

QUICK OUTLOOK

15 September 2020
6:00 am CAT

5,701

Confirmed cases

4 new cases

1,761 active cases

1,142 imported

4,559 local transmission

68% male

36.5 (12.9) mean age
(SD), years

178 deaths

77% male

median age **56** years

3,762 recoveries

48,816 tests conducted

16 RT-PCR testing sites

39 GeneXpert testing sites

Highlights

- Four new cases have been registered in the past 24 hours bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases to 5,701
- 161 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours, cumulatively 48,816 tests have been conducted
- No new deaths have been registered in the past 24 hours, the death toll in the country remains at 178
- 20 new recoveries have been recorded in the past 24 hours, cumulatively 3,762 people have recovered
- 210 people have entered Malawi through the official points of entry in the past 24 hours

Background

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was alerted of several cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Later the disease was named Coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) and the virus was named SARS-CoV-2. World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic on 12th March 2020.

On 20 March 2020, COVID-19 was declared a national disaster in Malawi, and on 2 April 2020, Malawi registered the first cases of COVID-19. On 6 May 2020, a Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19 was appointed.

Global situation¹

Globally, as of 3:28 pm CEST, 14 September 2020, there have been 28,918,900 (267,257 new) confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 922,252 (4,771 new) deaths, reported to WHO. Out of these, 1,119,641 (3,320 new) cases and 23,972 (56 new) deaths are in Africa. **Table 1** below shows the number of reported cases and deaths in the region.

Table 1: Number of cases and deaths of COVID-19 in the region

| Country | Cumulative cases | New cases | Cumulative deaths | New deaths | Days since last reported case |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| South Africa | 649,793 | 1,579 | 15,447 | 20 | 0 |
| Zambia | 13,539 | 73 | 312 | 0 | 0 |
| Zimbabwe | 7,526 | 18 | 224 | 0 | 0 |
| Mozambique | 5,269 | 229 | 35 | 4 | 0 |
| Tanzania | 509 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 126 |

¹ Data last updated: 14 September 2020, 3:28 am CEST available at <https://covid19.who.int/>



Local situation

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered four new COVID-19 cases, 20 new recoveries, and no new deaths. Three of the new cases are locally transmitted infections: two are from Blantyre, and one is from Nkhosakota. The imported case was identified at Mwanza border among returnees from South Africa and the case is a resident of Machinga.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 5,701 cases including 178 deaths. **Figure 1** is a map of Malawi showing the distribution of cases in the country. Of these cases, 1,142 are imported infections and 4,559 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 3,762 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1,761. The average age of the cases is 36.5 years, the youngest case is aged 1 month, the oldest is 98 years and 68% are male. **Table 3**, and **Figures 2, 3**, and **4** show detailed distributions of the cases and deaths.

Malawi's borders remain closed except four borders to allow transit of essential goods and services. Kamuzu International Airport (KIA) is now open for commercial flights. In the past 24 hours, 210 people have entered Malawi. Active tracing and monitoring of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 are ongoing, currently, a total of 7,089 primary and secondary contacts of COVID-19 cases have been traced.

Malawi continues receiving returning residents and deportees from other countries, mainly South Africa. Upon entry, they are tested for COVID-19, if positive they put under institutional isolation until safe transfer to their destination district has been arranged. Those tested negative are allowed to proceed to their destination for self-quarantine and follow up by respective district health authorities.

