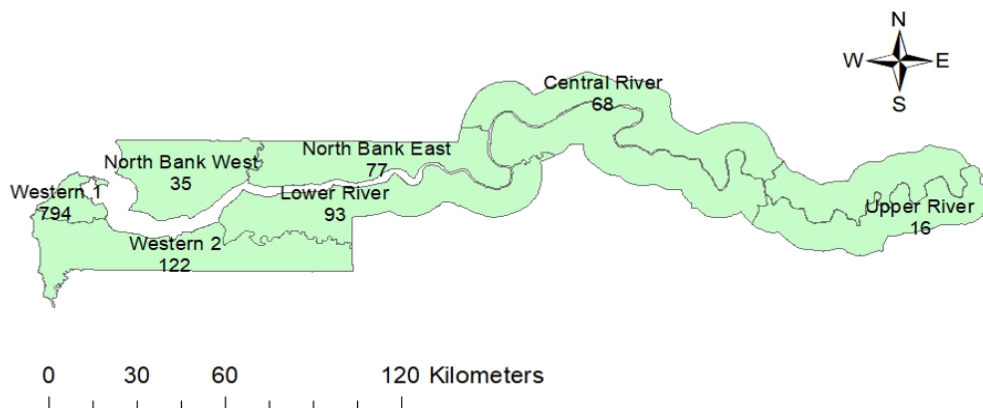


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases per 100,000 Pop.by Region in The Gambia since the start of the Pandemic to 31st July 2021

- 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**)

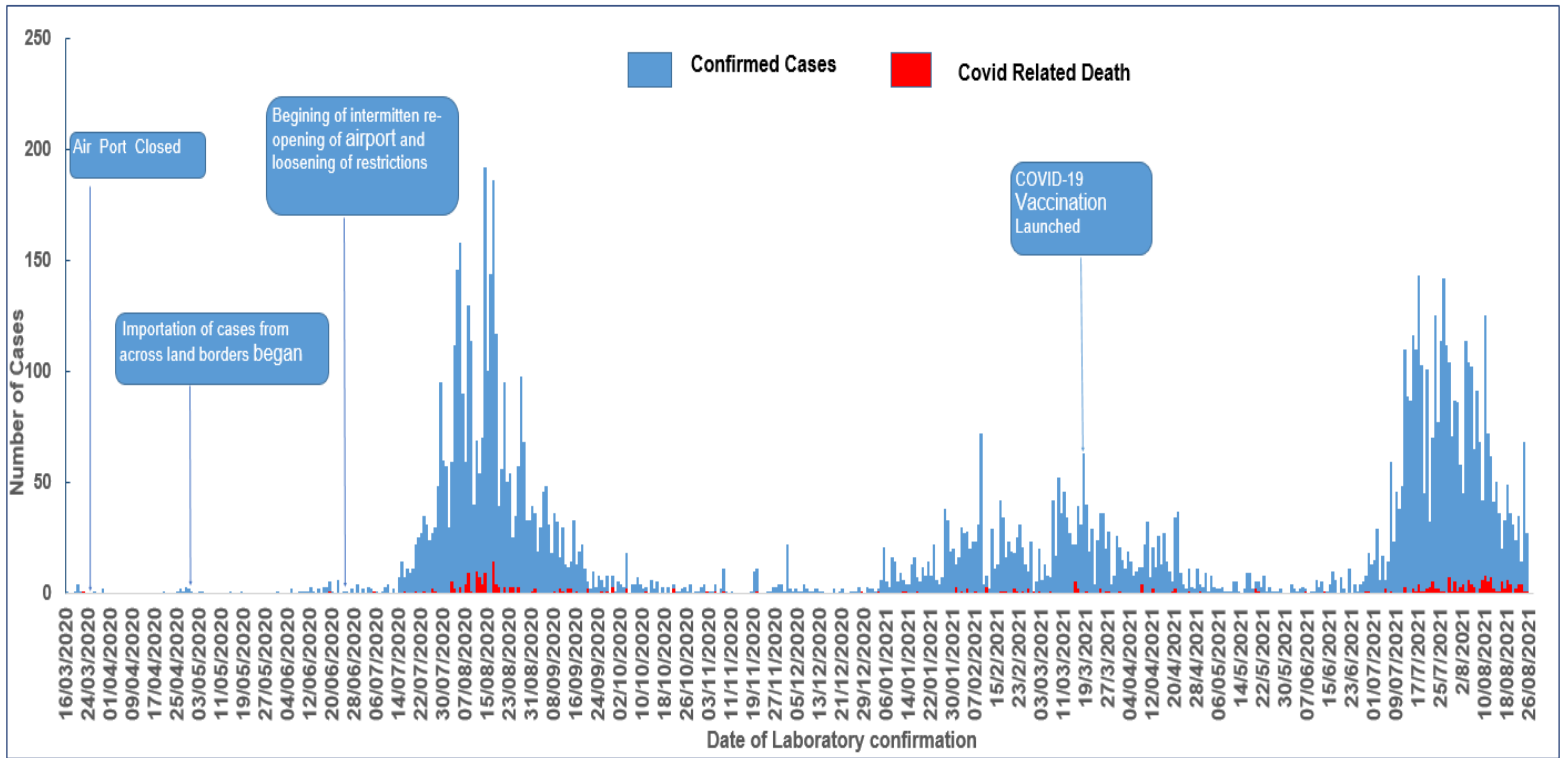


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 16th March 2020-10th August 2021*.

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		46
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		26
No. of patients recovered and discharged	84	
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**	3	
No. of Contacts being monitored	0	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	4	17,119
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	710(0)***	100,052
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	93(0)	9,626
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	616(0)***	89,183
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	1(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 710 new laboratory test results received 55 from MRCG and 655 from NPHL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Of these, 1 test result returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 93 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Three (3) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Six (6) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>Two (2) new contacts were traced and monitored</i> • <i>Twenty-six (26) 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.
- Speed up 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 and vaccine hesitancy
- 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 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 always including the donning of appropriate PPEs

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PARTNERS

