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MALAWI

COVID-19 daily situation report

31 August 2020, 6:00 am CAT

QUICK OUTLOOK

31 August 2020
6:00 am CAT

5,566 Confirmed cases

30 new cases

2,231 active cases

1,126 imported

4,440 local transmission

69% male

36.6 (12.9) mean age (SD), years

175 deaths (**1** new)

77% male

median age **56** years

3,160 recoveries

45,505 tests conducted

15 RT-PCR testing sites

37 GeneXpert testing sites

Highlights

- 30 new cases have been registered in the past 24 hours bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases to 5,566
- One new death has been registered in the past 24 hours bringing the total death toll in the country to 175
- 13 new recoveries have been recorded in the past 24 hours, cumulatively 3,160 people have recovered
- 994 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours, cumulatively 45,505 tests have been conducted
- 276 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[1]

As of 31 August2020, 25,085,685 (262, 146 new) COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, including 843,927 (5,560 new) deaths. Out of these 1,044,513 (6,095 new) cases and 21,722 (278 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	622,551	2,419	13,981	238	0
Zambia	11,902	123	284	1	0
Zimbabwe	6,406	18	196	1	0
Mozambique	3,760	63	22	1	0
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	112

[1] Data last updated: 31 August 2020, 10:54 pm CEST

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Local situation

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered 30 new COVID-19 cases, 13 new recoveries, and one new death. The new death is a 73-year-old man from Blantyre.

Ten of the new cases are locally transmitted and 20 are imported infections. Of the locally transmitted infections, seven are from Lilongwe and three are from Blantyre. The twenty imported cases were identified among 710 returnees from South Africa. Six of these cases are from Blantyre, five from Thyolo, three from Lilongwe, two from Machinga, and one each from Balaka, Mangochi, Nkhotakota, and Phalombe.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 5,566 cases including 175 deaths. **Figure 1** is a map of Malawi showing the distribution of cases in the country. Of these cases, 1,126 are imported infections and 4,440 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 3,160 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 2,231. The average age of the cases is 36.6 years, the youngest case is aged 1 month, the oldest is 98 years and 69% are male. **Table 3,** and **Figures 2, 3,** and **4** show detailed distributions of the cases and deaths.

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, 276 people have entered Malawi. Active tracing and monitoring of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 are ongoing, currently, a total of 6,089 primary and secondary contacts of COVID-19 cases have been traced.

Malawi continues 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.

