

**QUICK
OUTLOOK**

23 July 2020


3,386

Confirmed cases

84 new cases

1,979 active cases

916 imported

2,470 local transmission

65.9% male

35.9 (12.8) average
age (SD), years

1,328 recoveries

79 deaths (3 new)

29 districts affected

25,756 tests conducted

14 RT-PCR testing sites

37 GeneXpert testing sites

Highlights

- 84 new COVID-19 cases, 46 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 3,386 including 79 deaths and 1,328 recoveries
- 25,756 COVID-19 tests have been conducted to date
- 198 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 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 23 July 2020, 14,765,256 cases (202,726 new) COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, including 612,054 (4,286 new) deaths. Out of these 63,851 (12,666 new) cases and 10,157 (259 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	381,798	8,170	5,360	195	0
Zambia	3,326	0	128	0	1
Mozambique	1,536	29	11	0	0
Zimbabwe	1,820	107	26	0	0
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	75

Local situation

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered 84 new COVID-19 cases, 46 new recoveries, and three new deaths. The new deaths are from Nkhata Bay, Karonga, and Nsanje.

Of the new cases, 83 are locally transmitted infections and one is an imported infection. Of the locally transmitted infections, 25 are from Blantyre, 22 from Lilongwe, 11 from Nkhata Bay, six from Zomba, four from Karonga, two each from Chitipa, Dowa, and Nsanje and one each from Balaka, Chiradzulu, Kasungu, Machinga, Mangochi, Mchinji, Mzimba South, Mzimba North, and Nkhotakota. The imported case is a refugee who just arrived at Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Dowa.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 3,386 cases including 79 deaths. **Figure 1** is a map of Malawi showing the number of cases in each affected district. Of these cases, 916 are imported infections and 2,470 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 1,328 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1,979. The average age of the cases is 36 years, the youngest case is aged 1 month, the oldest is 93 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 four borders and one airport (KIA) to allow transit of essential goods and services. In the past 24 hours, 198 people have entered Malawi. Active tracing and monitoring of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 are ongoing, currently, a total of 4,259 primary and secondary contacts of COVID-19 cases have been traced.

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.

