



Situation Report: Confirmed COVID-19		Location: The Gambia	
Date of Report: 22nd - 25th 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 **346th** national situation report since the confirmation of the first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in The Gambia, on the **16th March 2020**

- Four (**4**) new COVID-19-related deaths were registered, bringing the total number of deaths since **March 2020 to 212**
- The decedents were **3** males and **1** females with ages ranging from **42-60** years
 - All manifested severe covid pneumonia and died while on admission in the Covid 19 treatment centres
- **376** new cases were registered taking the total number of COVID-19 cases ever confirmed in the country to **7,709**
- **65,123,75** and **113** cases were reported on the **22nd, 23rd, 24th** and **25th** respectively
 - Of the **266** cases with known reasons for testing, **140 (53%)** tested for travelling, **58 (22%)** for suspicion of COVID-19 after being sick, **23 (9%)** contact with a confirmed case and **38 (14%)** wanted to know covid 19 status
- The cases are composed of **204** males and **72** females with a median age of **35** years (**Range: less than 1 year – 90 years**)
- A total of **1697** new laboratory test results were received (**94** from **MRCG** and **1603** from **NPHL**)
 - Of these, **376** tested positive representing a **22.2 % test positivity rate**
- Twenty-seven (**27**) new COVID-19 patients were newly discharged from treatment centres, while **368** got discharged at least **10** days from the day they tested positive but evaded institutional isolation
- Twenty-four (**24**) COVID-19 patients are currently on oxygen therapy
- No new contacts were traced and monitored
- Currently, **ten** people are in hotel quarantine, **895** active cases and a crude case-fatality ratio of **2.8%**
- So far **13662 (1040) 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: **195,431,315**
- Recoveries: **177,255,732**
- Deaths: **4,184,307**

Senegal

- Confirmed Cases: **57,881**
- Recoveries: **45,479**
- Deaths: **1,286**

The Gambia

- Confirmed Cases: **7,709**
- Recoveries: **6,600**
- Deaths: **212**

II. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

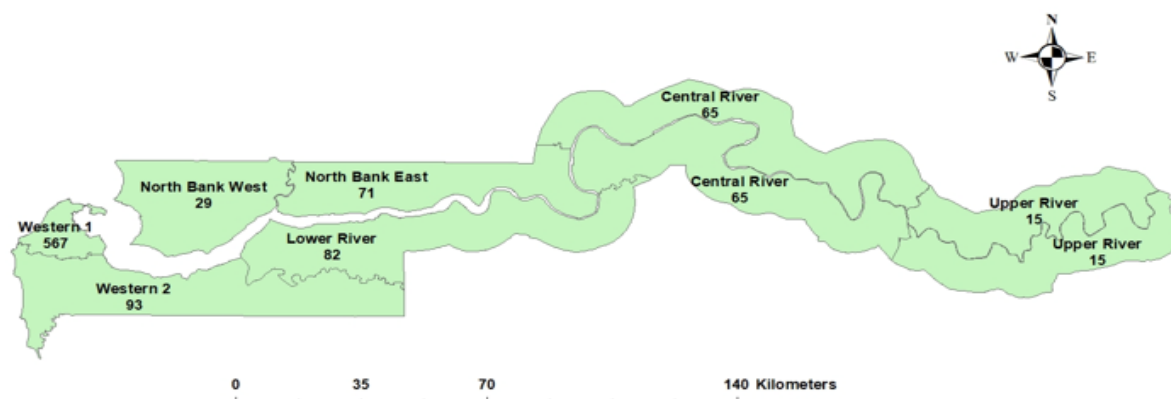


Fig1: Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Per 100,000 Pop. by Region in The Gambia since the start of pandemic to 30th June 2021

- 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 -25th 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
22/7/2021	205	65	0	270	24.1
23/7/2021	378	123	3	504	24.4
24/7/2021	465	75	0	540	13.9
25/7/2021	266	113	4	383	29.5
Total	3,236	1099	21	4356	25.2

- Below are the age-sex distribution and the Epi-curve of confirmed cases by reported date, respectively (See Fig. 2 and 3)