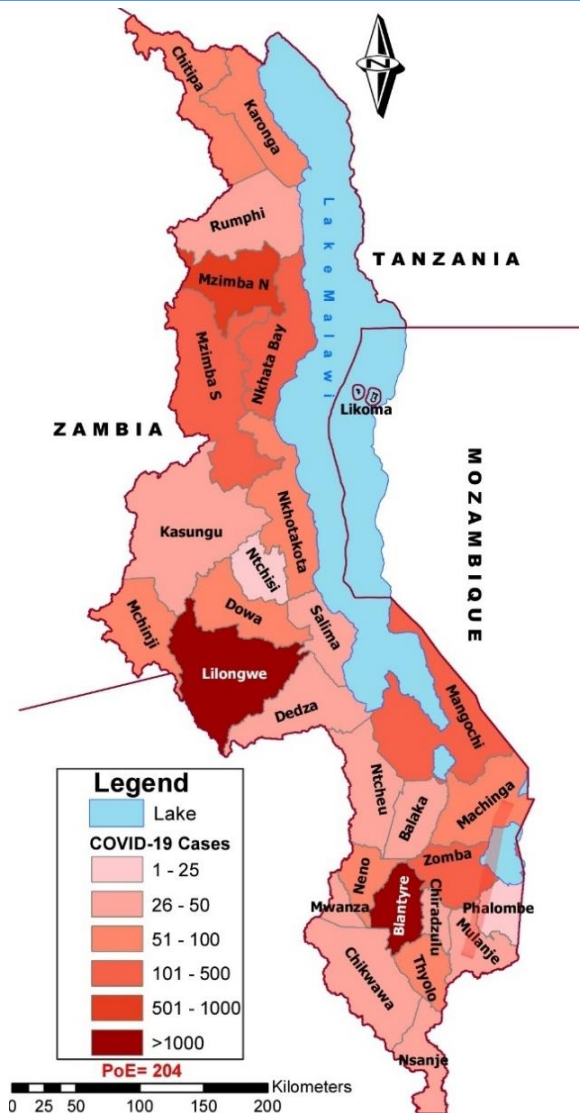


Figure 1: Map of Malawi showing distribution of COVID-19 cases

Table 2: Summary statistics for COVID-19 outbreak in Malawi

| Parameter | Statistic |
|---|-----------|
| Cumulative confirmed cases | 5,701 |
| Number of active cases | 1,761 |
| New confirmed cases in the past 24 hours | 4 |
| Cumulative deaths | 178 |
| Cumulative recoveries | 3,762 |
| Suspected cases | 48,907 |
| Cumulative samples received by the lab | 48,907 |
| Cumulative samples tested | 48,816 |
| Samples tested in the past 24 hours | 161 |
| Cumulative contacts listed and follow up | 7,089 |
| PoEs* entries in the last 24 hours | 1,193 |
| High-risk travellers on follow up at district level** | 6,542 |
| Cumulative travellers completed 14 days follow up at a district | 7,226 |
| Cumulative COVID-19 pregnant cases | 37 |

* Point of entry **Under-reported (few districts reported)