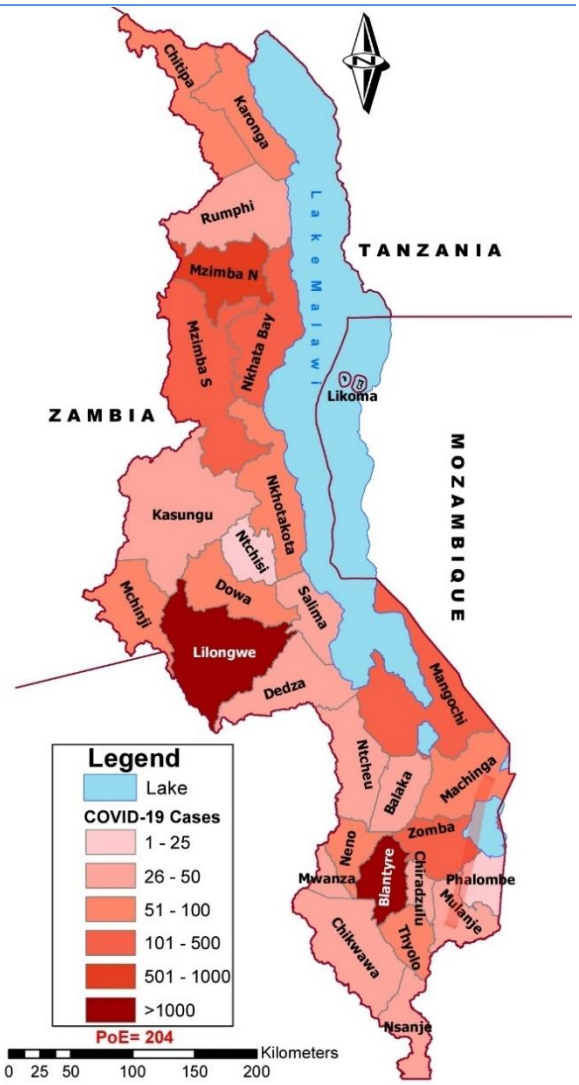

Figure 1: Map of Malawi showing distribution of COVID-19 cases

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

Parameter	Statistic
Cumulative confirmed cases	5,566
Number of active cases	2,231
New confirmed cases in the past 24 hours	30
Cumulative deaths	175
Cumulative recoveries	3,160
Suspected cases	45,558
Cumulative samples received by the lab	45,558
Cumulative samples tested	45,505
Samples tested in the past 24 hours	994
Cumulative contacts listed and follow up	6,089
PoEs* entries in the last 24 hours	276
High-risk travellers on follow up at district level**	6,419
Cumulative travellers completed 14 days follow up at a district	7,160
Cumulative COVID-19 pregnant cases	37

* Point of entry **Under-reported (few districts reported)

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Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 cases, deaths, and recoveries as of 31 August 2020, 6:00 am CAT

Reporting District	Confirmed Cases		Deaths		Recoveries		Transmission Classification*		Days since last reported case
	New	Total	New	Total	New	Total	Imported	Local	
Blantyre	9	1,858	1	72	3	805	169	1,689	0
Lilongwe	10	1,277	0	49	0	545	110	1,167	0
Mzimba North	0	547	0	13	0	290	17	530	4
Nkhata Bay	0	191	0	2	0	167	33	158	9
Mzimba South	0	152	0	2	0	116	34	118	1
Zomba	0	150	0	6	0	63	33	117	18
Mangochi	1	145	0	1	0	134	110	35	0
Nkhotakota	1	83	0	1	0	53	31	52	0
Karonga	0	82	0	4	2	66	13	69	4
Dowa	0	73	0	3	1	61	31	42	1
Machinga	2	71	0	0	0	59	61	10	0
Thyolo	5	66	0	1	0	57	32	34	0
Chitipa	0	64	0	3	0	60	6	58	4
Mchinji	0	63	0	5	0	36	5	58	4
Neno	0	58	0	0	0	58	3	55	35
Dedza	0	50	0	0	0	28	26	24	11
Balaka	1	49	0	1	2	38	39	10	0
Kasungu	0	48	0	1	0	39	14	34	8
Salima	0	48	0	0	0	47	25	23	3
Chikwawa	0	44	0	0	0	42	24	20	1
Ntcheu	0	44	0	1	0	42	29	15	3
Chiradzulu	0	44	0	1	0	23	17	27	3
Mulanje	0	40	0	1	0	39	12	28	15
Nsanje	0	35	0	1	5	29	25	10	1
Rumphi	0	32	0	3	0	21	8	24	14
Mwanza	0	28	0	1	0	26	11	17	13
Phalombe	1	12	0	1	0	8	4	8	0
Likoma	0	4	0	2	0	2		4	17
Ntchisi	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	4	12
Mwanza PoE	0	204	0	0	0	204	204	0	14
Total	**30**	**5,566**	**1**	**175**	**13**	**3,160**	**1,126**	**4,440**	

*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;

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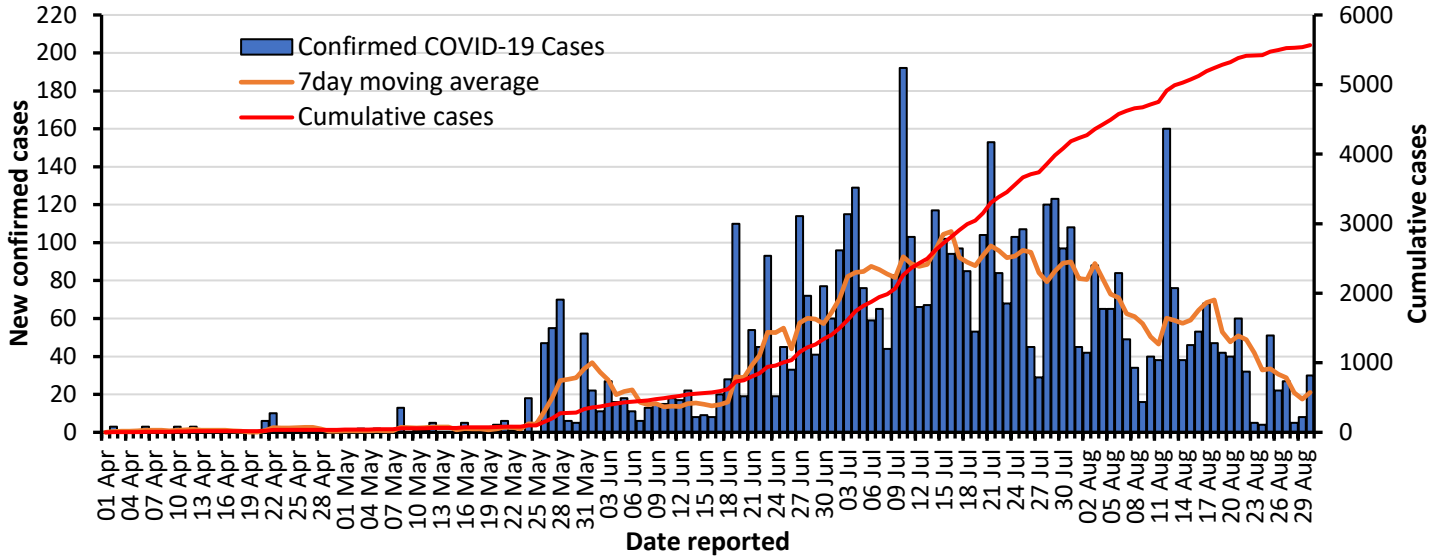

