

**QUICK  
OUTLOOK**

28 August 2020


**5,523**

Confirmed cases

**27** new cases

**2,206** active cases

**1,104** imported

**4,419** local transmission

**69%** male

**36.6 (12.9)** mean age  
(SD), years

**174** deaths (1 new)

**77%** male

 median age **56** years

**3,143** recoveries

**44,219** tests conducted

**15** RT-PCR testing sites

**37** GeneXpert testing sites

### Highlights

- 27 new cases have been registered in the past 24 hours bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases to 5,523
- One new death has been registered in the past 24 hours bringing the total death toll in the country to 174
- 22 new recoveries have been recorded in the past 24 hours, cumulatively 3,143 people have recovered
- 421 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours, cumulatively 44,219 tests have been conducted
- 291 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 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 27 August 2020, 24,257,989 (277,362 new) COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, including 827,246 (6,483 new) deaths. Out of these 1,026,101 (6,739 new) cases and 21,093 (265 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	615,701	2,684	13,502	194	0
Zambia	11,376	228	282	2	0
Zimbabwe	6,251	55	179	13	0
Mozambique	3,590	82	21	0	0
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	109



## Local situation

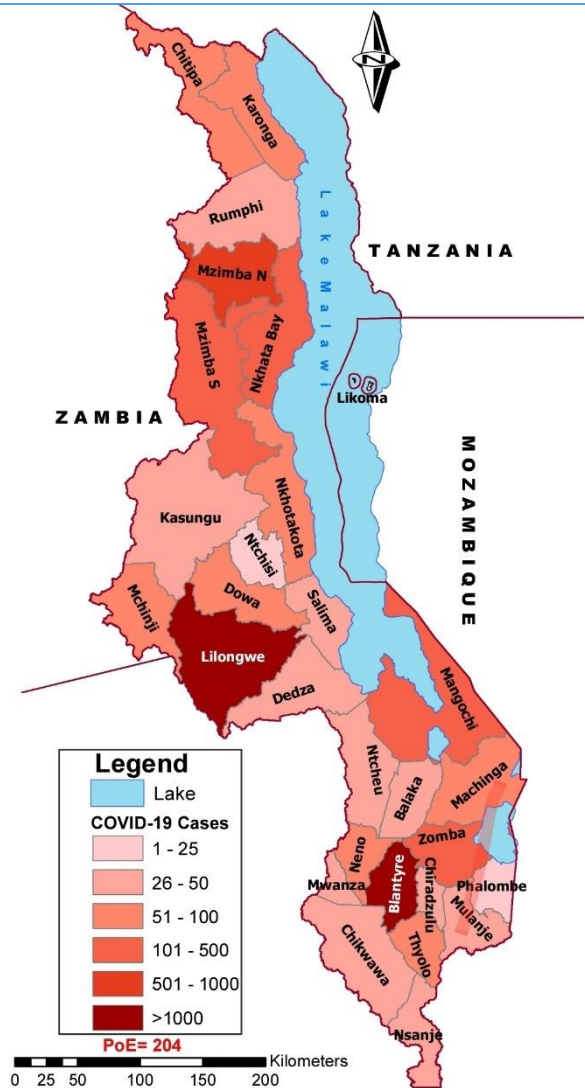
In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered 27 new COVID-19 cases, 22 new recoveries, and one new death. The new death is a 59-year-old man from Lilongwe.

Of the new cases, 21 are locally transmitted and six are imported infections. Of the locally transmitted infections, 17 are from Lilongwe, and four from Blantyre. The six imported cases were identified among 252 returnees that came through the Mwanza border.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 5,523 cases including 174 deaths. **Figure 1** is a map of Malawi showing the distribution of cases in the country. Of these cases, 1,104 are imported infections and 4,419 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 3,143 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 2,206. 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, 291 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.