**Table 3:** Summary of COVID-19 cases, deaths, and recoveries as of 15 September 2020, 6:00 am CAT

| Reporting District | Confirmed Cases | | Deaths | | Recoveries | | Transmission Classification* | | Days since last reported case |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| | New | Total | New | Total | New | Total | Imported | Local | |
| Blantyre | 2 | 1,911 | 0 | 75 | 2 | 1,137 | 175 | 1,736 | 0 |
| Lilongwe | 0 | 1,327 | 0 | 49 | 0 | 578 | 110 | 1,217 | 2 |
| Mzimba North | 0 | 553 | 0 | 13 | 8 | 345 | 17 | 536 | 3 |
| Nkhata Bay | 0 | 192 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 190 | 33 | 159 | 24 |
| Zomba | 0 | 153 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 108 | 33 | 120 | 4 |
| Mzimba South | 0 | 153 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 141 | 34 | 119 | 1 |
| Mangochi | 0 | 146 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 142 | 111 | 35 | 11 |
| Nkhotakota | 1 | 84 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 79 | 31 | 53 | 0 |
| Karonga | 0 | 82 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 70 | 13 | 69 | 18 |
| Dowa | 0 | 77 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 65 | 35 | 42 | 4 |
| Machinga | 1 | 72 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 65 | 62 | 10 | 14 |
| Thyolo | 0 | 66 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 65 | 33 | 33 | 0 |
| Mchinji | 0 | 65 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 39 | 5 | 60 | 7 |
| Chitipa | 0 | 64 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 61 | 6 | 58 | 18 |
| Neno | 0 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 4 | 55 | 12 |
| Dedza | 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 26 | 24 | 25 |
| Balaka | 0 | 49 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 41 | 39 | 10 | 16 |
| Kasungu | 0 | 49 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 38 | 14 | 35 | 9 |
| Salima | 0 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 24 | 23 | 15 |
| Chikwawa | 0 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 26 | 20 | 4 |
| Ntcheu | 0 | 45 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 42 | 30 | 15 | 4 |
| Chiradzulu | 0 | 44 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 38 | 17 | 27 | 17 |
| Mulanje | 0 | 43 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 39 | 12 | 31 | 3 |
| Nsanje | 0 | 37 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 25 | 12 | 1 |
| Rumphi | 0 | 36 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 31 | 8 | 28 | 3 |
| Mwanza | 0 | 28 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 26 | 11 | 17 | 27 |
| Phalombe | 0 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 14 |
| Likoma | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 26 |
| Ntchisi | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 26 |
| Mwanza PoE | 0 | 204 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 204 | 204 | 0 | 28 |
| Total | 4 | 5,701 | 0 | 178 | 20 | 3,762 | 1,142 | 4,559 | |

*Imported means that infection has been acquired from outside the country; Local transmission means that the source of infection is within the country; PoE, Point of Entry;



