

### Highlights

- Six new cases have been registered in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases to 5,809
- 761 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours, cumulatively, 55,488 tests have been conducted
- No new deaths have been registered in the past 24 hours, the death toll in the country remains at 180
- 51 new recoveries have been recorded in the past 24 hours, cumulatively 4,626 people have now recovered
- 191 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-COV2. World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic on 12<sup>th</sup> 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 situation<sup>1</sup>

Globally, as of 5:00 pm CEST, 7 October 2020, there have been 35,659,007 (271,421 new) confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 1,044,269 (4,427 new) deaths, reported to WHO. Out of these, 1,209,330 (2,566 new) cases and 26,533 (119 new) deaths are from 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	683,242	1,027	17,103	87	0
Zambia	15,170	81	335	1	0
Mozambique	9,196	0	66	0	1
Zimbabwe	7,915	17	229	1	0
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	147

<sup>1</sup> Data last updated: 7 October 2020, 5:00 pm CEST available at <https://covid19.who.int/>

## Local situation

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered six new COVID-19 cases, 51 new recoveries, and no new deaths. Of the new cases, two are locally transmitted infections and both are from Lilongwe Health District. The other four are imported infections of which two are refugees that have recently arrived at the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Dowa Health District. The other two imported cases were identified at Mwanza border during routine screening: one each from Blantyre Health District and Thyolo Health District.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 5,809 cases including 180 deaths. **Figure 1** is a map of Malawi showing the distribution of cases in the country. Of these cases, 1,157 are imported infections and 4,652 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 4,626 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1,003. The average age of the cases is 36.6 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.

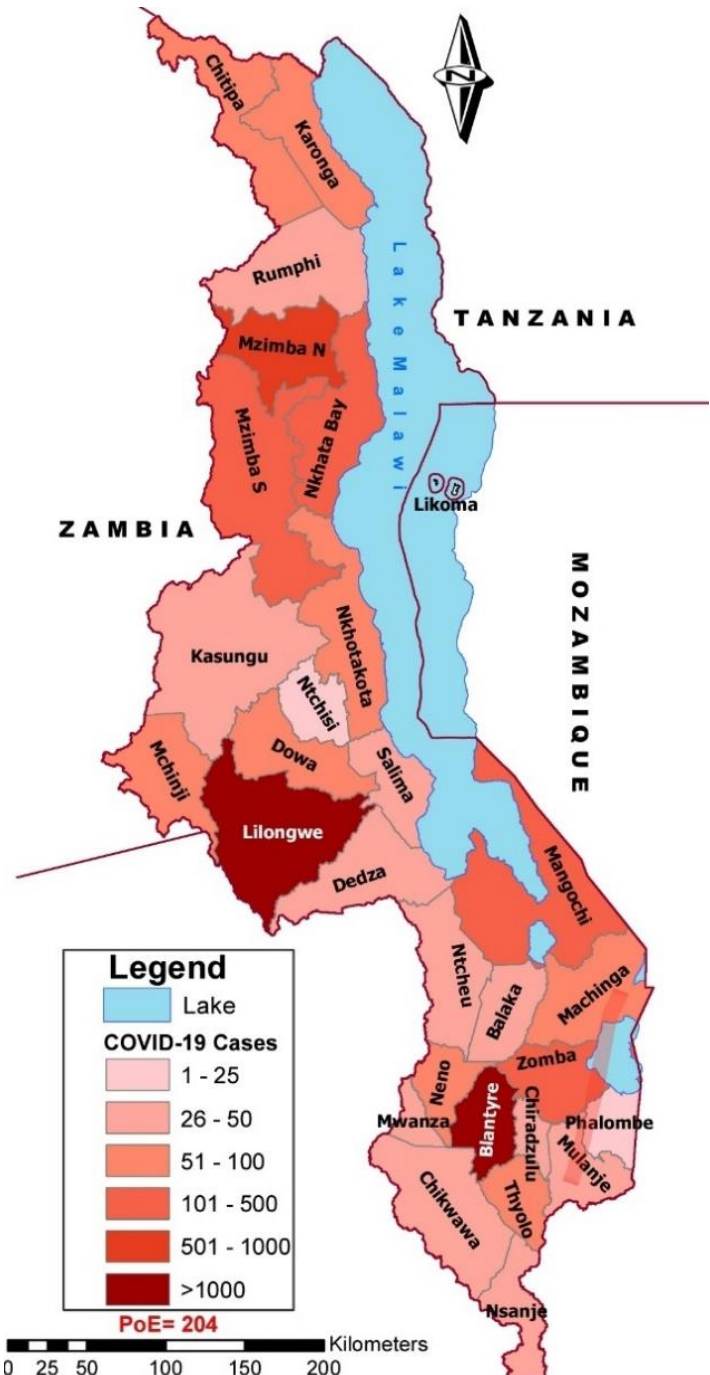
Malawi's borders remain closed except four borders to allow transit of essential goods and services. Kamuzu International Airport (KIA) is now open for commercial flights. In the past 24 hours, 191 people have entered Malawi. Active tracing and monitoring of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 are ongoing, currently, a total of 8,379 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 are 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.