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	5,523
Number of active cases	2,206
Number of cases with a positive result in the past 24 hours	27
Cumulative deaths	174
Cumulative recoveries	3,143
Suspected cases	44,444
Cumulative specimen received by the lab	44,444
Cumulative specimen tested	44,219
Specimen tested by the lab in the past 24 hours	421
Cumulative contacts listed and follow up	6,089
PoEs* entries in the last 24 hours	291
High-risk travellers on follow up at district level**	6,419
Cumulative travellers completed 14 days follow up at a district	7,160
COVID-19 cases that are pregnant	36

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

**Table 3:** Summary of COVID-19 cases, deaths, and recoveries as of 28 August 2020, 06:00

Reporting District	Confirmed Cases		Deaths		Recoveries		Transmission Classification*		Days since last reported case
	New	Total	New	Total	New	Total	Imported	Local	
Blantyre	4	1,844	0	71	0	802	162	1,682	0
Lilongwe	18	1,266	1	49	0	545	106	1,160	0
Mzimba North	0	547	0	13	1	290	17	530	1
Nkhata Bay	0	191	0	2	0	167	33	158	6
Mzimba South	0	151	0	2	0	116	34	117	6
Zomba	0	150	0	6	0	63	33	117	15
Mangochi	1	144	0	1	0	130	109	35	0
Karonga	0	82	0	4	9	64	13	69	1
Nkhotakota	0	81	0	1	0	53	30	51	1
Dowa	0	71	0	3	0	60	31	40	2
Machinga	1	69	0	0	0	59	59	10	0
Chitipa	0	64	0	3	0	60	6	58	1
Mchinji	0	63	0	5	0	36	5	58	1
Thyolo	0	60	0	1	0	57	26	34	9
Neno	0	58	0	0	0	58	3	55	32
Dedza	0	50	0	0	0	28	26	24	8
Kasungu	0	48	0	1	0	39	14	34	5
Salima	1	48	0	0	0	47	25	23	0
Balaka	0	47	0	1	0	36	38	9	6
Chikwawa	0	44	0	0	0	42	24	20	5
Ntcheu	1	44	0	1	0	42	29	15	0
Chiradzulu	1	44	0	1	8	23	17	27	0
Mulanje	0	40	0	1	4	39	12	28	12
Nsanje	0	34	0	1	0	24	24	10	15
Rumphi	0	32	0	3	0	21	8	24	11
Mwanza	0	28	0	1	0	26	11	17	10
Phalombe	0	11	0	1	0	8	3	8	16
Likoma	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	4	14
Ntchisi	0	4	0	0	0	2	1	3	9
Mwanza PoE	0	204	0	0	0	204	204	0	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5,523</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>4,420</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;