PHIM | PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE
of MALAWI

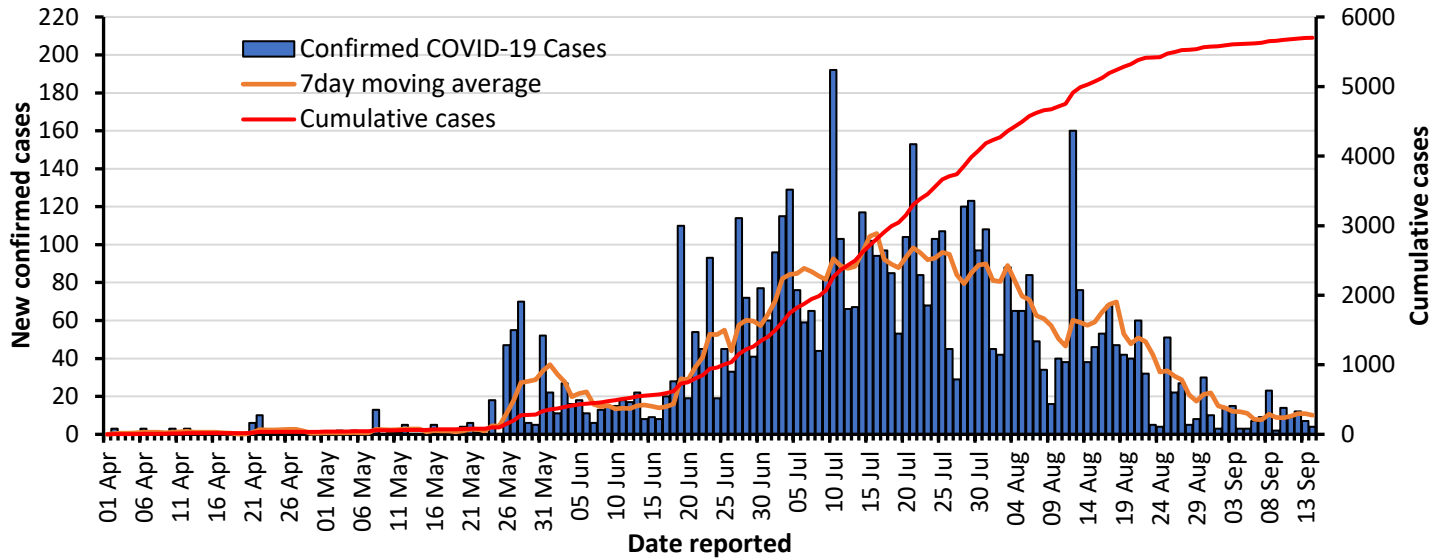


Figure 2: Epidemic curve of COVID-19 in Malawi of 15 September 2020, 6:00 am CAT

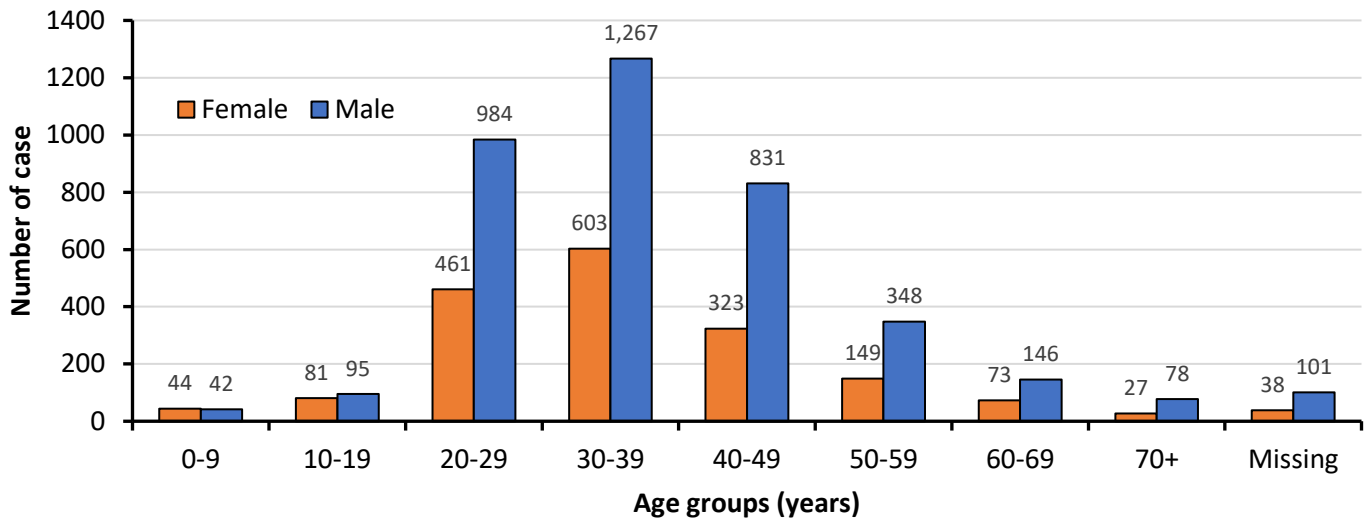


Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 15 September 2020

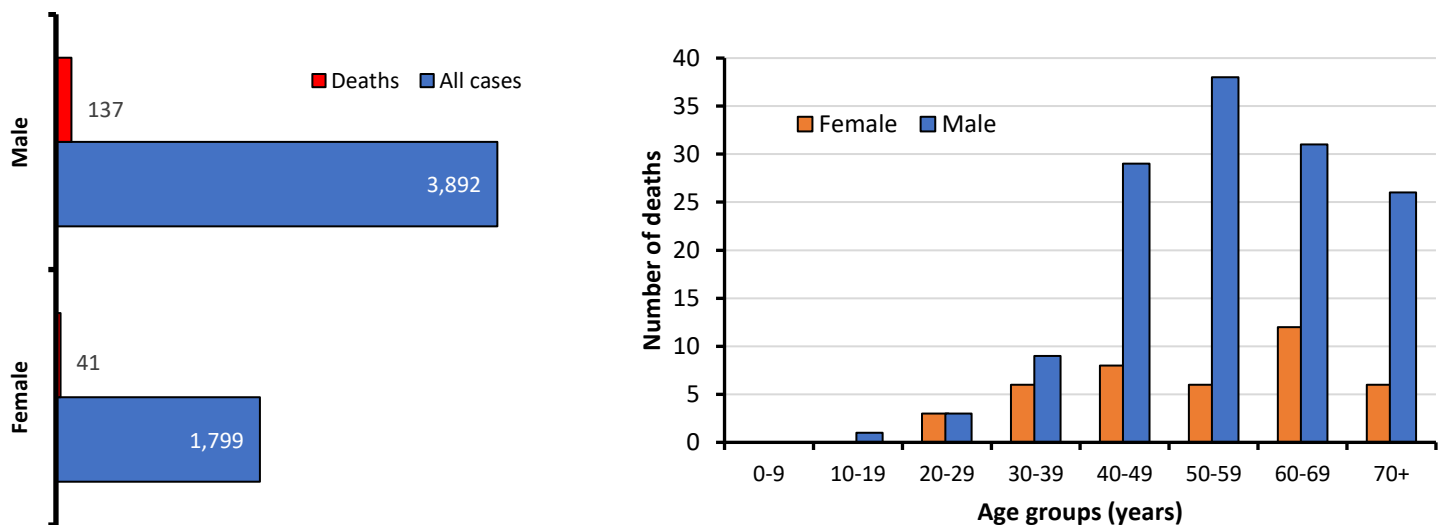


Figure 4: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Malawi as of 15 September 2020, 6:00 am CAT



Summary of Prevention and Response Activities

Laboratory testing

Table 4: Laboratory testing for COVID-19 in Malawi as of 15 September 2020, 6:00 am CAT

| Name of Laboratory | Cumulative samples | In the past 24hrs | | Total samples | | Result | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Samples received | Samples tested | Tested | Pending | Indeterminate | Positive | Negative |
| Blantyre DREAM | 8,599 | 0 | 0 | 8,584 | 15 | 1 | 808 | 7,775 |
| QECH | 6,539 | 94 | 94 | 6,529 | 10 | 41 | 903 | 5,585 |
| NHRL | 6,146 | 66 | 66 | 6,146 | 0 | 0 | 449 | 5,697 |
| COM | 3,840 | 0 | 0 | 3,838 | 2 | 43 | 461 | 3,334 |
| KCH | 3,130 | 0 | 0 | 3,119 | 11 | 3 | 333 | 2,783 |
| PIH | 3,067 | 0 | 0 | 3,067 | 0 | 5 | 473 | 2,589 |
| Mzuzu | 2,756 | 0 | 0 | 2,726 | 30 | 33 | 585 | 2,108 |
| Mwanza | 2,570 | 0 | 0 | 2,570 | 0 | 0 | 167 | 2,403 |
| Zomba | 2,360 | 0 | 0 | 2,353 | 7 | 0 | 256 | 2,097 |
| Balaka DREAM | 1,479 | 0 | 0 | 1,467 | 12 | 0 | 139 | 1,328 |
| Mzimba South | 1,156 | 0 | 0 | 1,156 | 0 | 2 | 114 | 1,040 |
| Bwaila | 1,013 | 0 | 0 | 1,013 | 0 | 0 | 126 | 887 |
| MLW | 911 | 0 | 0 | 907 | 4 | 14 | 55 | 838 |
| Karonga | 477 | 0 | 0 | 477 | 0 | 0 | 73 | 404 |
| Nkhata Bay | 450 | 0 | 0 | 450 | 0 | 0 | 108 | 342 |
| Mchinji | 404 | 0 | 0 | 404 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 346 |
| Salima | 365 | 0 | 0 | 365 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 333 |
| Mangochi | 331 | 0 | 0 | 331 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 305 |
| Karonga MEIRU | 323 | 0 | 0 | 323 | 0 | 5 | 23 | 295 |
| Dowa | 221 | 0 | 0 | 221 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 168 |
