

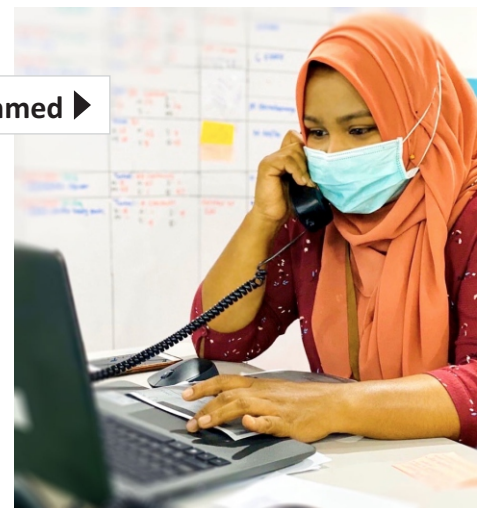
COVID19 AND SCHOOL OF NURSING

In the following section, we bring you the lecturers, nurses and nursing students who are working in the front line during this global pandemic of Covid-19.



◀ Ms. Shuhurath Hassan

Ms. Agleema Ahmed ▶



Ms. Shuhurath Hassan and **Ms. Agleema Ahmed** from School of Nursing volunteered and are working at National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) in “Contact Tracing” since the outbreak of Covid19 in the Maldives).

As Shuhurath outlined “we play a public health role”. The main aim is to trace those who have been exposed and are at risk of getting infected and isolating or quarantining them at the earliest. Also monitoring them when they are in quarantine or isolation”. Ms Agleema and Ms Shuhurath describes their current role as follows. “Interview people who have been diagnosed with or suspected for Covid19, to find out who they may have recently been in contact with. Then interview and inform all those who have been exposed and give them instructions on what to do next. This includes telling them about possible symptoms. Additionally, decide on whether to send the person for quarantine (home/facility) or isolation and do follow-up”.



◀ Ms Khadeeja Shakir

I started volunteering when the first positive case of Covid19 was identified. It was early March. Maldives Red Crescent (MRC) had called all the volunteers to come forward for Psychosocial Support (PSS). Presently, I am volunteering to take online trainings as well as attending to call center. I have also volunteer at SHE and have facilitated a live session on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) needs in a pandemic.

As we have few volunteers for PSS, and I am trained in conducting PFA sessions, I volunteered in conducting trainings. Hence, I was conducting trainings and also volunteering at the call center.



◀ **Ms Asiya Ibrahim**
Dean of School of Nursing

On the request of the Ministry of Health, Ms Asiya Ibrahim organized and conducted several trainings for nurses working in the atolls who are involved in caring for patients with Covid-19. The training included, onsite training of nurses in 3 different regional hospitals. This was done before the country was placed on lockdown due to COVID-19. These trainings were then changed to an online training starting with the usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), collections of Oro and nasopharyngeal samples, disinfection and nursing care of Covid-19 patients. A total of 250 nurses were trained. In addition, Ms Asiya also contributed to the Mobile Medical Response Team (MMRT). The MMRT is run by the Maldives Medical Association and the Maldivian Nurses' Association. The work of the MMRT involved phone consultations and home visits.

Ms. Haleemath Athiza is a Registered Nurse Midwife (RNM), currently enrolled in Bachelor of Nursing course at School of Nursing, (SN). She is working in Shaviyani Kanditheemu Health Center as a Rapid Response Team (RRT) member. Her main responsibility is obtaining samples from suspected COVID-19 patients. Athiza says, "It is a great but nerve racking experience".



Ms. Dhunya Mohamed is a senior registered nurse, currently enrolled and studying in Masters of Nursing program, from School of Nursing. Dhunya is the in-charge of one of the quarantine facilities set up to take care of COVID-19 patients. Till date, she has worked in three different facilities. She verbalized that "It is very difficult to work while changing resorts each time"

The above section has highlighted only some of the many brave heroes who shared their stories and experiences of their volunteer work during the Covid 19 pandemic. Apart from the volunteers who work at high risk situations on the front line, there are others who work "behind the scene". While some lecturers were involved in re-training nurses who have been away from practice, others were involved in organizing student nurses to volunteer in the much needed quarantine facilities and some others in in different areas of disaster management.

In this aspect I would like to highlight the names of the following lecturers from the School of Nursing who shared their experiences.

They are:

- Ms Sizna Mohamed-Conducted trainings for nurses in PPE
- Ms Sobira Ismail- Conducted trainings for nurses in PPE
- Ms Aminath Nahooda- Conducted trainings for nurses in PPE
- Ms Aishath Hamid- working in isolation facilities with Covid-19 patients
- Ms Hafeeza Ibrahim-volunteered at the Covid 19 Hotline, Call Centre "Work from home"

Thank you also to many others, although their names are not mentioned here, who have contributed greatly to the national fight against in the Covid19 disaster.