







**QUICK  
OUTLOOK**  
6 June 2020

  
**438**  
Confirmed cases  
**29** new cases

**379** active cases  
**351** imported  
**76** local transmission  
**11** under investigation  
**66%** male  
**31 (11.1)** average age (SD),  
years

 **55** recoveries  
 **4** deaths  
 **21** districts affected  
**6423** tests conducted  
 **14** RT-PCR testing sites  
**11** GeneXpert testing sites

**Highlights**

- Chiradzulu District has registered its first case in the past 48 hours
- 29 new COVID-19 cases, no new recoveries, and no new deaths have been recorded in the past 48 hours
- Cumulatively, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Malawi is 438, including 4 deaths, and 55 recoveries
- 6423 COVID-19 tests have been conducted to date
- 415 people have entered Malawi through the official ports of entry in the past 48 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**

As of 6 June 2020, 6 663 304 (127 950 new) COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, including 392 802 (5 647 new) deaths. Out of these cases, 126 561 (5 457 new) cases and 3 062 (104 new) deaths are in Africa. **Table 1** below shows the number of reported cases and deaths in the countries that share boundaries with Malawi.

**Table 1:** Number of cases and deaths of COVID-19 in countries that share a boundary with Malawi

Country	Cumulative cases	New cases	Cumulative deaths	New deaths	Days since last reported case
Mozambique	352	0	2	0	1
Zambia	1111	0	7	0	1
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	26



## Local situation

In the past 48 hours, Malawi has registered 29 new COVID-19 cases, no new recoveries, and no new deaths. Of the new cases, 11 are from Lilongwe of which 9 are contacts of 2 confirmed cases in Area 6 and Nkhoma, the other new case has travel history and the other one is a resident of Area 36 and is still under investigation to establish infection source. Four of the cases were screened at the Mwanza border as they were returning from South Africa, these cases are residents of Mangochi, Njolomole in Ntcheu, Jekete village in Chiradzulu and the other one is still being investigated to determine the home district. The other two new cases are from Nchalo, Chikwawa; 1 is a contact of a confirmed case and the other one is still being investigated. Zomba has also registered one new case who is a contact of a confirmed case. Eleven new cases have been recorded in Blantyre, out of these 7 cases are from one family based in Kachere, the index case (among the 7) arrived in the country from South Africa two weeks ago. The other 2 cases are a truck driver and his primary contact, resident in Lunzu and Machinjiri respectively while another one who lives in Lunzu had traveled to South Africa. The other Blantyre case is a resident of Chilomoni township that was captured at Queen Elizabeth central hospital's outpatient department and is currently stable under institutional isolation.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 438 cases including 4 deaths. **Figure 1** is a map of Malawi showing the number of cases in each affected district. Of these cases, 351 are imported infections and 76 are locally transmitted while 11 are still under investigation. Fifty-five of the total cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 379. The average age of the cases is 31 years, the youngest case is aged 1 year, the oldest is 75 years and 66% are male. **Table 3**, and **Figures 2, 3**, and **4** show detailed distributions of the cases.

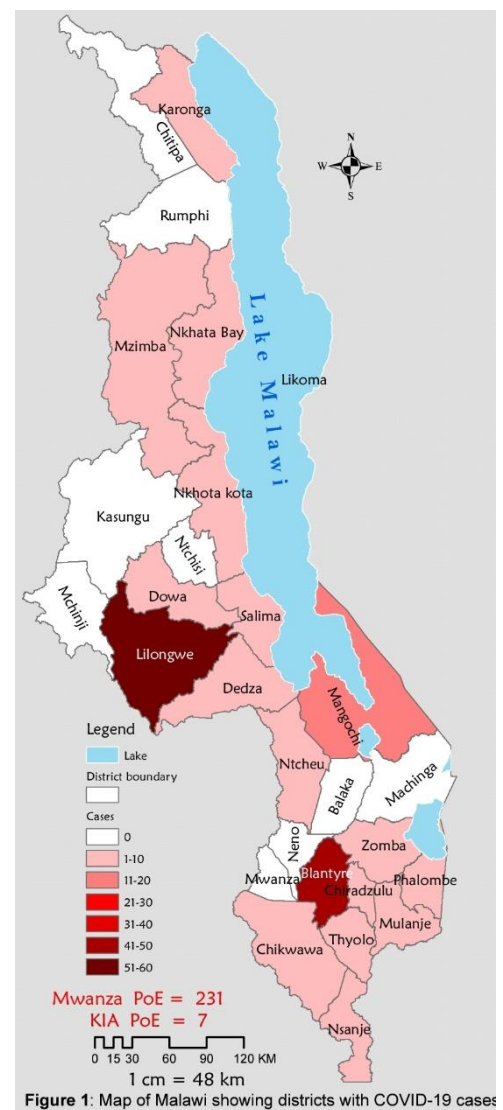
Malawi's borders remain closed except three borders to allow transit of essential goods and services. In the past 48 hours, 415 people have entered Malawi. Active tracing and monitoring of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 are ongoing, currently, a total of 734 primary and secondary contacts of COVID-19 cases have been traced out of which 493 have been tested.

