



QUICK
OUTLOOK

6 July 2020

1877

Confirmed cases

59

new cases

1508 active cases

706 imported

1098 local transmission

73 under investigation

67% male

34 (11.6) average age (SD), years

345 recoveries
24 deaths (5 new)
27 districts affected
17693 tests conducted
14 RT-PCR testing sites
29 GeneXpert testing sites

Highlights

- 59 new COVID-19 cases, 28 new recoveries, and five new deaths have been recorded in the past 24 hours
- Cumulatively, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Malawi is 1877, including 24 deaths, and 345 recoveries
- 17693 COVID-19 tests have been conducted to date
- 293 people have entered Malawi through the official ports 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 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 situation

As of 6 July 2020, 11 327 790 (202 545 new) COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, including 532 340 (4 134 new) deaths. Out of these, 369 928 (13 262 new) cases and 6 974 (228 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	987	18	8	1	0
Zambia	1 632	0	30	0	4
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	57

**Table 3:** Summary of COVID-19 cases reported countrywide as of 6 July 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	
Blantyre	1	22	481	0	7	0	40	96	344	41	0
Lilongwe	17	22	380	1	7	3	87	71	300	9	0
Mzuzu	14	-	272	3	4	5	6	7	257	8	0
Mangochi	1	16	69	0	0	20	23	60	7	2	0
Mzimba S	5	2	56	0	0	0	1	16	33	7	0
Nkhata Bay	11	10	43	0	0	0	0	26	17	0	0
Chitipa	1	-	39	0	0	0	0	3	36	0	1
Zomba	1	3	34	0	0	0	1	15	17	2	0
Thyolo	3	1	33	1	1	0	10	14	19	0	0
Machinga	0	6	28	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	2
Nsanje	0	5	24	0	0	0	0	22	2	0	1
Nkhotakota	0	9	23	0	0	0	4	22	1	0	6
Mchinji	0	1	23	0	1	0	0	5	18	0	0
Salima	0	-	21	0	0	0	0	15	6	0	1
Balaka	0	7	21	0	1	0	0	21	0	0	0
Karonga	1	3	18	0	1	0	0	10	8	0	0
Dowa	2	-	18	0	0	0	0	14	4	0	1
Ntcheu	0	2	17	0	0	0	1	17	0	0	1
Chikwawa	0	4	17	0	0	0	1	15	1	1	1
Dedza	0	2	16	0	0	0	1	16	0	0	0
Rumphi	1	1	14	0	0	0	0	5	9	0	1
Kasungu	0	4	13	0	0	0	0	11	2	0	1
Mwanza	1	-	13	0	0	0	1	10	3	0	0
Neno	0	1	12	0	0	0	1	2	10	0	0
Mulanje	0	-	10	0	1	0	1	5	2	3	0
Chiradzulu	0	-	8	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	2
Phalombe	0	-	5	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	6
Mwanza PoE	0	-	169	0	0	0	167	169	0	0	10
Total	59	121	1877	5	24	28	345	706	1098	73	

