



Ministry of Health

PRESS STATEMENT

CHOLERA UPDATE AS OF 4TH JANUARY, 2023

In the past 24 hours, the Country has reported, a total of 465 new cases, 18 new deaths and 19 new suspected cases. The new cases have been reported from the following Districts; Blantyre (105), Mangochi (78), Balaka (50), Lilongwe (41), Dedza (35), Salima (33), Ntcheu (32), Machinga (25), Zomba (15), Mulanje (15), Chiradzulu (14), Dowa (13), Karonga (4), Neno (1), Chikwawa (1), Nsanje (1), Nkhotakota (1), and Mwanza (1). The new deaths are from Lilongwe (6), Salima (4), Blantyre (2), Dowa (2), Machinga (1), Mangochi (1), Ntcheu (1) and Dedza (1). The cumulative confirmed cases and deaths reported since the onset of the outbreak is 19,141 and 643 respectively, with Case Fatality Rate at 3.36%. A total of 17,621 people have recovered and 877 are currently in the treatments centres.

All the 29 Health Districts have reported Cholera cases since the confirmation of the first case in March 2022 in Machinga District. The outbreak has been controlled in four Districts. In the last 14 days, the disease has been reported in 25 Districts, namely Blantyre, Nkhata bay, Chikwawa, Nkhotakota, Rumphu, Karonga, Balaka, Mangochi, Lilongwe, Machinga, Mulanje, Salima, Ntcheu, Phalombe, Mwanza, Mzimba North, Dedza, Chiradzulu, Nsanje, Neno, Dowa, Zomba, Thyolo, Likoma, Mchinji and Ntchisi.

Since the onset of the outbreak, **Mangochi** has reported most of the cases (4,449 cases and 86 deaths), followed by **Blantyre** (2,502 with 111 deaths), **Salima** (1,908 cases and 54 deaths), **Nkhata Bay** (1,508 cases and 44 deaths), **Lilongwe** (1,420 cases and 113 deaths), **Nkhotakota** (1,212 cases and 53 deaths), **Rumphu** (1,040 cases and 17 deaths), **Karonga** (909 cases and 23 deaths), **Dedza** (609 cases and 23 deaths), **Mzimba North** (465 cases and two deaths), **Machinga** (420 cases and 22 deaths), **Nsanje** (307 cases and 14 deaths), **Balaka** (324 cases and 5 deaths), **Chikwawa** (240 cases and six deaths), and **Neno** (208 cases and five deaths).

On the delay in opening of schools in Blantyre and Lilongwe cities, let me emphasize that there is need for compliance for both Private and Public schools. Let me assure the Public that Government will ensure that there is minimum disruption to the academic calendar. The Ministry of education will strive to provide catch up lessons in schools which are to miss classes in the next 10 days. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health have developed standard operating procedures (SoPs) for Cholera prevention in schools and will ensure that the SoPs are being strictly followed to prevent Cholera in schools. Just also to emphasize that apart from the Blantyre and Lilongwe Districts, the rest of the Districts have opened school today. Let me appeal to all Private schools to follow Government regulations on the same.

No one is safe until everyone is safe.

Honorable Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH