

## Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 26 May 2020

Regarding today's COVID-19 situation in Thailand, one case recovered and was discharged (a total of 2,929 cases have recovered or 96.19% of the total number of the confirmed cases) and 59 were being treated in hospitals (1.94% of the total number of confirmed cases). Today, three new COVID-19 cases were confirmed (two confirmed cases who returned from Kuwait, and one confirmed case returned from Russia) and they were under state quarantine. This brought the total number to 3,045 cases and the total of deaths remained at 57 cases. There were no reports of deaths for today.

Currently, Thailand is entering the rainy season. One of the most common diseases during this season is influenza, which has respiratory symptoms similar to COVID-19 (fever, cough, and muscle aches). Both diseases are caused by a virus that can be transmitted through coughing, sneezing, mucus, saliva, and phlegm which can remain on hands or surfaces such as door knobs, railings, and elevator buttons. Hence, the best self-protection includes frequently washing hands, keeping 1-2 meters of social distance from others, and wearing a face mask/cloth mask to decrease the spread of droplets while talking, coughing, and sneezing. If you exhibit those symptoms, you must seek medical attention at a hospital. Moreover, you must provide the correct information to help the doctors make a diagnosis and differentiate between COVID-19 and influenza. Currently, the hospitals under the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) have set up flu clinics to separate patients with respiratory symptoms from patients with other diseases to prevent the disease from spreading.

The MOPH is promoting the annual flu vaccine especially in 7 groups including 1) women who are 4 or more months pregnant, 2) children aged 6 months to 2 years old, 3) people with underlying chronic diseases including COPD, asthma, heart disease, CVD, kidney failure, diabetes, and people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, 4) the elderly aged 65 years or more, 5) the mentally disabled, 6) people with thalassemia, or people with symptomatic HIV infection, 7) obese people weighing 100 kg. (or BMI 35 kg./sqm.) or more, and healthcare workers. They should visit the healthcare facility nearest their residence for flu shots from today until 31 August 2020.

On 26 May 2020, 386 Thai citizens are returning to Thailand from Italy, Malaysia, Japan, and Taiwan. They will be under observation for 14 days in designated state quarantine facilities and must be tested twice for SARS-CoV-2. If individuals are positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), they will receive timely treatment that can prevent the spread of the disease across the nation.