**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

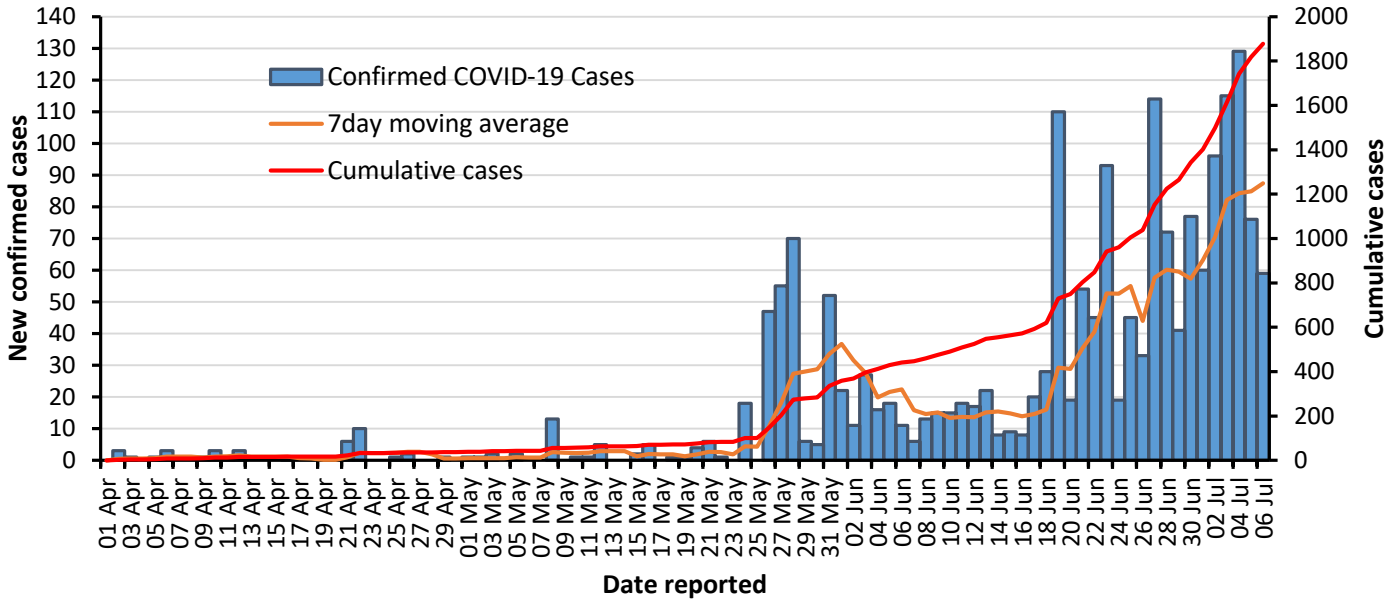


Figure 2: New and cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in Malawi by date reported as of 6 July 2020

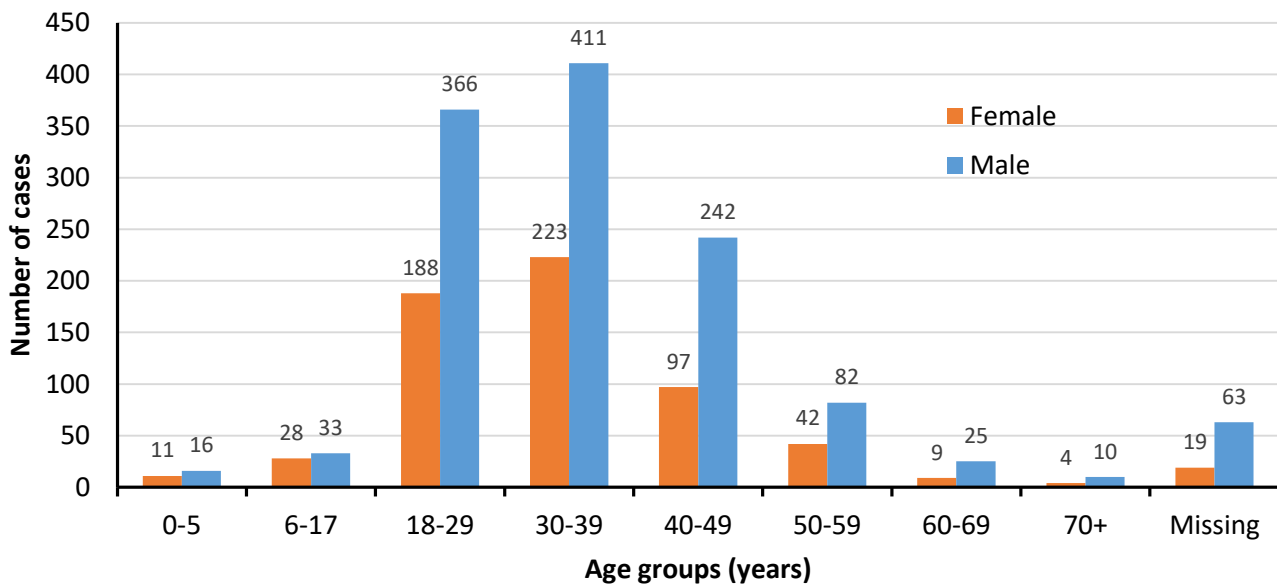


Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 4 July 2020

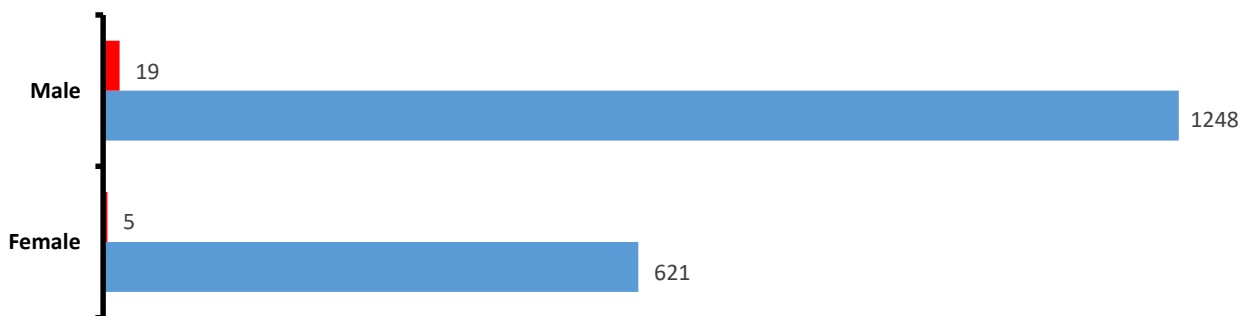


Figure 4: Sex distribution of COVID-19 cases, deaths, and recoveries in Malawi as of 6 July 2020

Summary of Prevention and Response Activities

Laboratory testing

Fourteen laboratories in the country have the capacity to confirm COVID-19 using RT-PCR and GeneXpert testing is being done in 29 laboratories. As of 6 July 2020, a total of 17693 samples have been tested, with 1877 positive results, 299 pending results and 151 to be re-tested.

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

Name of Laboratory	Cumulative samples	In the past 24hrs		Total samples		Result		
		Samples received	Samples tested	Tested	Pending	Indeterminate	Positive	Negative
COM	3067	0	0	3013	54	43	329	2641
QECH	2145	0	0	2145	0	41	200	1904
Blantyre DREAM	2257	117	0	2140	117	0	191	1949
NHRL	2127	54	0	2073	54	0	202	1871
Mwanza	1550	81	81	1550	0	0	98	1452
Mzuzu	1267	16	16	1267	0	24	278	965
MLW	762	0	0	760	2	14	47	699
PIH	755	12	12	755	0	0	64	691
KCH	688	0	0	618	70	15	100	503
Mzimba South	679	18	18	677	2	2	41	634
Zomba	416	0	0	416	0	0	44	372
Balaka DREAM	331	0	0	331	0	0	66	265
Salima	242	0	0	242	0	0	16	226
Mchinji	182	0	0	182	0	0	23	159
Thyolo	168	3	3	168	0	9	13	146
Karonga	131	1	1	131	0	0	12	119
Bwaila	215	48	48	215	0	0	32	183
Karonga MEIRU	119	0	0	119	0	3	12	104
Chitipa	120	4	4	120	0	0	25	95
Mangochi	213	7	7	213	0	0	8	205
Nsanje	85	1	1	85	0	0	13	72
Dedza	70	0	0	70	0	0	4	66
Dowa	69	7	7	69	0	0	11	58
Balaka	48	0	0	48	0	0	4	44
Neno	64	0	0	64	0	0	12	52
Rumphi	49	8	8	49	0	0	9	40
Phalombe	39	1	1	39	0	0	3	36
Nkhatabay	42	9	9	42	0	0	16	26
Machinga	22	0	0	22	0	0	0	22
Mulanje	18	0	0	18	0	0	2	16
Nkhotakota	18	2	2	18	0	0	2	16
Kasungu	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
Chikwawa	19	14	14	19	0	0	0	19
Ntchisi	6	2	2	6	0	0	0	6
Total	17992	405	234	17693	299	151	1877	15665

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

- 169 of the cases identified from Mwanza point of entry are being traced
- 10 cases are under institutional isolation
- 1329 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 345 cases have now recovered and 24 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)
- Roadblocks are being mounted in strategic points across the country

Point of entry

- Monitoring personnel transporting essential goods and services
- All borders closed except three and one airport for essential personnel travel (e.g. petroleum services and other goods).
- Laboratory testing has been intensified in PoEs
- 1977 returning residents and deportees have arrived in the country through Mwanza and KIA

Supply Chain & Stockpiles

- AMREF stocks distributed to Chitipa, Ntchisi, Mangochi, Machinga, Zomba and Chikwawa Districts
- Lilongwe DHO has also been supported with additional PPE
- Distribution of some PPE to Aviation has been done
- Morocco donation will be distributed in the week starting 5th July 2020
- COVID-19 Facility-level M&E tool is being developed with a goal of ensuring **accountability and monitoring stock** place to track donated products to facility-level

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



Case definitions

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

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

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>