| Nsanje | 217 | 0 | 0 | 217 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 186 |
| Thyolo | 213 | 0 | 0 | 213 | 0 | 9 | 23 | 181 |
| Chitipa | 205 | 1 | 1 | 205 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 152 |
| Kasungu | 190 | 0 | 0 | 190 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 158 |
| Kamuzu Barracks | 190 | 0 | 0 | 190 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 136 |
| Ntcheu | 180 | 0 | 0 | 180 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 167 |
| Neno | 178 | 0 | 0 | 178 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 143 |
| Nkhotakota | 173 | 0 | 0 | 173 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 154 |
| Balaka | 166 | 0 | 0 | 166 | 0 | 3 | 19 | 144 |
| Rumphi | 143 | 0 | 0 | 143 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 119 |
| Mulanje | 130 | 0 | 0 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 101 |
| Dedza | 125 | 0 | 0 | 125 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 109 |
| Phalombe | 114 | 0 | 0 | 114 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 106 |
| Chiradzulu | 99 | 0 | 0 | 99 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 78 |
| Likoma | 79 | 0 | 0 | 79 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 75 |
| Chikwawa | 75 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 66 |
| Lilongwe Lighthouse | 68 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 58 |
| Ntchisi | 43 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 36 |
| Nkhoma Mission | 34 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 29 |
| Wezi Medical Center | 32 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 15 |
| Malamulo Adventist | 31 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 23 |
| UNC Project Lilongwe | 30 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 18 |
| Machinga | 28 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 22 |
| Blantyre Lighthouse | 27 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 23 |
| Total | 48,907 | 161 | 161 | 48,816 | 91 | 159 | 5,701 | 42,956 |