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

Parameter	Statistic
Cumulative confirmed cases	5,809
Number of active cases	1,003
New confirmed cases in the past 24 hours	6
Cumulative deaths	180
Cumulative recoveries	4,626
Suspected cases	55,623
Cumulative samples received by the lab	55,623
Cumulative samples tested	55,488
Samples tested in the past 24 hours	761
Cumulative contacts listed and follow up	8,379
PoEs* entries in the last 24 hours	191
High-risk travellers on follow up at district level**	10,597
Cumulative travellers completed 14 days follow up at a district	11,330
Cumulative COVID-19 pregnant cases	38

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



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

**Table 3:** Summary of COVID-19 cases, deaths, and recoveries as of 8 October 2020, 6:00 am CAT

Reporting Health District	Confirmed Cases		Deaths		Recoveries		Transmission Classification*		Days since last reported case
	New	Total	New	Total	New	Total	Imported	Local	
Blantyre	1	1,962	0	76	45	1,746	180	1,782	0
Lilongwe	2	1,352	0	49	0	609	110	1,242	0
Mzimba North	0	564	0	13	0	487	17	547	1
Nkhata Bay	0	196	0	2	0	190	34	162	6
Zomba	0	155	0	6	5	143	33	122	17
Mzimba South	0	153	0	2	0	143	34	119	23
Mangochi	0	148	0	2	0	145	111	37	4
Nkhotakota	0	84	0	1	0	81	31	53	22
Dowa	2	84	0	3	0	76	42	42	0
Karonga	0	82	0	4	0	75	13	69	40
Machinga	0	73	0	0	0	68	62	11	17
Thyolo	1	67	0	1	0	65	34	33	0
Mchinji	0	66	0	5	0	42	6	60	4
Chitipa	0	64	0	3	0	61	6	58	40
Neno	0	59	0	0	0	58	4	55	34
Dedza	0	50	0	0	1	30	26	24	47
Balaka	0	49	0	1	0	45	39	10	38
Kasungu	0	49	0	1	0	38	14	35	31
Salima	0	47	0	0	0	47	24	23	37
Chiradzulu	0	47	0	1	0	42	17	30	17
Chikwawa	0	46	0	0	0	44	26	20	26
Ntcheu	0	45	0	1	0	44	30	15	26
Mulanje	0	43	0	1	0	41	12	31	25
Nsanje	0	37	0	1	0	31	25	12	22
Rumphi	0	36	0	3	0	32	8	28	23
Mwanza	0	28	0	1	0	26	11	17	48
Phalombe	0	11	0	1	0	8	4	7	35
Likoma	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	4	47
Ntchisi	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	4	47
Mwanza PoE	0	204	0	0	0	204	204	0	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5,809</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>4,626</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>4,652</b>	

\*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;

