

**QUICK  
OUTLOOK**

19 July 2020


**2,992**

Confirmed cases

**85** new cases

**1,777** active cases

**903** imported

**2,089** local transmission

**65%** male

**35.7 (12.8)** average  
age (SD), years

**1,153** recoveries

**62** deaths (3 new)

**29** districts affected

**24,192** tests conducted

**14** RT-PCR testing sites

**37** GeneXpert testing sites

**Highlights**

- All districts now have COVID-19 cases with Ntchisi being the latest addition
- 85 new COVID-19 cases, 18 new recoveries, and three new deaths have been recorded in the past 24 hours
- Cumulatively, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Malawi is 2,992 including 62 deaths and 1,153 recoveries
- 24,192 COVID-19 tests have been conducted to date
- 345 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 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 19 July 2020, 13,876,441 (259 848 new) COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, including 593,087 (7,360 new) deaths. Out of these 561,466 (18,344 new) cases and 9,349 (219 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	337,594	13,373	4,804	135	0
Zambia	2,810	527	109	27	0
Mozambique	1,402	19	9	0	0
Zimbabwe	1,402	58	24	1	0
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	71

## Local situation

All districts in the country have now registered COVID-19 cases with Ntchisi being the latest addition. The case from Ntchisi was registered on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 but was misclassified as from Dowa.

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered 85 new COVID-19 cases, 18 new recoveries, and three new deaths. The new deaths are from Blantyre. Of the new cases, 48 are locally transmitted infections and 37 are imported infections. Of the locally transmitted infections, three are healthcare workers (one each from Mzuzu, Nkhata Bay, and Ntcheu), 25 from Blantyre, eight from Mzuzu, four each from Lilongwe and Zomba, and one each Dedza, Kasungu, Mulanje, and Ntcheu. All imported cases were identified among 171 Malawian residents returning from South Africa.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 2,992 cases including 62 deaths. **Figure 1** is a map of Malawi showing the number of cases in each affected district. Of these cases, 903 are imported infections and 2,089 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 1,153 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1,777. The average age of the cases is 35.7 years, the youngest case is aged 1 month, the oldest is 93 years and 65% are male. **Table 3**, and **Figures 2, 3**, and **4** show detailed distributions of the cases.

Malawi's borders remain closed except four borders and one airport (KIA) to allow transit of essential goods and services. In the past 24 hours, 345 people have entered Malawi. Active tracing and monitoring of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 are ongoing, currently, a total of 3,688 primary and secondary contacts of COVID-19 cases have been traced out of which 2,998 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. 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 to date

Parameter	Statistic
Cumulative confirmed cases	2,992
Number of active cases	1,777
Number of cases with a positive result in the past 24 hours	85
Cumulative deaths	62
Cumulative recoveries	1,153
Suspected cases	24,291
Cumulative specimen received by the lab	24,291
Cumulative specimen tested	24,192
Specimen tested by the lab in the past 24 hours	472
Cumulative contacts listed and follow up	3,688
Contacts tested to date	2,998
PoEs* entries in the last 24 hours	345
High-risk travellers on follow up at district level**	3,163
Cumulative travellers completed 14 days follow up at a district	1,912
Returning residents and deportees through Mwanza and KIA	2,896