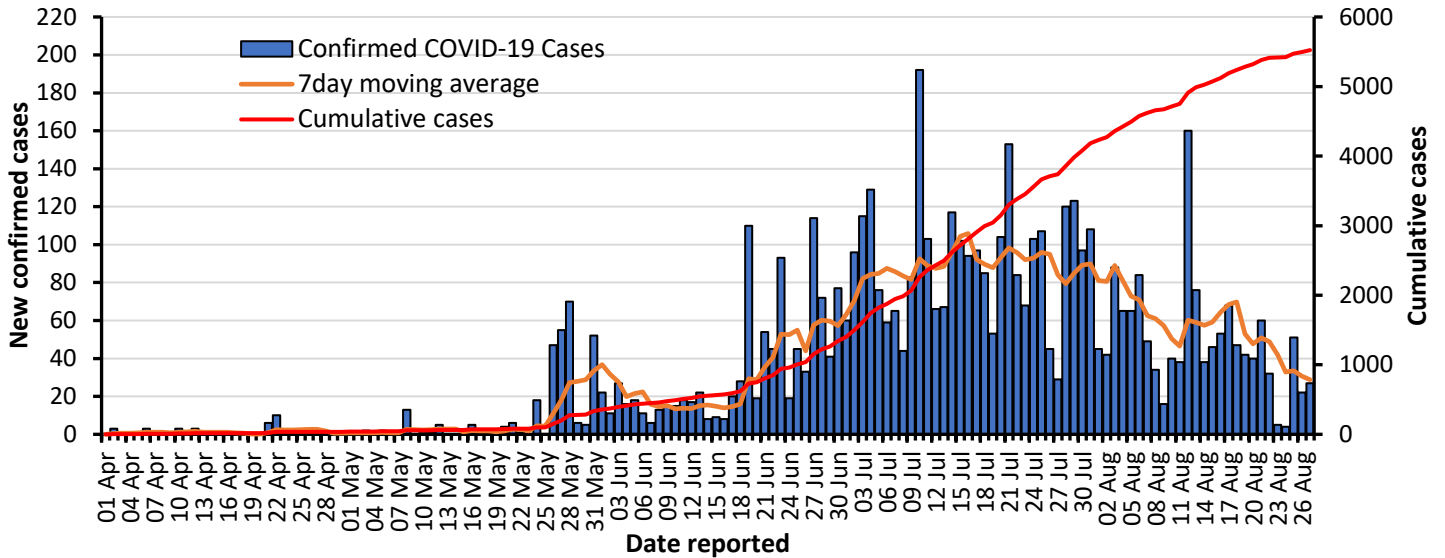


Figure 2: Epidemic curve of COVID-19 in Malawi of 28 August 2020, 06:00

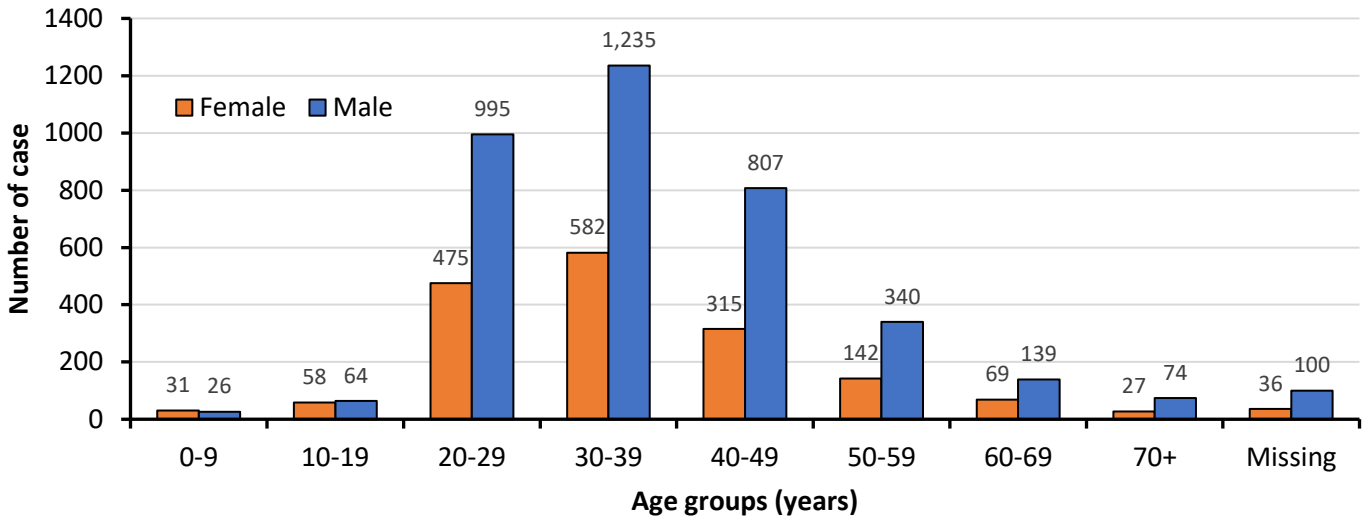


Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 28 August 2020

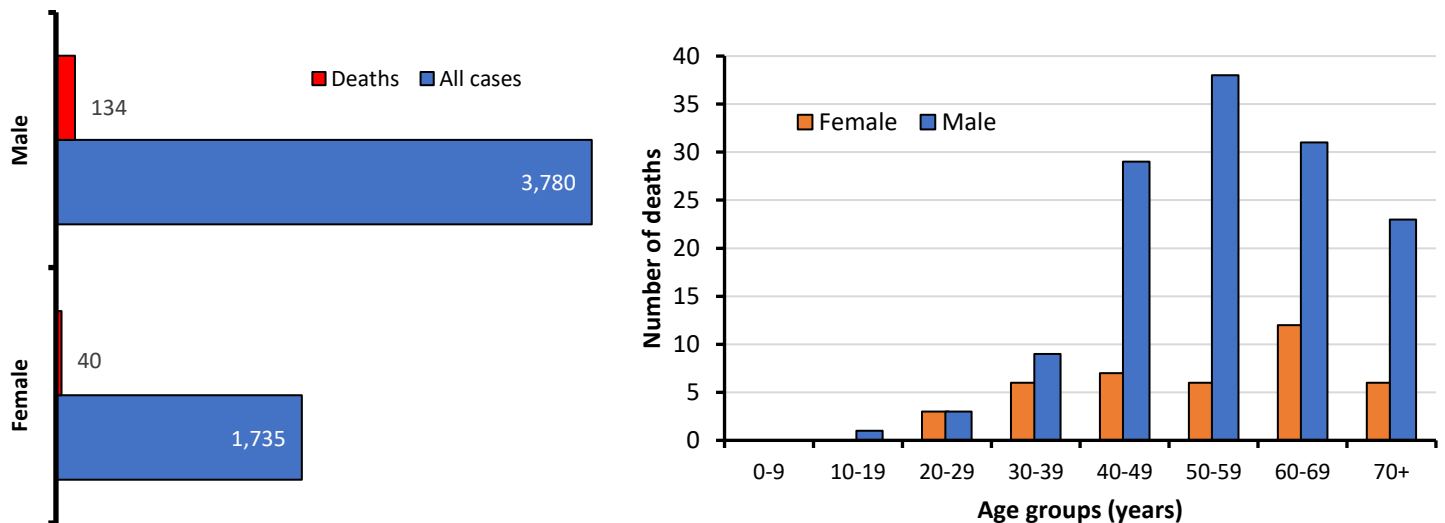


Figure 4: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Malawi as of 28 August 2020, 06:00



## Summary of Prevention and Response Activities

### Laboratory testing

**Table 4:** Laboratory testing for COVID-19 in Malawi as of 28 August 2020, 06:00

Name of Laboratory	Cumulative samples	In the past 24hrs		Total samples		Result		
		Samples received	Samples tested	Tested	Pending	Indeterminate	Positive	Negative
Blantyre DREAM	7,683	53	0	7,630	53	1	797	6,832
QECH	5,558	91	91	5,548	10	41	852	4,655
NHRL	5,374	29	29	5,373	1	0	428	4,945
COM	3,803	5	4	3,802	1	43	459	3,300
KCH	2,707	32	0	2,651	56	3	308	2,340
PIH	2,608	82	82	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	2,165	204	204	2,165	0	0	253	1,912
Balaka DREAM	1,236	0	0	1,187	49	0	124	1,063
Mzimba South	1,078	21	0	1,048	30	0	112	936
Bwaila	1,013	0	0	1,013	0	0	126	887
MLW	857	7	3	852	5	14	53	785
Karonga	474	3	3	474	0	0	73	401
Nkhata Bay	439	0	0	439	0	0	108	331
Mchinji	403	0	0	403	0	0	58	345
Salima	363	1	1	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
Chitipa	202	0	0	202	0	0	53	149
Nsanje	201	3	3	201	0	0	29	172
Kasungu	190	0	0	190	0	0	32	158
Kamuzu Barracks	187	0	0	187	0	0	54	133
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	1	1	122	0	0	16	106
Phalombe	106	0	0	106	0	0	8	98
Chiradzulu	93	0	0	93	0	0	21	72
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
Machinga	28	0	0	28	0	0	6	22
Malamulo Adventist	28	0	0	28	0	0	8	20
Nkhoma Mission	26	0	0	26	0	0	5	21
Blantyre Lighthouse	24	0	0	24	0	0	4	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,444</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>44,219</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>5,523</b>	<b>38,539</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

- Five cases are currently admitted in various treatment units across the country
- 16 cases are currently in institutional isolation
- 2,185 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 3,143 cases have now recovered and 174 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 Osayidelerera 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



## 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<sup>1</sup> 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 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<sup>2</sup> AND at least one of the following:
  - i. history of residence in an area reporting community transmission<sup>3</sup> 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<sup>4</sup> with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, in the 2 days prior to 14 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<sup>5</sup>

### 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.

<sup>1</sup> Fever includes both measured objectively and subjective from symptoms

<sup>2</sup> Clinicians should also be alert to the possibility of atypical presentations in patients who are immunocompromised

<sup>3</sup> Community transmission within Malawi, areas updated according to the positivity rate determined from tests conducted. Refer to updated list

<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>5</sup> 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



## 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 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>**