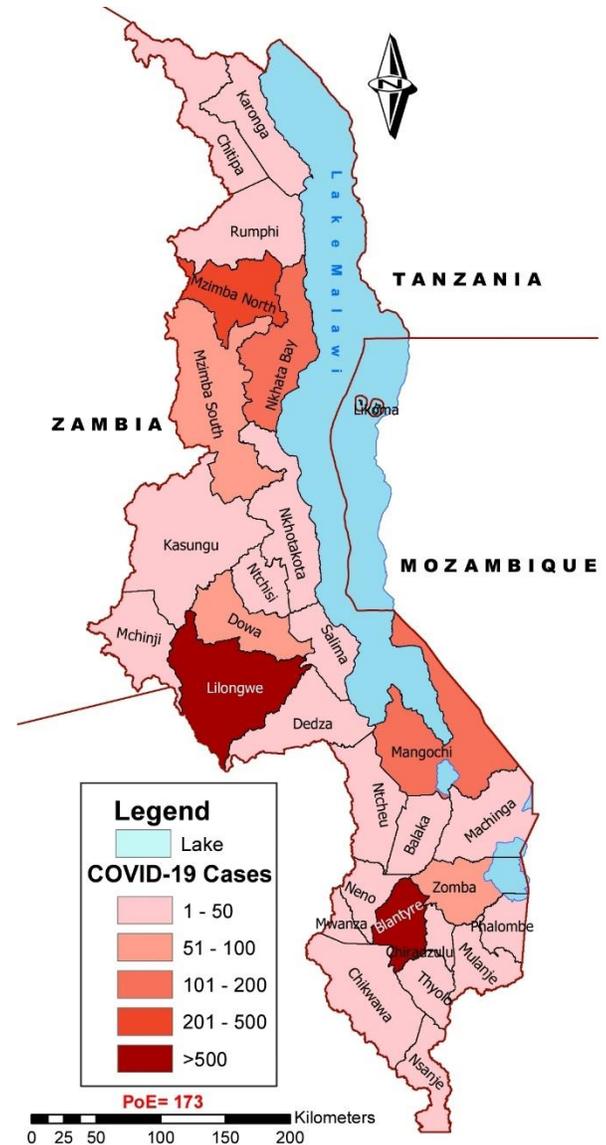


Figure 1: Map of Malawi showing distribution of COVID-19 cases

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

Parameter	Statistic
Cumulative confirmed cases	3,386
Number of active cases	1,979
Number of cases with a positive result in the past 24 hours	84
Cumulative deaths	79
Cumulative recoveries	1,328
Suspected cases	26,009
Cumulative specimen received by the lab	25,756
Cumulative specimen tested	25,756
Specimen tested by the lab in the past 24 hours	476
Cumulative contacts listed and follow up	4,259
PoEs* entries in the last 24 hours	198
High-risk travellers on follow up at district level**	1,542
Cumulative travellers completed 14 days follow up at a district	3,225
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)

Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 cases reported countrywide as of 23 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	25	22	991	0	32	0	140	130	861	0
Lilongwe	22	22	680	0	14	0	354	87	593	0
Mzimba North	1	-	446	0	10	18	190	11	435	0
Nkhata Bay	11	10	118	1	2	2	33	30	88	0
Mangochi	1	-	112	0	0	0	61	83	29	0
Mzimba South	1	3	100	0	1	0	21	29	71	0
Zomba	6	3	84	0	4	3	21	26	58	0
Dowa	3	-	60	0	1	3	12	27	33	0
Mchinji	1	1	47	0	5	0	12	5	42	0
Thyolo	0	1	46	0	1	0	28	26	20	4
Chitipa	2	-	46	0	2	2	38	4	42	0
Machinga	1	6	45	0	0	0	26	44	1	3
Neno	0	1	40	0	0	0	10	2	38	1
Karonga	4	3	39	1	2	0	11	12	27	0
Balaka	1	7	38	0	1	0	15	34	4	0
Ntcheu	0	2	37	0	0	2	15	26	11	3
Kasungu	1	4	37	0	1	3	8	14	23	0
Nsanje	2	5	33	1	1	0	19	23	10	0
Nkhotakota	0	9	32	0	0	0	22	29	3	3
Mulanje	0	-	30	0	1	3	13	9	21	2
Mwanza	0	-	28	0	1	0	9	13	15	3
Dedza	0	2	26	0	0	0	18	23	3	4
Rumphi	1	1	26	0	0	10	12	7	19	0
Salima	0	-	23	0	0	0	21	18	5	3
Chikwawa	0	4	20	0	0	0	17	16	4	2
Chiradzulu	1	-	17	0	0	0	24	12	5	0
Phalombe	0	-	9	0	0	0	5	3	6	4
Likoma	0	-	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Ntchisi	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Mwanza PoE	0	-	173	0	0	0	173	173	0	0
Total	84	106	3,386	3	79	46	1,328	916	2,470	