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



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

**Table 3:** Summary of COVID-19 cases reported countrywide as of 19 July 2020, 06:00

Reporting District	Confirmed Cases			Deaths		Recoveries		Transmission Classification**		Days since last reported case
	New	PoE TranOuts*	Total	New	Total	New	Total	Imported	Local	
Blantyre	32	22	840	3	25	0	114	128	712	0
Lilongwe	6	22	577	0	10	0	307	85	492	0
Mzimba North	9	-	415	0	10	0	172	11	404	0
Mangochi	7	0	108	0	0	10	61	83	25	0
Mzimba South	0	3	95	0	1	0	18	28	67	0
Nkhata Bay	4	10	89	0	1	0	22	30	59	0
Zomba	8	3	72	0	1	0	12	26	46	0
Dowa	0	-	49	0	1	0	4	21	28	1
Thyolo	1	1	46	0	1	0	28	26	20	0
Mchinji	0	1	44	0	5	2	12	5	39	0
Machinga	2	6	44	0	0	0	26	44	0	0
Chitipa	0	-	43	0	2	0	35	4	39	1
Ntcheu	1	2	37	0	0	0	11	26	11	0
Balaka	2	7	36	0	1	0	15	33	3	0
Neno	0	1	33	0	0	0	10	2	31	1
Karonga	1	3	32	0	1	0	10	12	20	0
Nkhotakota	2	9	32	0	0	0	22	29	3	0
Nsanje	1	5	31	0	0	0	19	23	8	0
Kasungu	2	4	30	0	1	0	5	14	16	0
Mwanza	0	-	26	0	1	0	4	13	13	1
Mulanje	2	-	26	0	1	1	10	8	18	0
Dedza	3	2	26	0	0	0	13	23	3	0
Salima	2	-	23	0	0	0	19	18	5	0
Rumphi	0	1	22	0	0	0	1	7	15	2
Chikwawa	0	4	19	0	0	0	17	16	3	5
Chiradzulu	0	-	13	0	0	5	14	12	1	2
Phalombe	0	-	9	0	0	0	5	3	6	1
Likoma	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ntchisi	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mwanza PoE	0	-	173	0	0	0	167	173	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>2,992</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>2,089</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; \*Cases from PoE that have been traced by the district health authorities

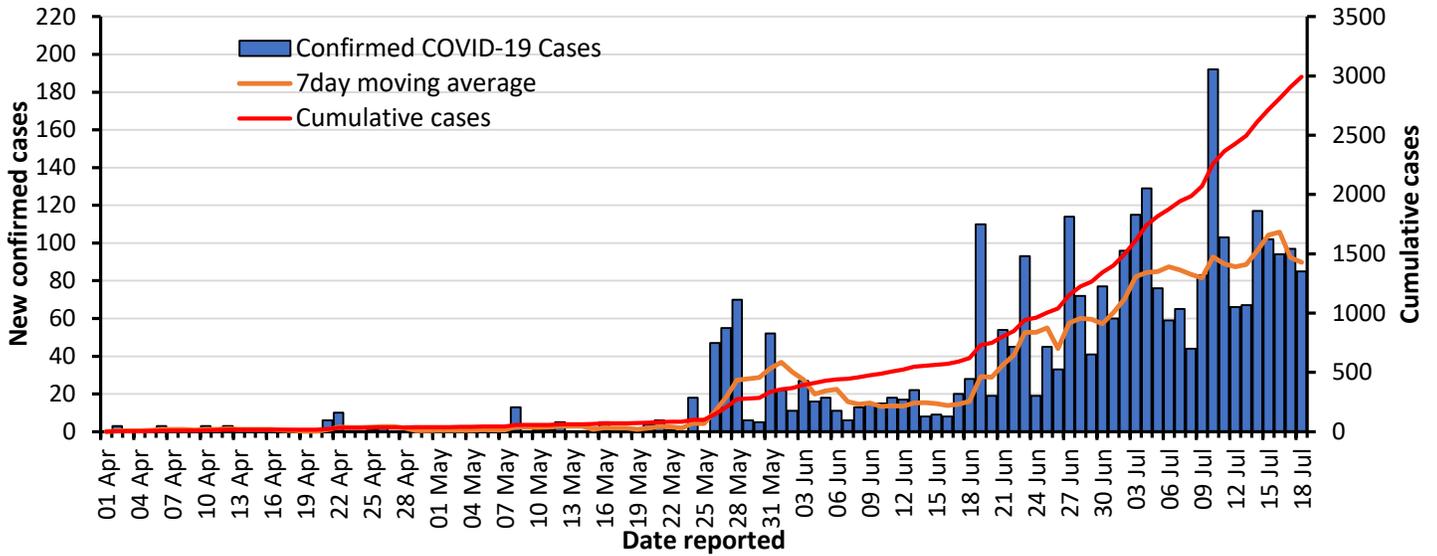


Figure 2: New and cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in Malawi by date reported as of 19 July 2020, 06:00