Figure 2: Epidemic curve of COVID-19 in Malawi of 31 August 2020, 6:00 am CAT

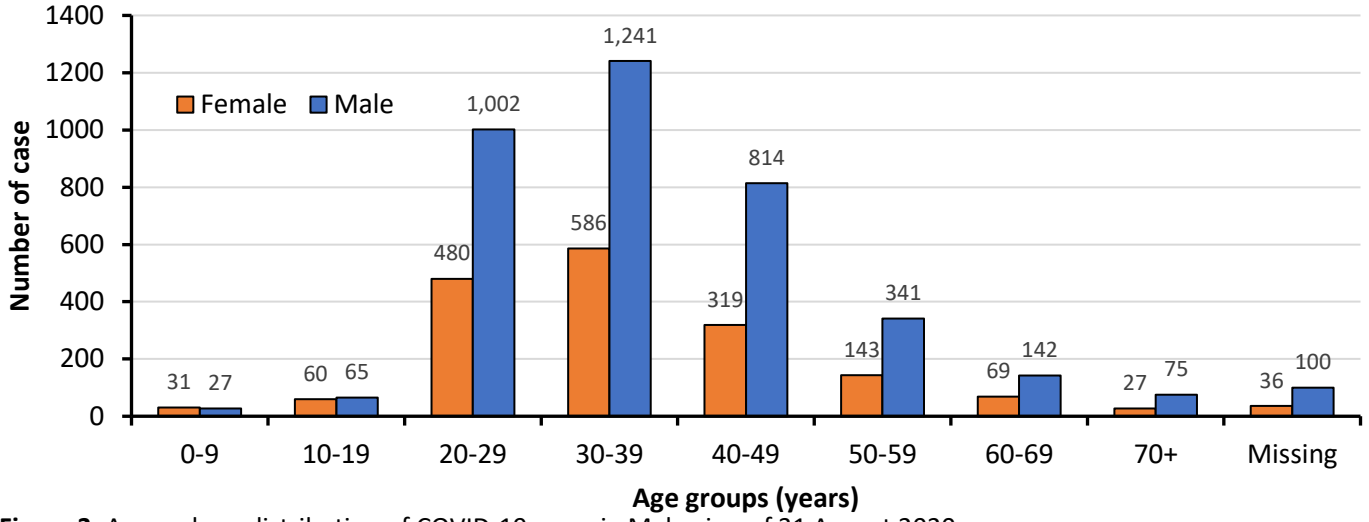

Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 31 August 2020

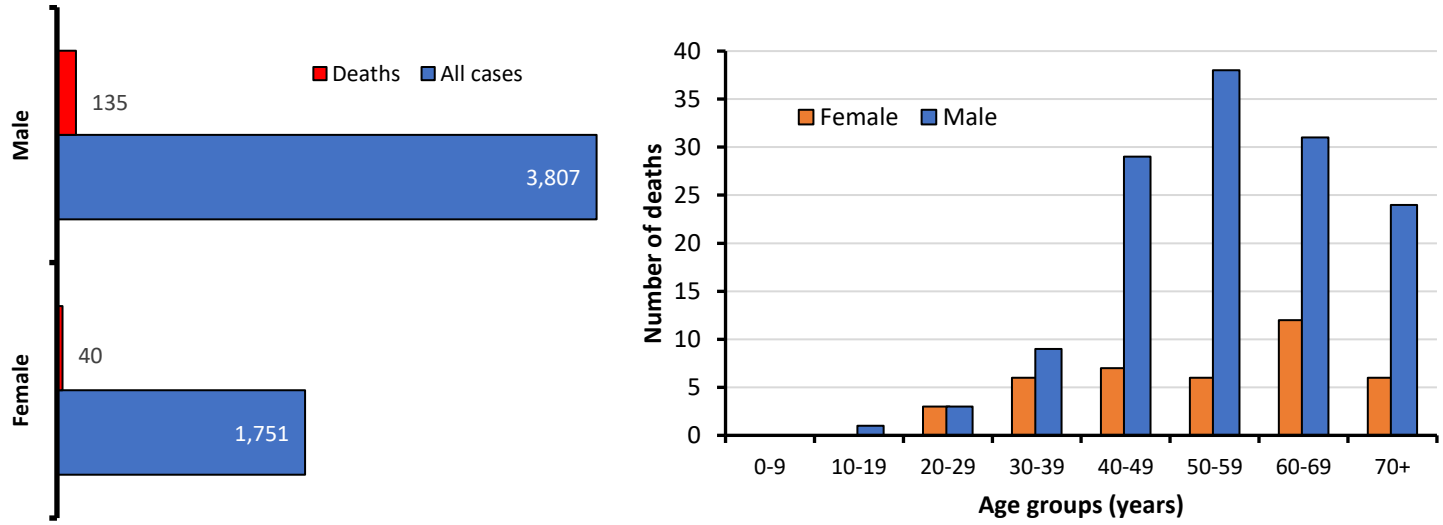

Figure 4: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Malawi as of 31 August 2020, 6:00 am CAT

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Summary of Prevention and Response Activities

Laboratory testing

Table 4: Laboratory testing for COVID-19 in Malawi as of 31 August 2020, 6:00 am CAT

Name of Laboratory	Cumulative samples	In the past 24hrs		Total samples		Result		
		Samples received	Samples tested	Tested	Pending	Indeterminate	Positive	Negative
Blantyre DREAM	7,879	234	234	7,864	15	1	800	7,063
QECH	5,647	35	35	5,646	1	41	858	4,747
NHRL	5,588	175	175	5,588	0	0	431	5,157
COM	3,803	0	0	3,802	1	43	459	3,300
KCH	2,888	144	140	2,884	4	3	320	2,561
PIH	2,608	0	0	2,608	0	5	442	2,161
Mwanza	2,570	0	0	2,570	0	0	167	2,403
Mzuzu	2,559	0	0	2,539	20	33	575	1,931
Zomba	2,360	188	188	2,353	7	0	256	2,097
Balaka DREAM	1,456	220	220	1,453	3	0	139	1,314
Mzimba South	1,082	0	0	1,082	0	2	113	967