Recently, Malawi has been 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. The negatives are allowed to proceed to their destination for self-quarantine and follow up by respective district health authorities. In the past 48 hours, 12 of these cases have been traced in Nkhata Bay, Balaka, and Mzimba South.

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

Parameter	Statistic
Cumulative confirmed cases	438
Number of active cases	379
Number of cases with a positive result in the past 48 hours	29
Cumulative deaths	4
Cumulative recoveries	55
Suspected cases	6542
Cumulative specimen received by the lab	6542
Cumulative specimen tested	6423
Specimen tested by the lab in the past 24 hours	227
Cumulative contacts listed and follow up	734
Contacts tested to date	493
PoEs* entries in the last 48 hours.	415
High-risk travellers on follow up at district level**	3161
Cumulative travellers completed 14 days follow up at a district	1901
Returning residents and deportees through Mwanza and KIA	1215

\* Point of entry \*\*The number of high-risk travellers on follow up as district level is under-reported (few districts reported)

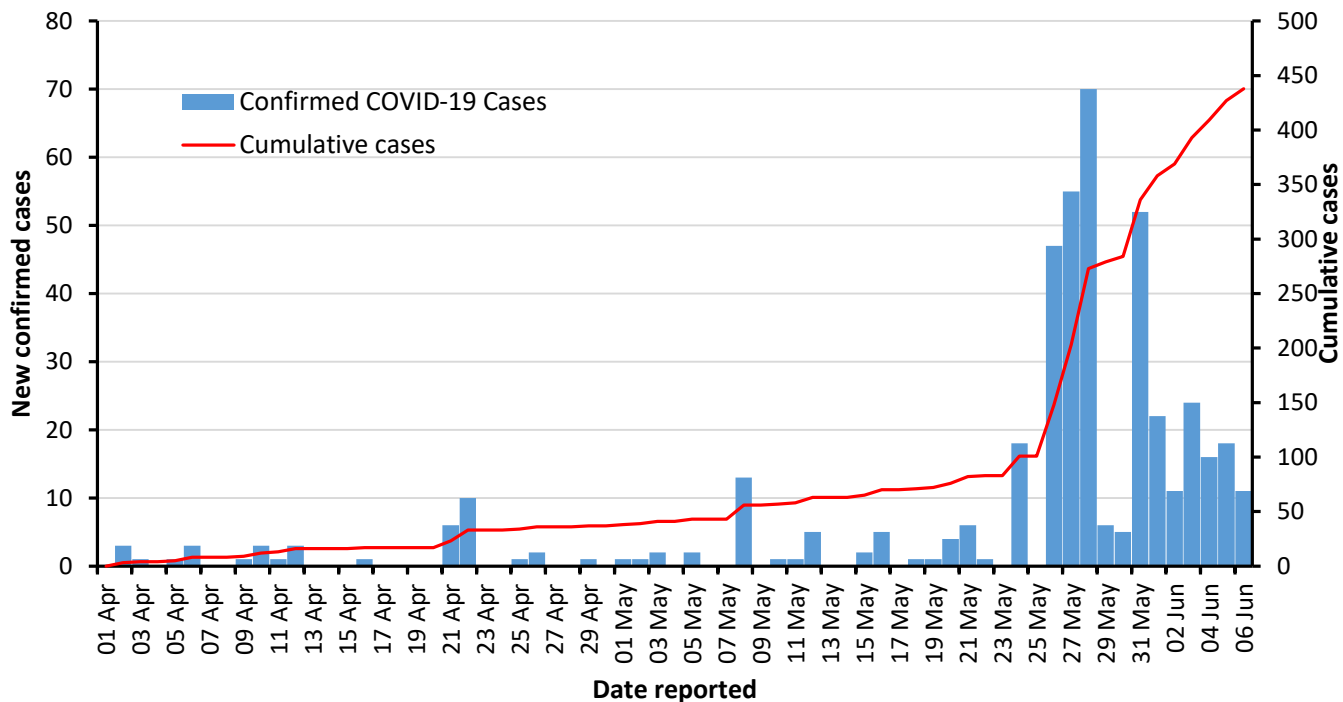


**Table 3:** Summary of COVID-19 cases reported countrywide as of 6 June 2020

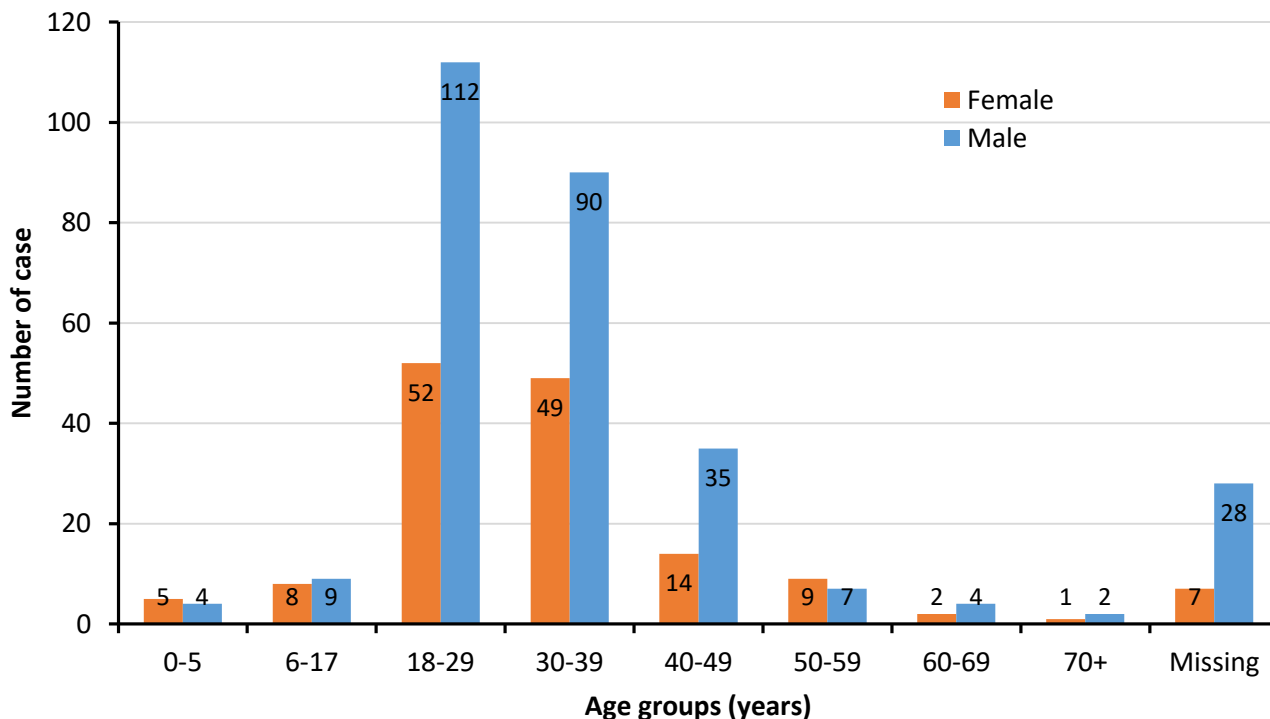
Reporting District	Confirmed Cases			Deaths		Recoveries		Transmission Classification**			Days since last reported case
	New	PoE TranOuts*	Total	New	Total	New	Total	Imported	Local	Under investigation	
Lilongwe	11	5	56	0	3	0	21	21	32	3	1
Blantyre	11	2	52	0	1	0	21	16	32	4	0
Thyolo	0	-	10	0	0	0	10	1	9	0	15
Mzuzu	0	-	5	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	3
Nkhata Bay	0	8	13	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	14
Zomba	1	3	6	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	0
Chikwawa	2	2	5	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	0
Nkhotakota	0	3	4	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	43
Karonga	0	-	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6
Mangochi	1	12	15	0	0	0	0	14	1	0	0
Mulanje	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	16
Ntcheu	1	-	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Phalombe	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Nsanje	0	-	9	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	3
Dedza	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1
Mzimba South	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
Salima	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dowa	0	-	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1
Mchinji	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Chiradzulu	1	-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Balaka	0	2	2					2			
Mwanza PoE	1	-	231	0	0	0	0	231	0	0	1
KIA PoE	0	-	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>11</b>	

