

Special Announcement of COVID-19

On 1 June 2020

Regarding today's COVID-19 situation in Thailand, two cases recovered and were discharged (a total of 2,965 cases have recovered or 96.2% of the total number of the confirmed cases) and 60 were being treated in hospitals (1.95% of the total number of confirmed cases). Today, one new COVID-19 case was confirmed in someone who returned from Russia and was under state quarantine. This brought the total number of cases to 3,082. The total number of deaths remained at 57 as there were no reports of deaths today.

On June 1st, the government began phase 3 of relaxing the restriction measures to allow more businesses/activities to operate. This included shortening the curfew (11 p.m. – 3 a.m.), extending the shopping mall and convention center closing hours to 9 p.m., relaxing the measures placed upon beauty shops and sport stadiums, and allowing some business to open such as zoos, cinemas, fitness centers, spas and Thai massage centers. This phase will increase the number of customers and people gathering together, which in turn increases the risk of spreading and contracting the infection. Business owners should strictly manage the implementation of the policies to prevent the spread of infection from both clients and service providers such as temperature checks and screening. Everyone who enters the area needs to wear a surgical mask/cloth mask. They also need to arrange a designated entrance and exit, provide alcohol gel for hand washing, arrange space for social distancing of 1-2 meters, and limit the number of people and duration of each service. There should be routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces such as handrails, push buttons, toilets, faucets, tables every 2 hours, which will also build the confidence of the people. Those who use any of the services are suggested to be concerned about their health and safety by strictly following the requirements of each place. The main important things are to wear a hygiene mask/cloth mask, keep distance between others and wash hands frequently.

The COVID-19 situation in Thailand has continually improved with most of the new cases found in Thai people returning from abroad under quarantine at the designated places. The number of new cases via local transmission in the country has decreased and there have not been any reports of local transmission for the past 7 days. However, people must not let their guard down or neglect to wear a mask since these kinds of actions will increase the risk of disease transmission. Therefore, people are requested to protect themselves by wearing a mask, frequently washing their hands, implementing social distancing and getting used to the new normal so as to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.

The public is invited to answer a questionnaire about social media information management during the COVID-19 epidemic (Week 4) to assess online-media literacy due to the report that 80% of fake news on COVID-19 has been shared via Facebook. The questionnaire can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/TrueorFalseCOVID19> or scan via QR Code. Each questionnaire will result in a 5-baht donation to charity.