**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

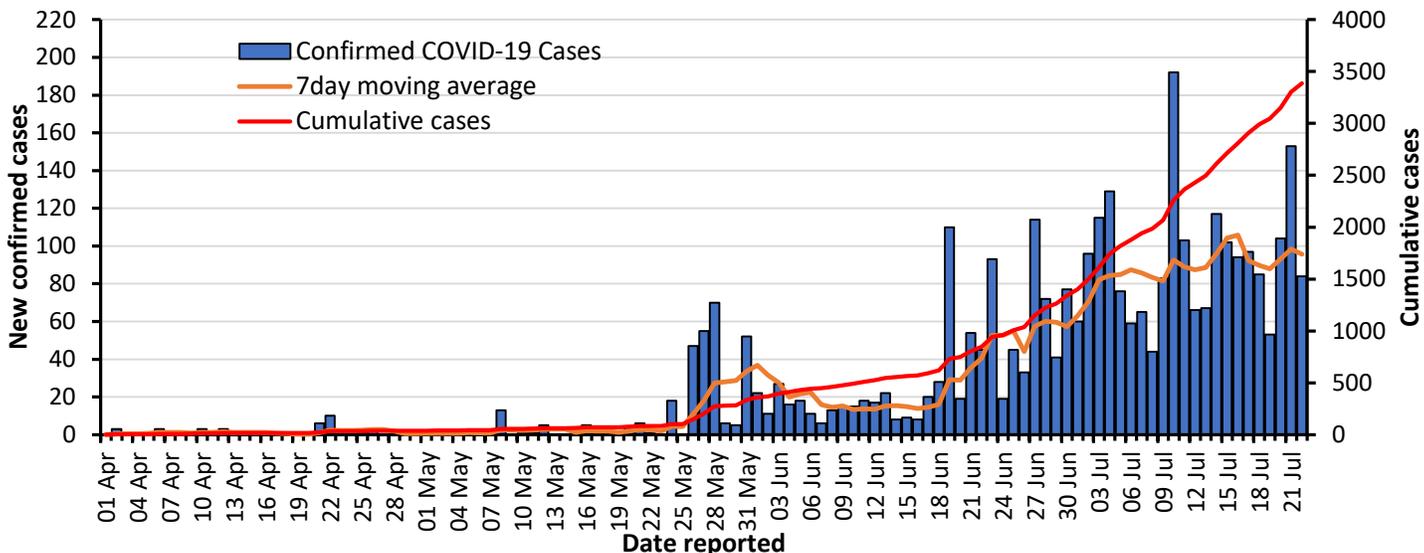


Figure 2: New and cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in Malawi by date reported as of 23 July 2020, 06:00