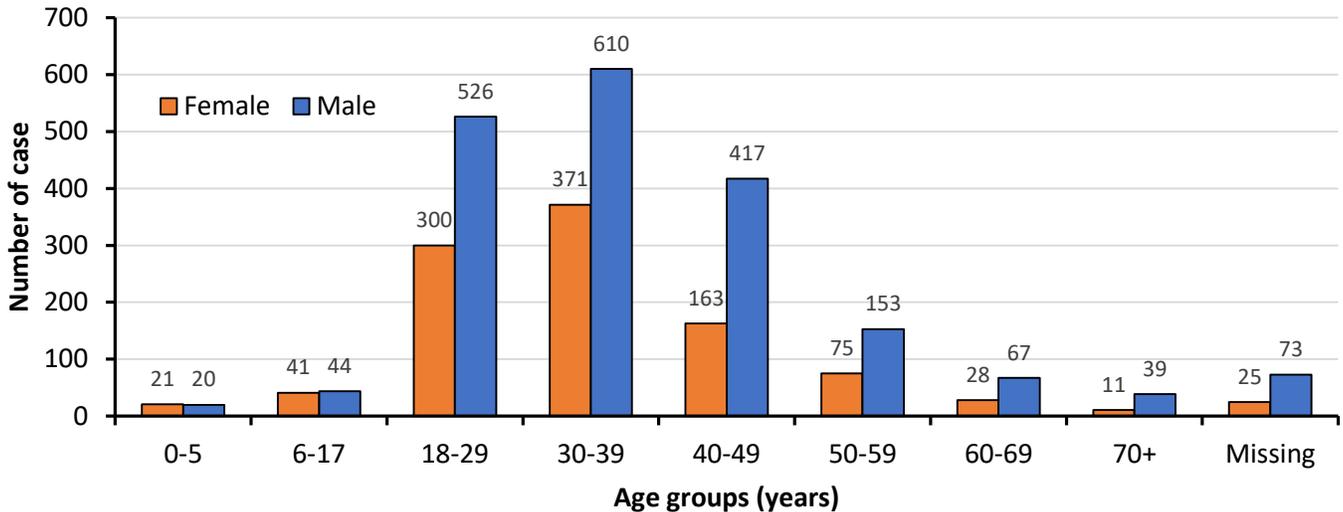


Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 19 July 2020

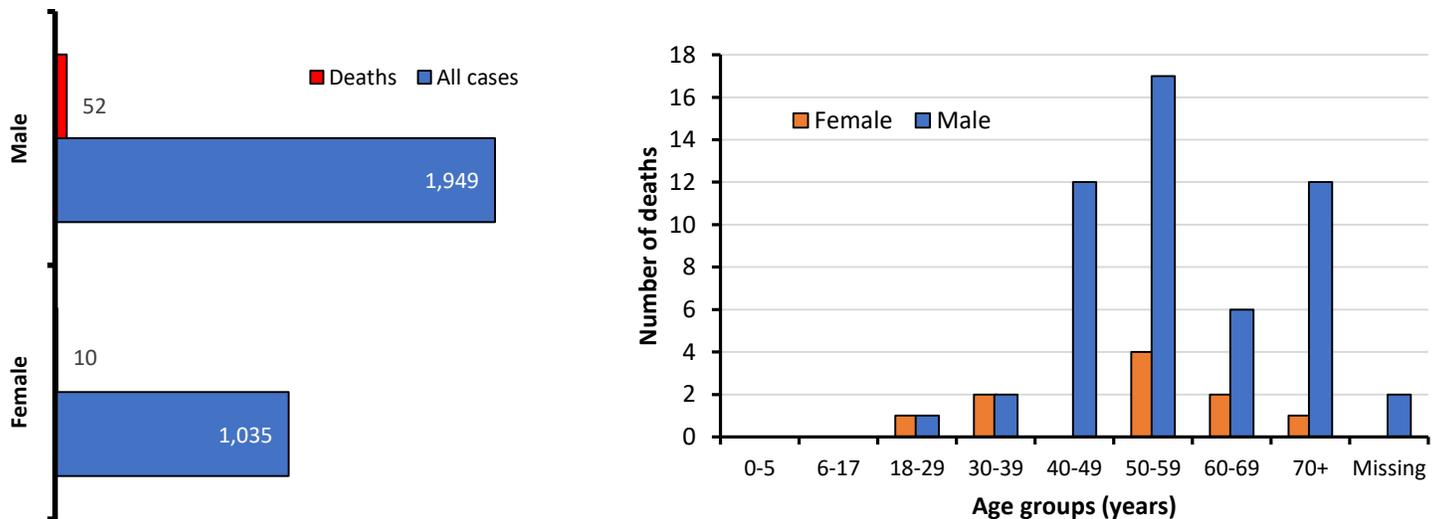


Figure 4: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Malawi as of 19 July 2020, 06:00

## 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 37 laboratories. The National Health Reference laboratory is undergoing renovations and will be upgraded to biosafety level 3.

**Table 4:** Laboratory testing for COVID-19 in Malawi as of 19 July 2020, 06:00

Name of Laboratory	Cumulative samples	In the past 24hrs		Total samples		Result		
		Samples received	Samples tested	Tested	Pending	Indeterminate	Positive	Negative
COM	3,334	84	81	3,326	8	43	402	2,881
NHRL	2,660	84	59	2,635	25	0	241	2,394
Blantyre DREAM	2,657	4	4	2,628	29	0	318	2,310
QECH	2,353	47	47	2,353	0	41	321	1,991
Mwanza	2,284	0	0	2,284	0	0	150	2,134
Mzuzu	1,692	34	34	1,662	30	32	425	1,205
PIH	1,177	6	6	1,177	0	0	174	1,003
Zomba	1,151	136	136	1,151	0	0	167	984
KCH	1,097	22	22	1,097	0	19	130	948
Mzimba South	792	0	0	792	0	0	65	727
MLW	769	0	0	767	2	14	47	706
Bwaila	670	28	26	668	2	0	32	636
Balaka DREAM	427	0	0	427	0	0	79	348
Mangochi	292	0	0	292	0	0	25	267
Nkhata Bay	291	7	7	291	0	0	51	240
Salima	269	0	0	269	0	0	16	253
Karonga	233	2	2	233	0	0	25	208
Mchinji	226	0	0	226	0	0	43	183
Ntcheu	177	5	5	177	0	0	10	167
Thyolo	170	0	0	170	0	9	15	146
Dowa	162	0	0	162	0	0	42	120
Balaka	147	20	20	147	0	0	27	120
Chitipa	145	5	5	145	0	0	32	113
Neno	139	0	0	139	0	0	29	110
Nsanje	132	0	0	132	0	0	19	113
Karonga MEIRU	124	0	0	124	0	3	14	107
Kasungu	118	3	3	118	0	0	17	101
Rumphi	116	0	0	116	0	0	16	100
Nkhotakota	99	8	6	97	2	0	5	92
Phalombe	83	2	2	83	0	0	6	77
Dedza	80	4	3	79	1	0	9	70
Mulanje	61	2	2	61	0	0	14	47
Chikwawa	35	0	0	35	0	0	1	34
Lilongwe Lighthouse	33	0	0	33	0	0	7	26
Kamuzu Barracks	33	0	0	33	0	0	10	23
Machinga	22	0	0	22	0	0	0	22
Ntchisi	20	2	2	20	0	0	4	16
Blantyre Lighthouse	11	0	0	11	0	0	3	8
Nkhoma Mission	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	8
Likoma	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,291</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>24,192</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>2,992</b>	<b>21,039</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

- 75 cases have been admitted in various treatment units across the country
- 13 cases are under institutional isolation
- 1,689 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 1,153 cases have now recovered and 62 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

- Monitoring personnel transporting essential goods and services
- Only four borders and one airport remain open for essential personnel travel (e.g. petroleum services and other goods).
- Laboratory testing has been intensified in PoEs

### 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 Civil Aviation has been done
- COVID-19 Facility-level M&E tool is being developed with a goal of ensuring accountability and monitoring stock 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 Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC) meetings with cooperating partners and other stakeholders



## 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. Currently, the locally transmitted infections are more than twice the number of imported cases which highlights that the infection is now high within our communities. 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>