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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Outcome of COVID-19 Screening for 2024 Hajj Pilgrims**

The National Public Health Agency (NPHA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) are pleased to inform the public that **all 557 Hajj pilgrims have been screened for COVID-19** at the airport using antigen Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests. We are happy to report that all individuals tested **negative**.

In addition to COVID-19, the screening encompassed 21 other respiratory viruses, including Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Influenza A virus (IAV), Influenza B virus (IBV), Human rhinovirus (HRV), Enterovirus (EV), and Human coronaviruses (HCoV) HKU1, all analyzed via PCR.

The NPHA and MOH reaffirm their unwavering commitment to safeguarding public health and preventing potential health threats. Our rigorous screening protocols and preventive measures are integral to our mission to protect the health and well-being of our citizens.

**Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr**

**Executive Director**

**Media Contact:** Harold Thomas -Risk Communication Lead/Health Education Manager Ministry of Health [health.education@mohs.gov.sl](mailto:health.education@mohs.gov.sl) Phone: +232 766 024 60