Bwaila	1,013	0	0	1,013	0	0	126	887
MLW	859	0	0	857	2	14	53	790
Karonga	474	0	0	474	0	0	73	401
Nkhata Bay	443	0	0	443	0	0	108	335
Mchinji	403	0	0	403	0	0	58	345
Salima	363	0	0	363	0	0	32	331
Mangochi	330	0	0	330	0	0	26	304
Karonga MEIRU	310	0	0	310	0	5	23	282
Dowa	221	0	0	221	0	0	53	168
Thyolo	213	0	0	213	0	9	23	181
Nsanje	206	0	0	206	0	0	29	177
Chitipa	202	0	0	202	0	0	53	149
Kasungu	190	0	0	190	0	0	32	158
Kamuzu Barracks	188	0	0	188	0	0	54	134
Ntcheu	180	0	0	180	0	0	13	167
Neno	178	0	0	178	0	0	35	143
Nkhotakota	173	0	0	173	0	0	19	154
Balaka	160	0	0	160	0	3	19	138
Rumphi	143	0	0	143	0	0	24	119
Mulanje	123	0	0	123	0	0	26	97
Dedza	122	0	0	122	0	0	16	106
Phalombe	106	0	0	106	0	0	8	98
Chiradzulu	94	0	0	94	0	0	21	73
Likoma	76	0	0	76	0	0	4	72
Chikwawa	70	0	0	70	0	0	9	61
Lilongwe Lighthouse	67	0	0	67	0	0	10	57
Ntchisi	43	0	0	43	0	0	7	36
UNC Project Lilongwe	30	0	0	30	0	0	12	18
Wezi Medical Center	30	0	0	30	0	0	17	13
Malamulo Adventist	30	2	2	30	0	0	8	22
Machinga	28	0	0	28	0	0	6	22
Nkhoma Mission	26	0	0	26	0	0	5	21
Blantyre Lighthouse	24	0	0	24	0	0	4	20
Total	**45,558**	**998**	**994**	**45,505**	**53**	**159**	**5,566**	**39,780**

