

**QUICK  
OUTLOOK**

18 July 2020


**2,907**

Confirmed cases

**97** new cases

**1,713** active cases

**866** imported

**2,041** local transmission

**65%** male

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

**1,135** recoveries

**59** deaths (4 new)

**28** districts affected

**23,733** tests conducted

**14** RT-PCR testing sites

**37** GeneXpert testing sites

**Highlights**

- Likoma District has registered its first COVID-19 case in the past 24 hours
- 97 new COVID-19 cases, 24 new recoveries and four new deaths have been recorded in the past 24 hours
- Cumulatively, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Malawi is 2,907 including 59 deaths, and 1,135 recoveries
- 23,733 COVID-19 tests have been conducted to date
- 448 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 18 July 2020, 13,616,593 (237,743 new) COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, including 585,727 (5,682 new) deaths. Out of these 543,122 (19,719 new) cases and 9,130 deaths (311 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 the region

Country	Cumulative cases	New cases	Cumulative deaths	New deaths	Days since last reported case
South Africa	324, 221	13,172	4,669	216	0
Zambia	2,283	0	82	0	3
Mozambique	1,383	53	9	0	0
Zimbabwe	1,362	273	23	3	0
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	70

## Local situation

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered 97 new COVID-19 cases, 24 new recoveries, and four new deaths. Two of the new deaths are from Blantyre and one each from Chitipa (occurred on 15<sup>th</sup> July) and Mzimba South (occurred on 6<sup>th</sup> July).

Of the new cases, 92 are locally transmitted infections and five are imported infections. Of the locally transmitted infections, nine are healthcare workers (seven from Lilongwe and two from Nkhata Bay), 34 from Blantyre, 17 from Lilongwe, 16 from Mzuzu, three each from Nkhata Bay and Kasungu, two each from Mwanza and Dowa, and one each from Karonga, Likoma, Mchinji, Mulanje, Neno, and Zomba. The imported cases were identified at Mwanza border during routine screening. Two are from Mangochi and one each from Blantyre, Dedza, and Zomba.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 2,907 cases including 59 deaths. **Figure 1** is a map of Malawi showing the number of cases in each affected district. Of these cases, 866 are imported infections and 2041 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 1,135 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1,713. 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, 448 people have entered Malawi. Active tracing and monitoring of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 are ongoing, currently, a total of 3,640 primary and secondary contacts of COVID-19 cases have been traced out of which 2,950 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	2,907
Number of active cases	1,713
Number of cases with a positive result in the past 24 hours	97
Cumulative deaths	59
Cumulative recoveries	1,135
Suspected cases	23,798
Cumulative specimen received by the lab	23,798
Cumulative specimen tested	23,733
Specimen tested by the lab in the past 24 hours	506
Cumulative contacts listed and follow up	3,640
Contacts tested to date	2,950
PoEs* entries in the last 24 hours	448
High-risk travellers on follow up at district level**	3163
Cumulative travellers completed 14 days follow up at a district	1912
Returning residents and deportees through Mwanza and KIA	2837

\* 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 18 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	35	22	808	2	22	4	114	121	687	0
Lilongwe	24	22	571	0	11	0	307	83	488	0
Mzuzu	16	-	406	0	10	0	172	11	395	0
Mangochi	2	0	101	0	0	0	51	76	25	0
Mzimba S	0	3	95	1	1	0	18	28	67	0
Nkhata Bay	5	10	85	0	1	0	22	27	58	0
Zomba	2	3	64	0	1	11	12	22	42	0
Dowa	2	-	49	0	1	0	4	21	28	0
Thyolo	0	1	45	0	1	2	28	25	20	4
Mchinji	1	1	44	0	5	0	10	5	39	0
Chitipa	0	-	43	1	2	0	35	4	39	1
Machinga	0	6	42	0	0	0	26	42	0	1
Ntcheu	0	2	36	0	0	0	11	26	10	3
Balaka	0	7	34	0	1	0	15	31	3	4
Neno	1	1	33	0	0	3	10	2	31	0
Karonga	1	3	31	0	1	0	10	11	20	0
Nsanje	0	5	30	0	0	0	19	22	8	3
Nkhotakota	0	9	30	0	0	0	22	27	3	3
Kasungu	3	4	29	0	1	0	5	13	16	0
Mwanza	2	-	26	0	0	0	4	13	13	0
Mulanje	1	-	24	0	1	0	9	8	16	0
Dedza	1	2	23	0	0	0	13	21	2	0
Rumphi	0	1	22	0	0	1	1	7	15	1
Salima	0	-	21	0	0	3	19	16	5	6
Chikwawa	0	4	19	0	0	0	17	16	3	4
Chiradzulu	0	-	13	0	0	0	9	12	1	1
Phalombe	0	-	9	0	0	0	5	3	6	1
Likoma	1	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mwanza PoE	0	-	173	0	0	0	167	173	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>2907</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1135</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>2041</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

