

Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 31 May 2020

Today (31 May 2020) at the Centre of COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi, Dr. Panprapa Yongtrakul Vice-Spokesperson of CCSA stated that regarding the COVID-19 situation in Thailand, two cases recovered and were discharged (a total of 2,963 cases have recovered or 96.17% of the total number of the confirmed cases) and 61 were being treated in hospitals (1.97% of the total number of confirmed cases). Today, four new COVID-19 cases were confirmed which include one confirmed case who returned from the United Arab Emirate, two confirmed cases who returned from Turkey, and one confirmed case who returned from Saudi Arabia. All were under state quarantine. This brought the total number of cases to 3,081. The total number of deaths remained at 57 as there were no reports of COVID-19 deaths today.

From the reports of confirmed cases in the previous 2 weeks of the government's relaxation of the restriction measures, among 53 confirmed cases, the majority (44 cases or 83.02% of the confirmed cases) were people who returned from abroad and were being observed under state quarantine supported by the government. Nine cases (16.98%) were infected in Thailand (six cases were close contacts with confirmed cases and three cases were infected by going to public areas). Although the government has relaxed the measures, it has not impacted the total number of patients in Thailand. This success has come from the cooperation of both people practicing personal measures such as social distancing, wearing hygienic or fabric masks, and washing hands, and business owners providing standard area management, temperature screening points, hand sanitizing alcohol gel service points, and enforcing entry-exit registration by the “ไทยชนะ” digital platform.

Thai people from abroad are continually returning to Thailand. Before boarding the plane, they are screened and anyone found to have illness, fever, coughing, runny nose or respiratory symptoms is not allowed to board. Airlines have provided standards for preventing infection. On the plane, those who pass the screening are required to wear a mask while traveling and upon arrival in the country, they are screened again. If anyone meets the criteria for PUI, they are brought to receive treatment immediately. Passengers with no suspected symptoms are put under the surveillance system for 14 days at state quarantine facilities or an alternative state quarantine (hotels) where health services are also provided by healthcare workers.

May 31st of every year is World No-Tobacco Day and this year's motto is "addiction to smoking and getting COVID-19 are risks of death." It is recommended to stop smoking to reduce the risk of death. Smoking can increase the risk of disease transmission since when smoking, there might be saliva, secretions, droplets and pathogens spreading to other people. In addition, the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) stated that a study of the factors of COVID-19 in patients at hospital, showed that patients who smoke had a higher chance of developing severe symptoms than non-smoking patients and had a fourteen times higher risk of death than people who did not smoke.