NHRL: National Health Reference laboratory; COM: College of Medicine; MLW: Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust; QECH: Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital; KCH: Kamuzu Central Hospital; PIH: Partners in Hope;



Clinical case management

- Five cases are currently admitted in various treatment units across the country
- Six cases are under institutional isolation
- 1,750 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 3,762 cases have now recovered and 178 have died

Enforcement and security

- Police and Immigration are continuing border patrols
- Road traffic police continue to enforce new seating capacity for public transportation
- Control of crowds in public and private service outlets
- Roadblocks are being mounted in strategic points across the country

Point of entry

- Kamuzu International Airport is now open for commercial flights
- Monitoring personnel transporting essential goods and services
- Only four borders remain open for essential personnel travel (e.g. petroleum services and other goods).
- Laboratory testing has been intensified in PoEs

Supply Chain & Stockpiles

- UNDP is supporting HTSS to fill-in LMIS gap for stock management and dispensing data which will include COVID-19
- A total of \$2,237,432.87 worth of supplies are being procured by UNICEF through local processes
- 30,000 Abbott test kits procured with support from Global Fund will be arriving in the country by end of September
- PPE distribution to health facilities has been completed

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Live radio programs at Zodiak and MBC radio 1
- Sakhani moyo radio and TV drama, revised public service announcements, and radio jingles are now on air
- Conducting RCCE weekly meetings and daily COVID-19 updates are shared through different platforms
- Monitoring of feedback, rumors, and misinformation on different platforms – on going
- RCCE is adjusting messaging to be in line with the new measures in the following areas;
 - Proper use of mask and safe disposal
 - Re-opening of schools and airports
 - Tailor specific messages to prisons
 - Protecting/shielding the vulnerable groups
 - Reaching out to the deaf and blind community
- The public can access the COVID-19 information by dialing *929#, 321 (Airtel), 54747, or by sending “hi” through WhatsApp to 0990 800 000, Facebook – Ministry of Health – Malawi, Twitter @health_malawi and website <https://covid19.health.gov.mw>

Coordination

To facilitate coordination and maintain focused efforts towards combating COVID-19 we hold routine and ad-hoc meetings:

- Presidential Task Force on COVID-9 was established and they meet regularly
- Weekly health cluster meetings
- Weekly meetings of technical committees for the various response pillars
- Daily surveillance technical committee meetings
- Daily Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC) meetings with cooperating partners and other stakeholders
- Public Health Emergency Operation Centre is now running 24/7
- Incident Management System is now operational
- Integrating different data sources to the EOC dashboard (CCPF, Syndromic Surveillance, HTSS)
- Pillar response plans have been finalized



Case definitions

The case definitions are based on the current information available and may be revised as new information accumulates.