\*\*Imported means that infection has been acquired from outside the country; Local transmission means that the source of infection is within the country; Under investigation means that the source of infection has not been determined; PoE, Point of Entry; KIA, Kamuzu International Airport

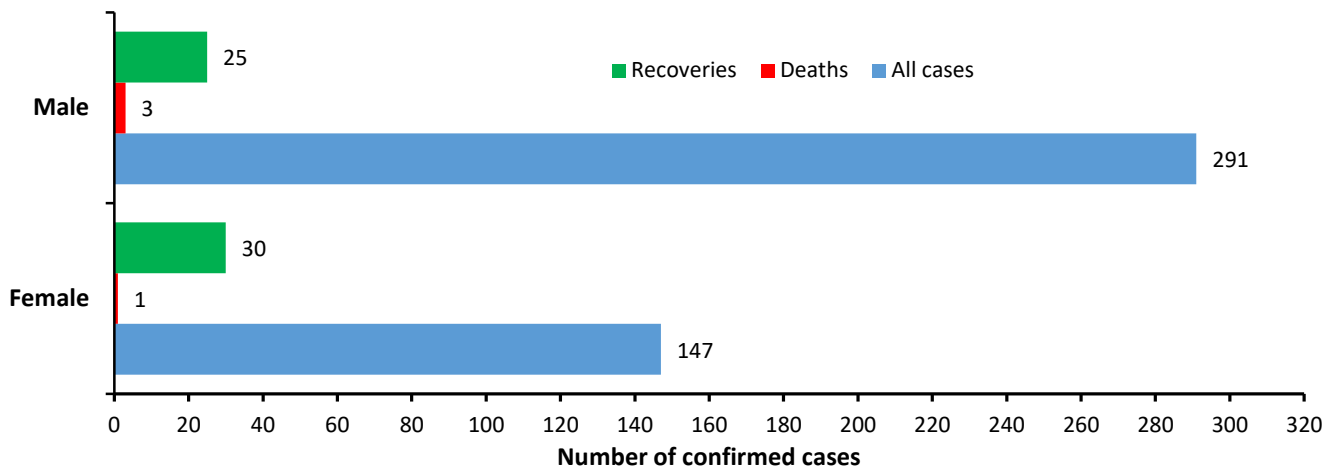
\*Cases from PoE that have been traced by the district health authorities



**Figure 2:** New and cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in Malawi by date reported as of 6 June 2020



**Figure 3:** Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 6 June 2020



**Figure 4:** Sex distribution of COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries in Malawi as of 6 June 2020

## Summary of Prevention and Response Activities

### Laboratory testing

Fourteen laboratories in the country have the capacity to confirm COVID-19. The laboratories are Kamuzu Central Hospital laboratory (KCH), Partners in Hope (PIH) National Health Reference laboratory (NHRL), College of Medicine (COM) laboratory, Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust (MLW), Mzuzu Central Hospital laboratory, Mzimba south district hospital laboratory, Balaka Dream laboratory, Zomba Central Hospital laboratory, Thyolo district hospital laboratory, Nsanje district hospital laboratory, Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital laboratory, Blantyre Dream laboratory and Chilumba MEIRU laboratory. Additionally, testing using GeneXpert has started in the border districts of Dedza, Mchinji, Mwanza, Neno, Karonga, Ntcheu, Salima, Chitipa, Bwaila, Rumphu, and Mulanje.

As of 6 June 2020, a total of 6288 samples have been tested, with 427 positive results, 19 pending results and 75 to be re-tested.