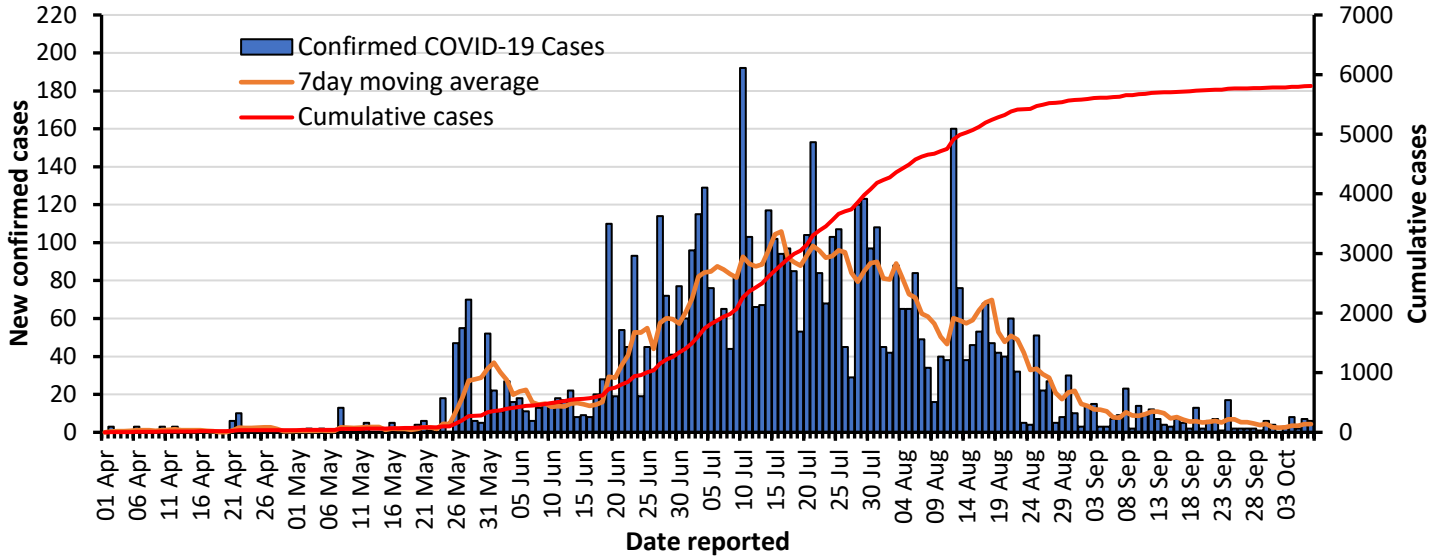


Figure 2: Epidemic curve of COVID-19 in Malawi of 8 October 2020, 6:00 am CAT

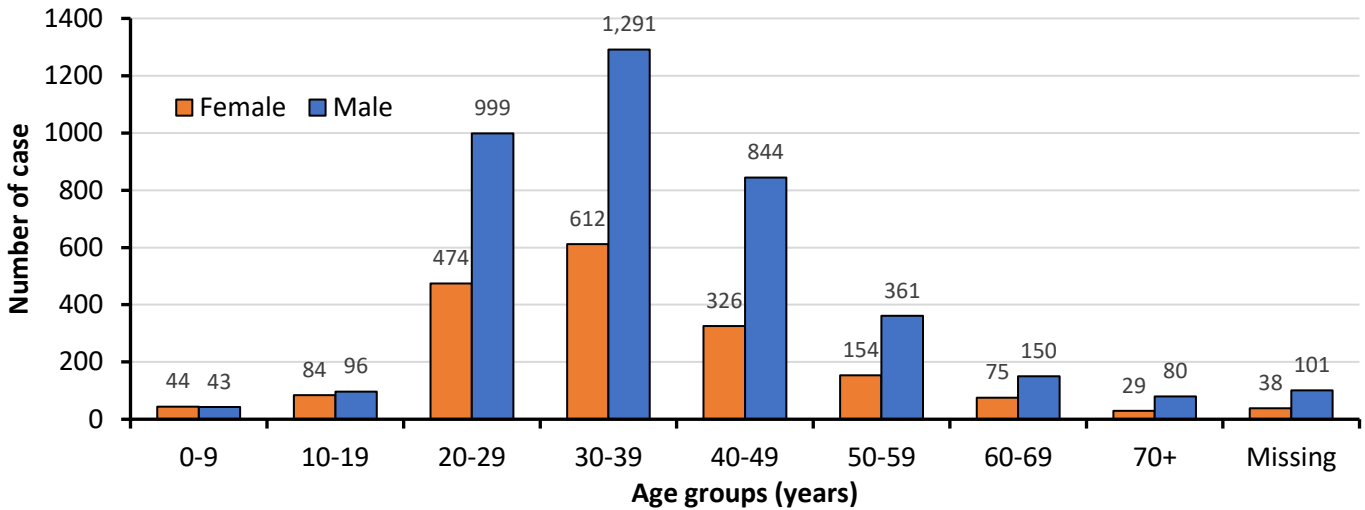


Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 8 October 2020

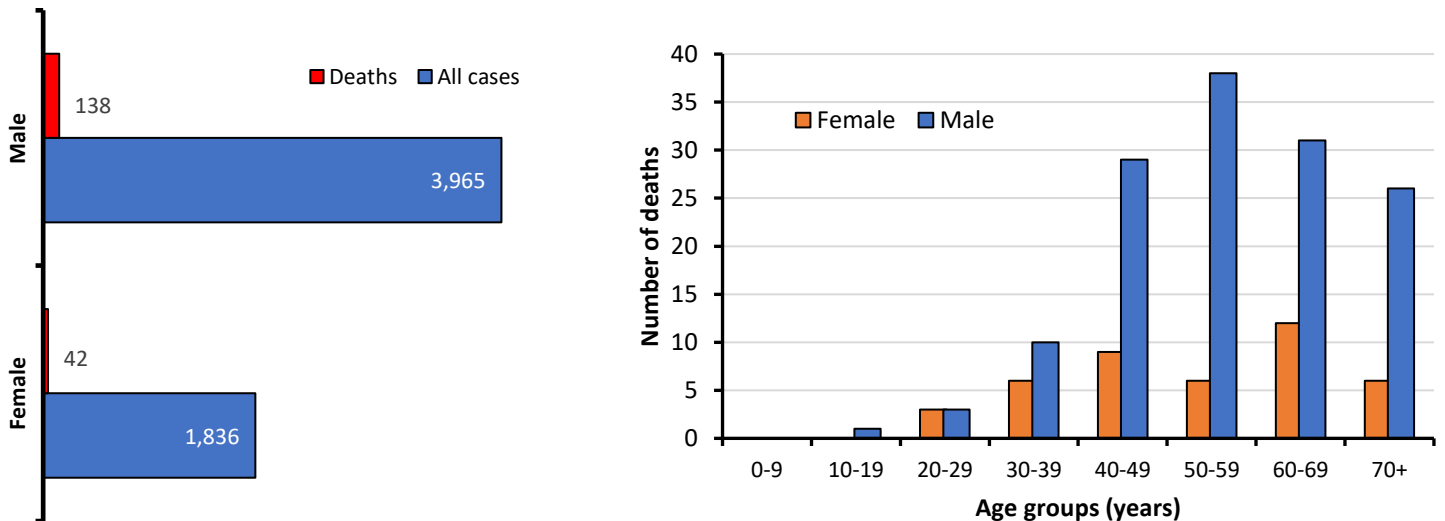


Figure 4: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Malawi as of 8 October 2020, 6:00 am CAT

## Summary of Prevention and Response Activities

### Laboratory testing

**Table 4:** Laboratory testing for COVID-19 in Malawi as of 8 October 2020, 6:00 am CAT

Name of Laboratory	Cumulative samples	In the past 24hrs		Total samples		Result		
		Samples received	Samples tested	Tested	Pending	Indeterminate or Failed	Positive	Negative
Blantyre DREAM	9,037	45	45	9,037	0	1	809	8,227
QECH	8,823	320	420	8,823	0	151	949	7,723
NHRL	8,068	40	35	8,063	5	0	460	7,603
COM	4,101	1	1	4,101	0	43	463	3,595
KCH	3,870	151	89	3,801	69	3	356	3,442
Mzuzu	3,135	0	0	3,100	35	33	597	2,470
PIH	3,067	0	0	3,067	0	5	473	2,589
Zomba	2,823	151	170	2,823	0	0	264	2,559
Mwanza	2,572	0	0	2,572	0	0	167	2,405
Balaka DREAM	1,518	1	0	1,512	6	3	141	1,368
Mzimba South	1,268	0	0	1,248	20	2	114	1,132
Bwaila	1,013	0	0	1,013	0	0	126	887
MLW	938	0	0	938	0	14	55	869
Karonga	477	0	0	477	0	0	73	404
Nkhata Bay	459	0	0	459	0	0	109	350
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
Nsanje	223	0	0	223	0	0	31	192
Dowa	221	0	0	221	0	0	53	168
Thyolo	213	0	0	213	0	9	23	181
Chitipa	209	1	1	209	0	0	53	156
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	175	0	0	175	0	0	19	156
Balaka	166	0	0	166	0	3	19	144
Rumphi	143	0	0	143	0	0	24	119
Mulanje	133	0	0	133	0	0	29	104
Dedza	128	0	0	128	0	0	16	112
Phalombe	114	0	0	114	0	0	8	106
Chiradzulu	99	0	0	99	0	0	21	78
Chikwawa	83	0	0	83	0	0	9	74
Likoma	80	0	0	80	0	0	4	76
Lilongwe Lighthouse	68	0	0	68	0	0	10	58
Ntchisi	43	0	0	43	0	0	7	36
Wezi Medical Center	42	0	0	42	0	0	18	24
Nkhoma Mission	37	0	0	37	0	0	6	31
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,623</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>55,488</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>5,809</b>	<b>49,407</b>

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

- Three active cases are currently admitted
- Two active cases are under institutional isolation
- 998 active cases are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 4,626 cases have now recovered and 180 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 October
- 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 (FEVER<sup>2</sup> 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 presentation<sup>3</sup> AND at least one of the following:
  - i. history of residence in an area reporting community transmission<sup>4</sup> 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 contact<sup>5</sup> 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 reason<sup>6</sup>

### 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.

<sup>2</sup> Fever includes both measured objectively and subjective from symptoms

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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

<sup>6</sup> 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

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**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

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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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