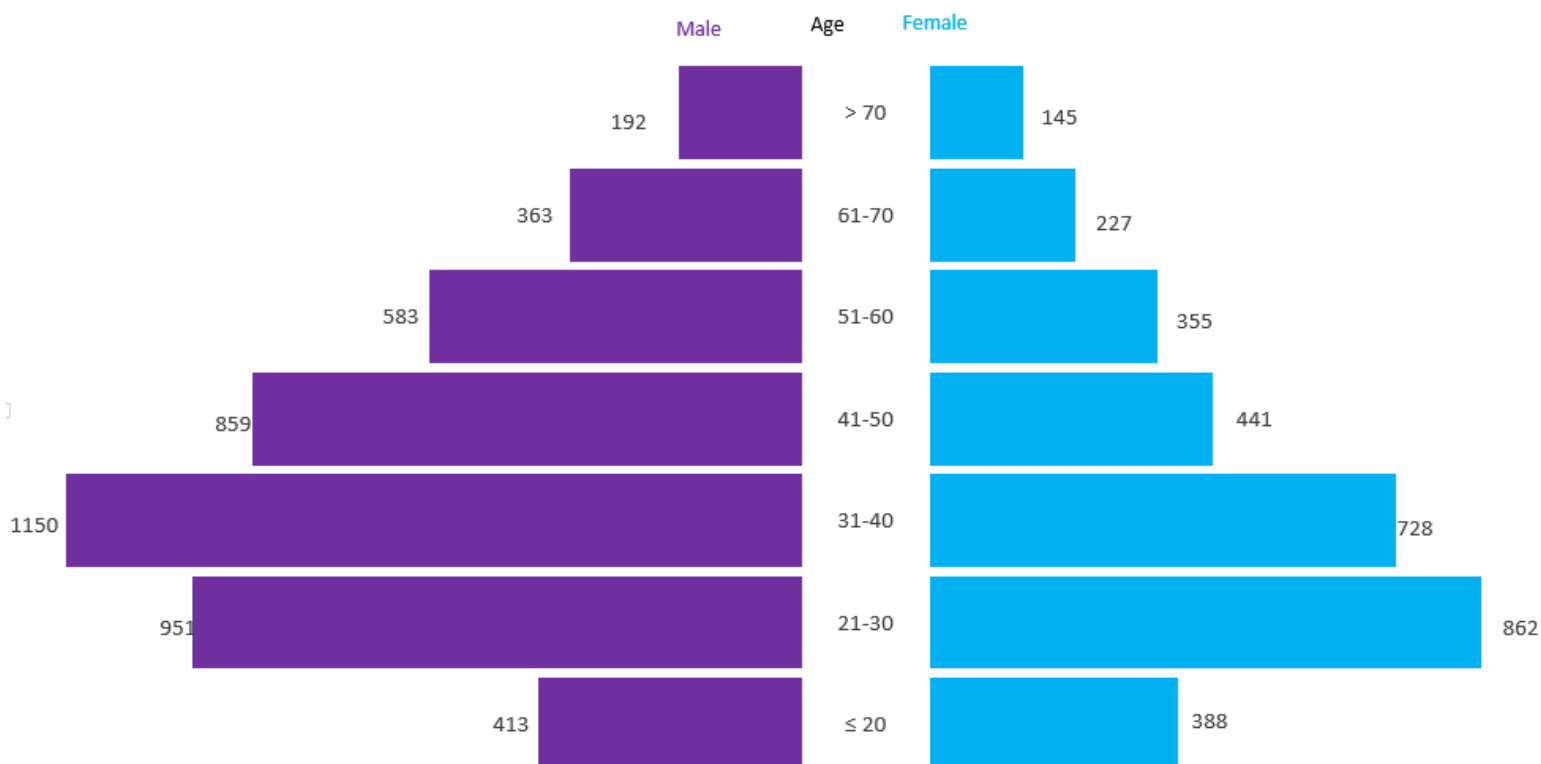


Fig 2: Age-Sex Distribution of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, The Gambia, 2021

☆ 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**)

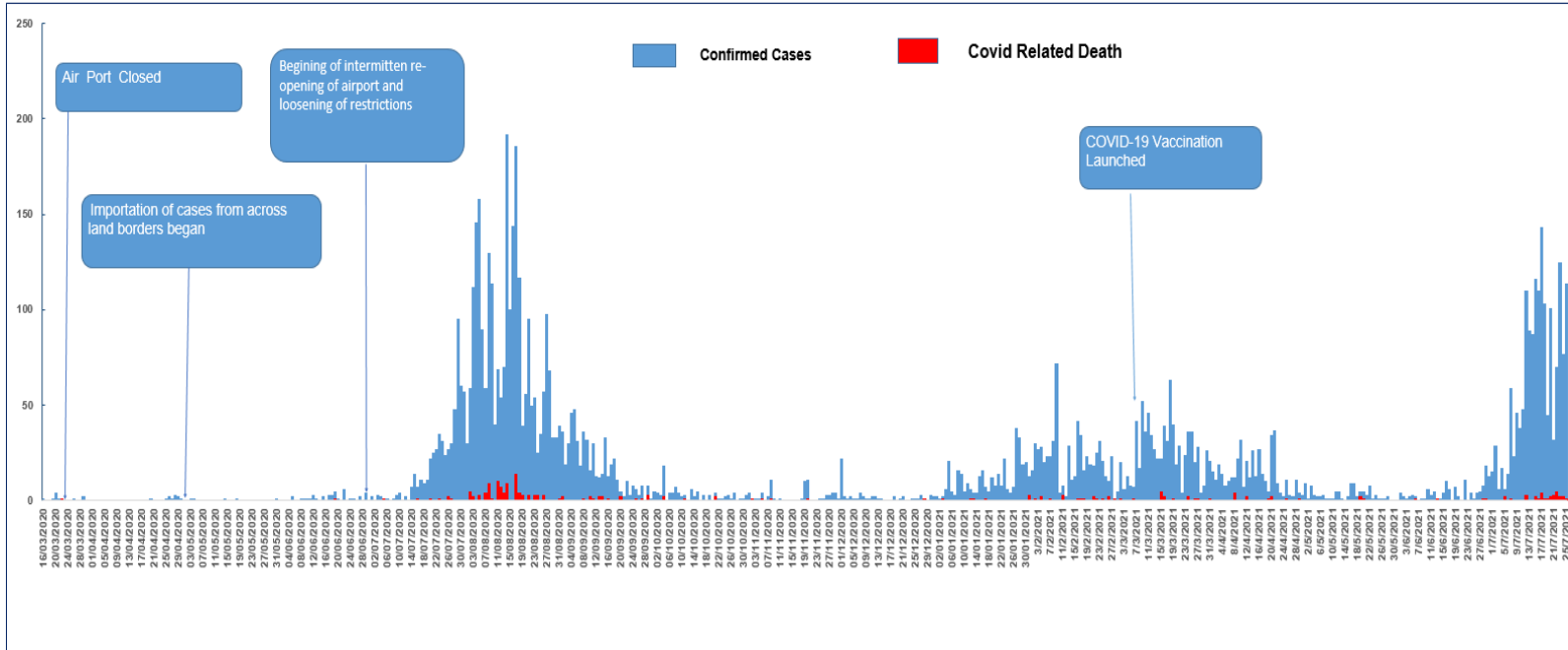


Fig. 3: Epidemic Curve of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases Reported daily, COVID-19 Pandemic, The Gambia, 2021*.

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		69
No. of COVID-19 patients on oxygen support		24
No. of patients recovered and discharged	395	
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**	0	
No. of Contacts being monitored	140	
No. of Contacts who completed 14-day follow-up	0	16,966
No. of Contacts lost to follow-up	0	58
Total Tests conducted (Repeat Test (s))***	1697(0)***	86,336
Positive test result (Repeat Test (s))	376(0)	7,709
Negative test result (Repeat Test (s))***	1314(0)***	77,529
Inconclusive test result (Repeat Test (s))***	7(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 1697 new laboratory test results received 94 from MRCG and 1603 from NPHL)</i> • <i>Of these, 7 test results returned inconclusive or indeterminate, 276 new samples tested positive</i>
Case Management / Psychosocial Support & Research / IPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Four (4) new COVID-19 related deaths recorded</i> • <i>Twenty-seven(27) patients were newly discharged from treatment centres</i> • <i>No new contacts were traced and monitored</i> • <i>Twenty-four (24) 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

For comments or questions, please contact:
Sana M. Sambou
Public Health Emergency Operations Center
Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, The Gambia
Email: sanamsambou@hotmail.com Phone: +220 3516320/2422949

PARTNERS

