

## Special Announcement of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 on 5 February 2020

### 1. The situation on 5 February 2020 at 8.00 A.M.

1. There are currently 16 confirmed cases being treated in hospitals and nine cases who returned to their homes, which brings the total number of novel coronavirus infection cases detected in Thailand to 25.

2. From 3 January to 4 February 2020, the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) was raised to 549 people. Of those, 48 PUI were detected from the airport screening, 501 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals, and 124 cases recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 425 PUI are admitted at hospitals. On 4 February 2020, 57 new cases met the criteria of PUI.

3. Regarding the international situation from 5 January to 4 February 2020, there were 20,682 confirmed cases around the world, with 20,485 cases coming from all regions of the People's Republic of China, and 427 have died.

4. The Ministry of Public Health needs the cooperation from the public to follow its recommendations. With the public's cooperation, the situation will improve. The public is advised not to believe all of the circulating rumors from different sources. Please "Check before you Share." Information about patients are prohibited to share on online channels out of respect to the individual. Do not share the news situation from unreliable sources because incorrect information may cause widespread panic. Individuals spreading fake information can be found guilty under Thailand's Computer Crime Act of 2017. Please follow the news from the Ministry of Public Health. If you have any questions, you can ask the Department of Disease Control hotline: 1422, 24 hours per day or visit the website <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/intro.php>, Line @ / Facebook : ฐั้ ทั้ น โ้ ร ค , Coronavirus2019, กรมควบคุมโรค กระทรวงสาธารณสุข. You can avoid fake news by checking the website from the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society [www.antifakenewscenter.com](http://www.antifakenewscenter.com) as well.

### 2. The Ministry of Public Health has good news. The first confirmation of a locally acquired case of 2019-nCoV can return home.

Today, the Ministry of Public Health shared that the first pneumonia patient infected by 2019-nCoV via local transmission in Thailand who was admitted at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute (BIDI), had negative laboratory results for 2019-nCoV. So, the patient was discharged from the hospital to return home. Family members and close contacts were continuously followed up on routinely and nobody was infected.

Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, along with Public Health Permanent Secretary Sukhum Kanchanaphimai, Director-General of the Department of Disease Control Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, and Deputy Director of BIDI, Dr. Kritsada Bunprasart held a news conference. One patient, a Thai case admitted at BIDI who recovered from 2019-nCoV infection and was discharged today, also joined the news conference. Mr. Anutin said he received good news from BIDI that this Thai male case who was the first case of local transmission in Thailand in critical condition was first admitted to BIDI. He had recovered as a result



# Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

of good treatment by the medical teams while confined in a negative pressure room at BIDI. The latest laboratory results confirmed he was negative so he completely recovered from the infection and returned home. Thailand stands at 16 cases being treated in hospitals, and 9 discharged for a total of 25 confirmed cases. Most of the patients who are being treated in hospitals are getting better. Some cases were in critical condition, but are stable and medical teams are closely monitoring the patients.

Now, the scope of the implementation to deal with the situation of pneumonia caused by the Novel Coronavirus 2019 was scaled up to the national level. A wide range of ministries and sectors have joined hands together to drive effective measures to fight against 2019-nCoV. The Ministry of Public Health has implemented effective screening and provided high-quality treatment to patients. For the process of laboratory diagnosis, Thailand has a good laboratory system in accordance with international standards and can detect and diagnose the virus quickly. In addition, with the experienced medical officers and experts who have experience coping with many outbreaks in the past, Thailand has been widely praised by the WHO and many countries regarding the strong and effective public health system which helps elevate the quality of disease prevention and control above the normal standard. In the meantime, Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, Director General of the Department of Disease Control stated that the patient, who is a taxi driver, has a history of servicing Chinese tourists. When he got a fever, he complied with the MoPH's recommendation by stopping his driving service, wearing a mask and informing his history of contact with risky groups to the doctor. These actions allowed him to be on the right track of the disease prevention and control process promptly and his close contacts were specified as having no symptoms of the disease after being closely followed up by the medical officers in accordance with disease surveillance standards. This patient is a good example of a public taxi driver who helped to reduce the risk of disease transmission since he realized the importance of updating the information and knowledge, and abiding by the MoPH's recommendations. In this regard, we advise drivers of public transportation to clean the surfaces that passengers frequently touch, such as door handles, seat cushions and armrests, with detergent or disinfectant or 70% alcohol solutions, which can destroy the virus. Drivers should wear a face mask while driving. Drivers can use a mask made from fabric and should wash their hands frequently.

### **3. Activity Report at Points of Entry**

From 3 January to 23 January 2020, among 137 flights to Thailand, 21,522 travelers were screened with thermal scans at five airports, including Suvarnabhumi Airport, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Krabi. The screening protocol has been expanded to Chiang Rai airport as another new site. There were 276 flights with 13,411 passengers and air crew members travelling from China that had been screened for suspected symptoms of the disease between 24 January and 3 February 2020. The Ministry of Public Health has provided staff rotating schedules to support officers at the points of entry for efficient work 24 hours per day. All tourists will receive health advice (health beware cards) from the immigration officials and officers at the points of entry.

### **4. Daily recommendations for protecting yourself from the novel coronavirus 2019.**

Remind everyone to frequently wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol gel. Do not use your hands to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth unnecessarily and strictly follow the "Avoid eating uncooked food, use serving spoons, wash your hands" instructions.