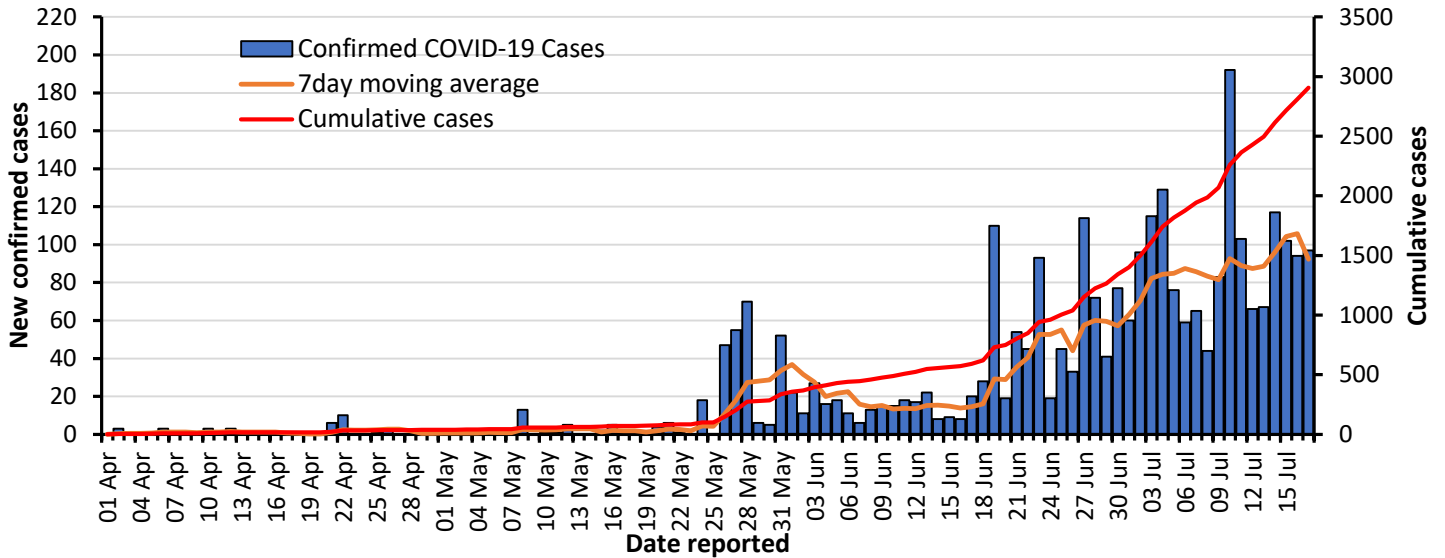


Figure 2: New and cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in Malawi by date reported as of 18 July 2020, 06:00