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:

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Clinical case management

- Eight cases are currently admitted in various treatment units across the country
- 14 cases are under institutional isolation
- 2,209 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 3,160 cases have now recovered and 175 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

- UNDP is supporting HTSS to fill-in LMIS gap for stock management and dispensing data which will include COVID-19
- A total of $2,237,432.87 worth of supplies are being procured by UNICEF through local processes
- Procurement of PPE targeting community health workers and will be arriving in the country before 30th August 2020
- 30,000 Abbott test kits procured with support from Global Fund will be arriving in the country by August/September
- PPE distribution to health facilities for the month of August will commence in the week ending 23rd August 2020 and will be supported by UNICEF

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- Live radio programs at Zodiak and MBC radio 1
- Sakhani moyo radio and TV drama, revised public service announcements, and radio jingles are now on air
- Conducted community engagement for Domasi Teacher Training College
- Finalized Osayidelera COVID-19 print materials and are ready for distribution
- Conducting RCCE weekly meetings and daily COVID-19 updates are shared through different platforms
- RCCE activities at district level conducted at minimal scale due to funding hiccups
- Revision of RCCE response plan in progress
- Monitoring of feedback, rumors, and misinformation on different platforms – on going
- The public can access the COVID-19 information by dialing *929#, 321 (Airtel), 54747, or by sending "hi" through WhatsApp to 0990 800 000, Facebook – Ministry of Health – Malawi, Twitter @health_malawi and website https://covid19.health.gov.mw

Coordination

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
- Public Health Emergency Operation Centre is now running 24/7
- Syndromic and health facility surveillance is in progress
- District Rapid Response Team Training

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Case definitions

The case definitions are based on the current information available and may be revised as new information accumulates.

1. **Suspect Case**
   a. A patient with a severe acute respiratory infection (FEVER[2] AND at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g., cough, shortness breath includes other severe COVID symptoms), AND with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation presenting to a health facility who may or may not require hospitalization.

   OR

   b. Patients with acute respiratory illness (at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g. sore throat, cough, difficulties in breathing, fever)) or other COVID-19 related symptoms (headache, fatigue, loss of smell and taste, diarrhea), AND with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation[3] AND at least one of the following:
      i. history of residence in an area reporting community transmission[4] within Malawi or travel to or residence in a country, area or territory reporting local transmission of COVID-19 during the 14 days before symptom onset

      OR

      ii. is a health care worker or any person who has been working in an environment where COVID-19 cases are being managed
   c. A person, with or without acute respiratory illness, having been in contact[5] with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, in the 2 days prior to14 days after onset of symptoms of the confirmed or probable case\
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[6]

3. **Confirmed Case**
   A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms

4. **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.

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[2] Fever includes both measured objectively and subjective from symptoms
[3] Clinicians should also be alert to the possibility of atypical presentations in patients who are immunocompromised
[4] Community transmission within Malawi, areas updated according to the positivity rate determined from tests conducted. Refer to updated list
[5] Contact is defined as:
- Providing direct care for COVID-19 patients, working with health care workers infected with coronavirus, visiting patients, or staying in the same close environment of a COVID-19 patient.
- Working together in close proximity or sharing the same classroom environment with a COVID-19 patient
- Traveling together in close proximity with a COVID-19 patient in any kind of conveyance
- Living in the same household as a COVID-19 patient
- Having attended a joint event of which patients with COVID-19 have been identified (meetings of different kinds where contact between participants is very likely) within a 14-day period after the onset of symptoms in the case under consideration

[6] Sample for Laboratory confirmation will be collected from Suspect Case including DECEASED suspect cases or unexplained sudden death and persons that have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and fit screening criteria for testing

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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 number of fatalities is also rising with at least one death being recorded daily. The Ministry of Health and partners continue in its efforts to ensure the citizens are protected from the Coronavirus outbreak and that the country can detect and respond to any cases that may arise.

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