



Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

Special Announcement of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 on 7 February 2020

1. The situation on 7 February 2020 at 8.00 A.M.

1. There are currently 16 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) 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 5 February 2020, the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 615 people. Of those, 49 PUI were detected from the airport screening and 566 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals, and 225 cases recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 390 PUI are admitted at hospitals. On 6 February 2020, 20 new cases met the criteria of PUI.

3. Regarding the international situation from 5 January to 6 February 2020, there were 28,273 confirmed cases around the world, with 28,018 cases coming from all regions of the People's Republic of China, and 563 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/>, Line @ / Facebook : รู้กันทันโรค , Coronavirus2019, กรมควบคุมโรค กระทรวงสาธารณสุข. You can avoid fake news by checking the website from the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society www.antifakenewscenter.com as well.

2. The Ministry of Public Health reports the total number of pneumonia cases by Novel Coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) infection in Thailand changed the rank from 2nd most to 4th most

The Ministry of Public Health reported that there are pneumonia patients by 2019-nCoV infections in 27 countries. Some countries have had additional cases while Thailand still has 25 confirmed cases, changing the rank from 2nd most cases to 4th most cases in the world. All patients have improved. The group of Thai people who came back from Wuhan had one case that met the criteria for a patient under investigation and one close contact who lived in the same room. They were admitted to a hospital and their specimens were sent to the laboratory. The previous four followed-up patients improved. Their mental states are good and all of them cooperated with the advice.

Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, Director - General, Department of Disease Control, along with Dr. Kiattibhoom Vongrachit, Director-General, Department of Mental Health jointly reported the world situation of 2019-nCoV at a press conference that the number of infected cases continues to climb. Currently, laboratory-confirmed cases of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) have reached



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27 countries, including Thailand, with a total of 28,273 confirmed cases. In some countries, there were additional cases confirmed. Thailand does not have any cases of people who died and the total number of confirmed cases stands at 25, dropping from ranking second most to fourth most of countries with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infections worldwide. The 16 Thai patients who were being treated in the hospital are showing better health conditions. Patients who were in critical condition, have been getting hospital treatment in isolation rooms and they were being closely monitored by a medical team. There was one case showing flu-like symptoms among the Thai nationals returned from Wuhan and quarantined at the Sattahip naval base in Chon Buri province. The case has one close contact and they were sent to the hospital. Their samples were sent for laboratory testing. Today, the previous four patients under investigation were in stable condition and reconfirmation lab tests are pending. Surveillance among crew members has been implemented following the standardized protocol of the MOPH.

The prompt implementation of disease surveillance allowing detection of the first case of novel coronavirus 2019 outside China's mainland showed that Thailand has an effective disease surveillance system together with good collaboration from relevant partners and communities.

In the meantime, Dr. Kiattibhoom Vongrachit, the Director General of the Department of Mental Health stated that after patients were assessed by MCATT regarding the mental condition, the result showed that everybody has willpower and is ready to comply with the regulations for disease prevention and control. There are no patients with tensions levels higher than the normal standard. Three of them who have existing depression have continually received medical treatment. The symptoms exhibited reflect general conditions. The medical team planned to implement the surveillance for 2 weeks. If anyone is at risk of a mental health problem, the medical team will keep following up the symptoms for 6 months.

For the general population, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) will conduct mental health surveys and will respond as well as help solving their problems. The DMH encourages people to raise their awareness but not to panic. It is also recommended to comply with the MoPH's recommendations, reduce uptake of news from untrustworthy sources and not share fake or unverified news.

3. The result of implementation at Health Control

From 3-23 January 2020, the Department of Disease Control has been implementing its surveillance protocol by fever screening of arrival passengers with Thermoscan. A total of 137 flights with 21,522 were screened at 5 main airports, i.e. the Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Krabi airports. From 24 January – 6 February 2020, the screening protocol began to be implemented at Chiang Rai Airport. Among a total of 363 flights travelling from China, there were 19,188 passengers and air crew members that were screened for the disease. For more effective screening throughout 24 hours, MoPH has also provided staff to assist the health officers at points of entry.

All passengers will receive a Health Beware Card from immigration officers and health officers at health control.

4. The daily recommendation for preventing the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

It is recommended to frequently wash hands with water and soap or use alcohol gel, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and comply with the recommendations “eating cooked food, using serving spoons and washing hands”