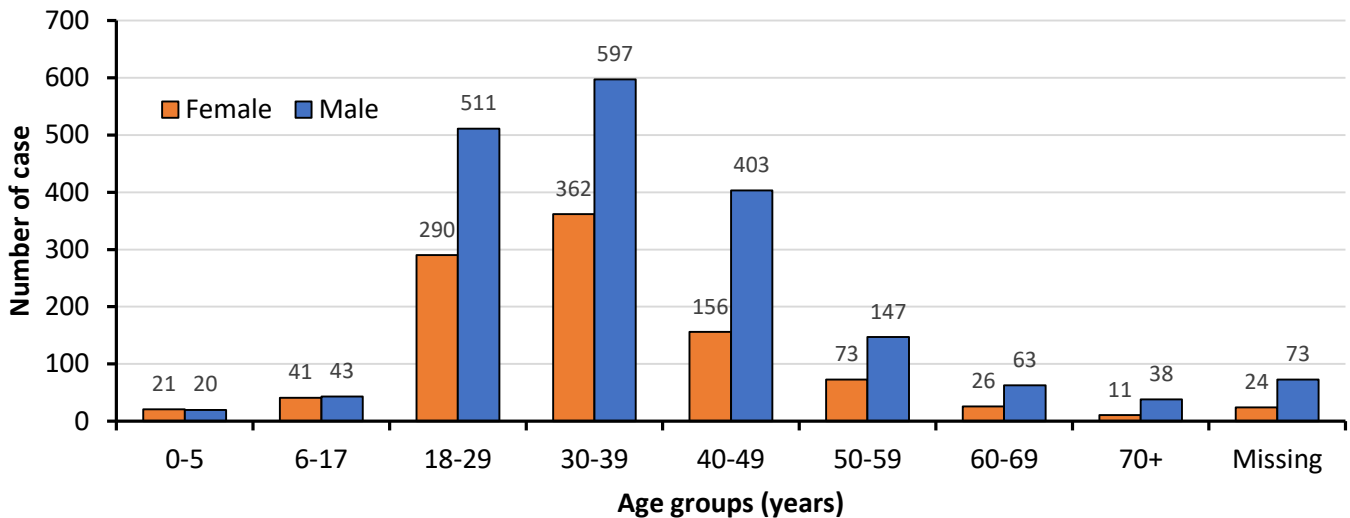


Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 18 July 2020

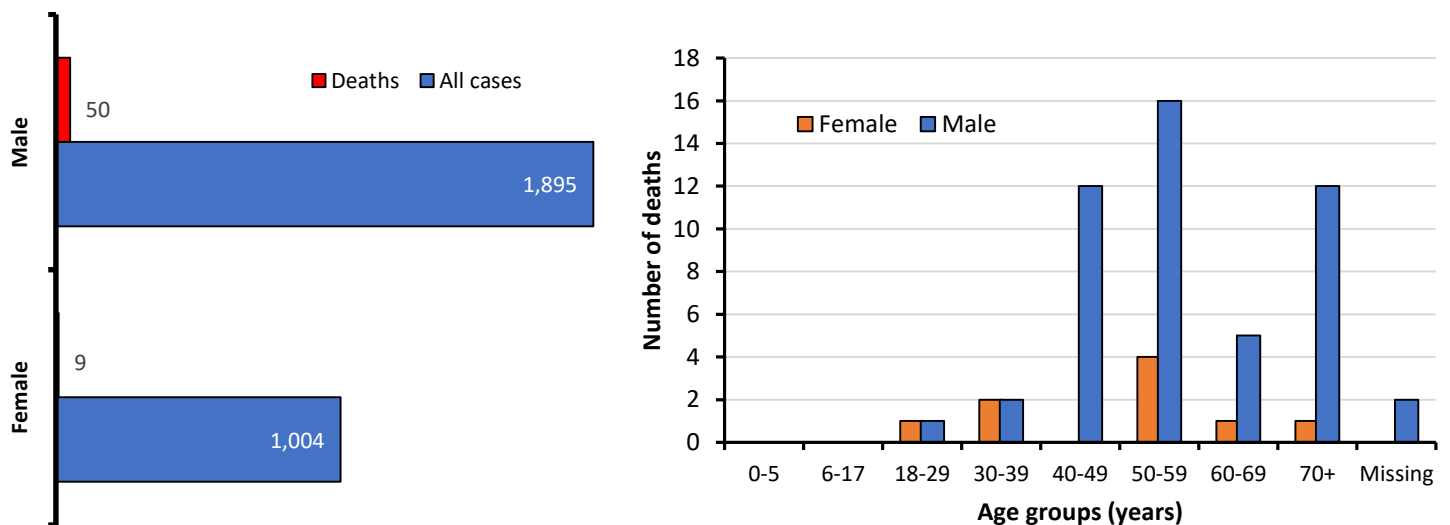


Figure 4: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Malawi as of 18 July 2020, 06:00

## 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 18 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	3250	2	2	3246	4	43	387	2816
Blantyre DREAM	2653	53	40	2624	29	0	318	2306
NHRL	2576	88	88	2576	0	0	241	2335
QECH	2304	26	26	2304	0	41	307	1956
Mwanza	2284	135	135	2284	0	0	150	2134
Mzuzu	1662	67	37	1632	30	32	417	1183
PIH	1171	17	17	1171	0	0	174	997
KCH	1075	24	24	1075	0	19	126	930
Zomba	1015	1	1	1015	0	0	138	877
Mzimba South	792	6	6	792	0	0	65	727
MLW	769	0	0	767	2	14	47	706
Bwaila	652	0	0	652	0	0	32	620
Balaka DREAM	427	0	0	427	0	0	79	348
Mangochi	292	5	5	292	0	0	25	267
Nkhatabay	284	5	5	284	0	0	50	234
Salima	269	0	0	269	0	0	16	253
Karonga	231	7	7	231	0	0	25	206
Mchinji	226	6	6	226	0	0	43	183
Dowa	162	22	22	162	0	0	42	120
Ntcheu	172	0	0	172	0	0	9	163
Thyolo	170	0	0	170	0	9	15	146
Chitipa	140	0	0	140	0	0	32	108
Neno	139	13	13	139	0	0	29	110
Nsanje	132	0	0	132	0	0	19	113
Balaka	127	2	2	127	0	0	18	109
Karonga MEIRU	124	0	0	124	0	3	14	107
Kasungu	115	9	9	115	0	0	16	99
Rumphi	116	4	4	116	0	0	16	100
Nkhotakota	91	10	10	91	0	0	5	86
Phalombe	81	27	27	81	0	0	6	75
Dedza	76	0	0	76	0	0	8	68
Mulanje	59	3	3	59	0	0	12	47
Chikwawa	35	0	0	35	0	0	1	34
Lighthouse Trust LL	33	3	3	33	0	0	7	26
Kamuzu Barracks	33	6	6	33	0	0	10	23
Machinga	22	0	0	22	0	0	0	22
Ntchisi	18	3	3	18	0	0	4	14
Lighthouse Trust BT	11	3	3	11	0	0	3	8
Nkhoma Mission	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	8
Likoma	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23798</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>23733</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>2907</b>	<b>20665</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
- 1,625 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 1,135 cases have now recovered and 59 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 four 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 Civil Aviation has been done
- 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

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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>**