1. Suspect case

- a. A patient with a severe acute respiratory infection (FEVER² AND at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g., cough, shortness breath includes other severe COVID symptoms), AND with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation presenting to a health facility who may or may not require hospitalization.

OR

- b. Patients with acute respiratory illness (at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g. sore throat, cough, difficulties in breathing, fever)) or other COVID-19 related symptoms (headache, fatigue, loss of smell and taste, diarrhea), AND with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation³ AND at least one of the following:
 - i. history of residence in an area reporting community transmission⁴ within Malawi or travel to or residence in a country, area, or territory reporting local transmission of COVID-19 during the 14 days before symptom onset

OR

- ii. is a health care worker or any person who has been working in an environment where COVID-19 cases are being managed
- c. A person, with or without acute respiratory illness, having been in contact⁵ with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, in the 2 days prior to 14 days after onset of symptoms of the confirmed or probable case\

2. Probable case

- a. A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive. Inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory

OR

- b. A suspect case for whom testing could not be performed for any reason⁶

3. Confirmed case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms

4. COVID-19 death

COVID-19 death is defined for surveillance purposes as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness in a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID disease (e.g. trauma). There should be no period of complete recovery between illness and death.

² Fever includes both measured objectively and subjective from symptoms

³ Clinicians should also be alert to the possibility of atypical presentations in patients who are immunocompromised

⁴ Community transmission within Malawi, areas updated according to the positivity rate determined from tests conducted. Refer to updated list

⁵ Contact is defined as:

- Providing direct care for COVID-19 patients, working with health care workers infected with coronavirus, visiting patients, or staying in the same close environment of a COVID-19 patient.
- Working together in close proximity or sharing the same classroom environment with a COVID-19 patient
- Traveling together in close proximity with a COVID-19 patient in any kind of conveyance
- Living in the same household as a COVID-19 patient
- Having attended a joint event of which patients with COVID-19 have been identified (meetings of different kinds where contact between participants is very likely) within a 14-day period after the onset of symptoms in the case under consideration

⁶ Sample for Laboratory confirmation will be collected from Suspect Case including DECEASED suspect cases or unexplained sudden death and persons that have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and fit screening criteria for testing



Classification of transmission patterns

No cases: Countries/territories/areas with no confirmed cases

Sporadic cases: Countries/territories/areas with one or more cases, imported or locally detected

Clusters of cases: Countries/territories/areas experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location, and/or by common exposures

Community transmission: Countries/area/territories experiencing larger outbreaks of local transmission defined through an assessment of factors including, but not limited to:

1. Large numbers of cases not linkable to transmission chains
2. Large numbers of cases from sentinel lab surveillance
3. Multiple unrelated clusters in several areas of the country/territory/area

Conclusion

Since early-August, there has been a downward trend in the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths in the country. This has led to the gradual easing of public health safety measures that were being implemented in response to the pandemic. Notably, on 1st September Kamuzu International Airport was opened, and the phased reopening of schools has begun. The Ministry of Health and its stakeholders are closely monitoring the easing of the public health safety measures to ensure that Malawians are protected from the COVID-19 pandemic and that the country can detect and respond to any cases that may arise.

Prepared by: Epidemiology Unit, Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM) available at

<https://malawipublichealth.org/index.php/resources/covid-19-sitrep-updates/detail>