



Malawi Government

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND POPULATION

PRESS RELEASE

4TH November 2019.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION ON CHOLERA PREVENTION IN MALAWI AS THE
RAINY SEASON APPROACHES**

On 29th October, 2019, the Ministry received a report that one cholera patient was admitted for treatment at Nthenje Health Centre in Lilongwe District. The patient was discharged on 1st November, 2019, and she is well and at home. No other cholera case has been reported in the district (Lilongwe) or any other district in the country.

The Ministry of Health and Population would like to remind the general public that cholera can be prevented and treated. Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium called "vibrio cholerae". The main signs and symptoms are diarrhea with or without vomiting and it usually spreads when a person swallows (ingests) water or food which has been contaminated by faeces and vomitus of an infected person. The disease affects both children and adults and if untreated can kill within hours. Cholera is more common during the rainy season.

The Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Health and Population and development partners have put in place measures to prevent and control cholera in the country. The main activities being implemented include:

- Strengthening surveillance of diarrheal cases
- distributing chlorine to communities for water treatment
- sending out cholera control information to all the people with support from the media
- administering cholera vaccine in cholera prone areas.

Cholera is preventable by drinking safe water, proper use of latrines, washing hands after visiting the toilet or before handling food, using safe/treated water all the time and practising food hygiene.

All people in the country are being reminded to go to the hospital without delay if they develop diarrhoea or if they are suffering from any other disease. Medical supplies for treatment of cholera patients are available in all health facilities in the country.

For more information, please contact

The Head of the Epidemiology Unit of MoH, Dr. Kagoli on 0888899441 E-mail: mkagoli@yahoo.com

Dr Charles Mwansambo
CHIEF OF HEALTH SERVICES