



MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

## C I R C U L A R

**Ref Number:** 88-PS/CIR/2021/28

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

**To:** All Tourist Facilities

**Subject:** **Emergence of the new strain of Covid-19 in South Africa**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As part of the additional measures being implemented with the emergence of the new strain of Covid-19 in South Africa (Variant 501Y.V2), we advise all tourist facilities to remain vigilant and ensure safety regulations are met at all times.

Since the preliminary studies have shown possibility of higher viral load and easy transmission; it is crucial that the following measures are ensured to prevent the possible spread of this new strain of Covid-19 in the Maldives.

- Conduct thorough health screenings of tourists arriving from or with a travel history within past 14 days of arriving to Maldives (including transit/layovers exceeding 12 hours) to any part of the African region; especially those arriving from the African region and from countries who have reported transmissions of the new strain.
- Ensure symptomatic tourists are isolated immediately and tested.
- Recommend to conduct a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the stay for tourists arriving from or with a travel history within past 14 days of arriving to Maldives (including transit/layovers exceeding 12 hours) to any part of the African region.
- Ensure that tourists are well-informed on the guidelines/procedures followed in the event of a confirmed case of Covid-19, or if identified as a direct contact even prior to arrival.

In relation to the above, the government has decided to bear the cost of testing apart from sample taking (UTM kits) and transportation of the sample to the designated government laboratory.

We thank you all for your continued support & contribution towards reviving the tourism sector despite these challenging times; and request all tourist facilities to maintain adherence to the procedures and guidelines announced by the Ministry and Health Protection Agency.

Yours sincerely,

Ali Razzan

Senior Executive Director