**Table 4** below shows the breakdown of tests done by each laboratory.

**Table 4:** Laboratory testing for COVID-19 in Malawi as of 6 June 2020

Name of Laboratory	Cumulative samples	In the past 24hrs		Total		Result		
		Samples received	Samples tested	Tested	Pending	Indeterminate	Positive	Negative
NHRL	1087	13	13	1087	0	0	72	1015
COM	1880	38	38	1838	0	42	103	1693
MLW	651	0	0	651	0	15	37	599
Mzuzu	253	8	0	245	8	0	12	233
Mzimba	429	16	0	413	16	0	1	412
Zomba	219	1	1	216	3	0	13	203
Balaka	97	0	0	97	0	0	3	94
Thyolo	99	0	0	94	1	4	3	87
Nsanje	26	0	0	26	0	0	9	17
QECH	860	87	87	855	0	5	92	758
Dream BT	659	0	0	659	0	0	93	566
KCH	140	25	25	139	0	1	0	138
PIH	119	39	0	80	39	0	0	80
Chilumba	22	0	0	22	0	0	0	22
Karonga DHO	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6542</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>6423</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>5918</b>



### Clinical case management

- 235 of the cases identified from Mwanza point of entry are being traced
- 11 cases are under institutional isolation
- 132 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- 1 case is symptomatic and admitted at Kamuzu Central hospital
- Cumulatively 55 cases have now recovered and 4 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 (e.g. banks)
- Joint patrols on Lake Malawi (MDF and Immigration)
- Roadblocks mounted in strategic points across the country

### Point of entry

- Monitoring personnel transporting essential goods and services
- All borders closed except 3 for essential personnel travel (e.g. petroleum services and other goods).
- Extra laboratory staff deployed to Mwanza to support sample collection for citizens repatriated from other countries
- 1215 returning residents and deportees have arrived in the country through Mwanza and KIA

### Supply Chain & Stockpiles

- CMST PPE procurement completed and the majority of supplies have been received – the distribution list was handed over to CMST on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020
- Health Sector Joint Fund (HSJF) committed \$2.4M out of which \$1.1M has already been received
- Procurement through Gavi donation has been initiated and first supplies are expected in June 2020.
- USAID committed procurement of supplies list was revised by MoH and procurement process of supplies valued at \$1.4M to start soon.
- 7,200 GeneXpert cartridges arrived in-country and 4,800 cartridges will be in-country by mid-June 2020.
- Distribution of PPE to Immigration, Police, and Army was effected on Friday 29th May 2020.

### Risk communication and community engagement

- The public can access the COVID-19 information by dialing \*929#, 321 (Airtel), 54747, or by sending “hi” through WhatsApp to 0990 800 000.
- Information is also available on official Ministry of Health pages; Facebook – Ministry of Health – Malawi, Twitter @health\_malawi and website <https://covid19.health.gov.mw>
- Continuous community engagement both at the national and district level through different platforms
- Continued airing of COVID-19 public service announcements on community radios, national radio, and TV stations.
- Daily COVID-19 situation updates to the public through different channels
- Production and printing of fact sheets, posters, leaflets, and roll-up banners. Revised communication products finalized and ready for printing
- Push messages on Airtel and TNM in both English and Chichewa.
- Daily press conferences to give updates on COVID-19 in the country
- Interface meetings with communities using mobile van units in all the districts in the country





## Coordination

In order 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 emergency operation center meetings
- The orientation of district public health emergency management committees in all districts

## Case definitions

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### 1. Suspect Case

- a. A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g. cough, shortness of breath), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset.
- b. A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

- c. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g. cough and shortness of breath) AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation

### 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.

### 3. Confirmed case

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

### 4. Definition of contact

- a. A primary contact is a person who experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case:
  - i. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 1 meter and for more than 15 minutes;
  - ii. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case;
  - iii. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment

Note: for confirmed asymptomatic cases, the period of contact is measured as the 2 days before through the 14 days after the date on which the sample was taken which led to confirmation.

- b. A secondary contact is a person who was in contact with the primary contact or any contact which does not meet the definition of the primary contact.

### 5. 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.



## 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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Confirmed COVID-19 cases are steadily increasing since the first three cases of COVID-19 were confirmed on 2 April 2020. This has also been compounded by the inflow of Malawian residents returning from South Africa. The Ministry of Health and partners continue in its efforts to ensure the citizens are protected from the Coronavirus outbreak and that the country is able to detect and respond to any cases that may arise.

**Prepared by: Epidemiology Unit, Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM), available on <https://malawipublichealth.org/index.php/resources/covid-19-daily-updates/detail>**