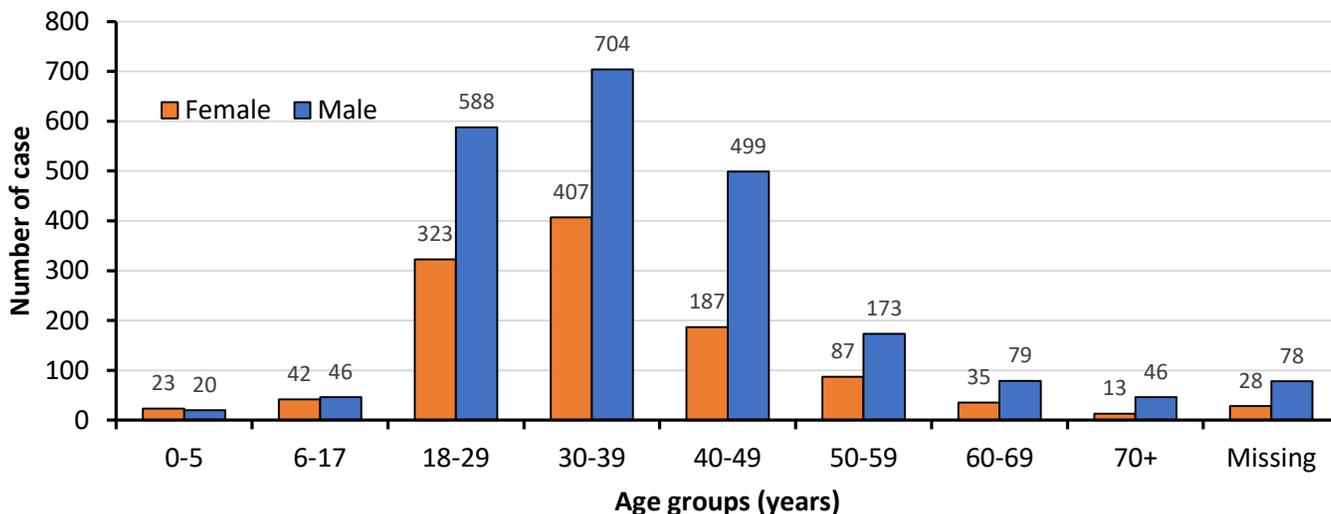


Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 23 July 2020

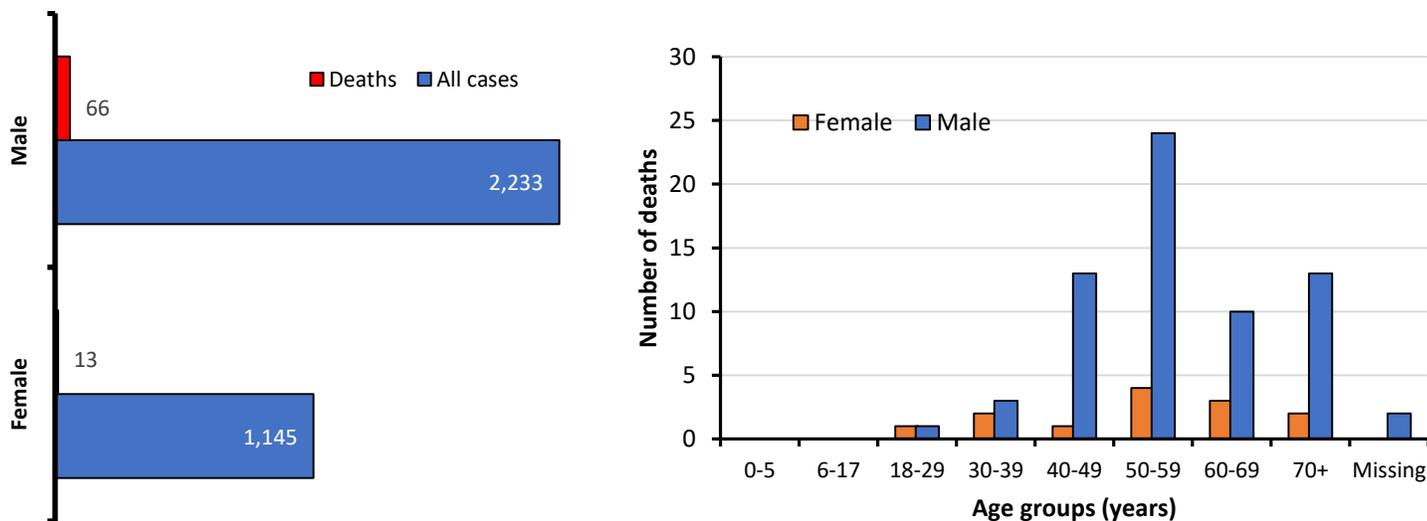


Figure 4: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Malawi as of 23 July 2020, 06:00

Summary of Prevention and Response Activities

Laboratory testing

Fourteen laboratories are testing COVID-19 using RT-PCR and 37 laboratories are testing using GeneXpert.

Table 4: Laboratory testing for COVID-19 in Malawi as of 23 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	3,387	10	10	3,379	8	43	421	2,915
NHRL	3,042	239	69	2,872	170	0	264	2,608
Blantyre DREAM	2,701	1	1	2,672	29	0	329	2,343
QECH	2,608	42	42	2,608	0	41	425	2,142
Mwanza	2,495	92	92	2,493	2	0	158	2,335
Mzuzu	1,754	3	3	1,724	30	32	443	1,249
Zomba	1,197	29	29	1,194	3	0	180	1,014
PIH	1,195	2	2	1,195	0	0	184	1,011
KCH	1,102	0	0	1,102	0	19	135	948
Bwaila	869	126	92	867	2	0	101	766
Mzimba South	808	10	10	808	0	0	69	739
MLW	779	2	2	775	4	14	50	711
Balaka DREAM	427	0	0	427	0	0	79	348
Mangochi	331	18	18	330	1	0	26	304
Nkhata Bay	326	18	18	326	0	0	80	246
Salima	269	0	0	269	0	0	16	253
Karonga	253	7	7	253	0	0	32	221
Mchinji	250	7	7	250	0	0	46	204
Dowa	204	11	11	204	0	0	53	151
Thyolo	192	0	0	192	0	9	19	164
Neno	179	14	14	178	1	0	35	143
Ntcheu	177	0	0	177	0	0	10	167
Balaka	157	1	1	157	0	0	29	128
Chitipa	150	2	2	150	0	0	35	115
Kasungu	147	9	9	147	0	0	24	123
Nsanje	137	3	3	137	0	0	21	116
Rumphi	130	0	0	130	0	0	20	110
Karonga MEIRU	124	0	0	124	0	3	14	107
Nkhotakota	115	7	7	113	2	0	5	108
Phalombe	87	1	1	87	0	0	6	81
Dedza	82	1	1	81	1	0	9	72
Mulanje	76	4	4	76	0	0	18	58
Lilongwe Lighthouse	48	6	6	48	0	0	8	40
Chikwawa	43	0	0	43	0	0	2	41
Kamuzu Barracks	36	0	0	36	0	0	10	26
Ntchisi	29	2	2	29	0	0	4	25
Likoma	24	7	7	24	0	0	2	22
Machinga	22	0	0	22	0	0	0	22
Chiradzulu	21	6	6	21	0	0	8	13
Blantyre Lighthouse	15	0	0	15	0	0	4	11
Wezi Medical Center	13	0	0	13	0	0	12	1
Nkhoma Mission	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	8
Total	26,009	680	476	25,756	253	161	3,386	22,209

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
- 1,891 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 1,328 cases have now recovered and 79 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

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. 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>