



Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

Special Announcement of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 on 10 February 2020

By Dr. Thaweessin Witsanuyothin,
Region 10, Senior medical and Ministry of Public Health spokesman.

1. The situation on 10 February 2020 at 8.00 A.M.

1. There are currently 22 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) being treated in hospitals and 10 cases who returned to their homes, which brings the total number of novel coronavirus infection cases detected in Thailand to 32.

2. From 3 January to 9, February 2020, the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 689 people. Of those, 51 PUI were detected from the airport screening and 631 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals, and 334 cases recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 355 PUI are admitted at hospitals.

3. Regarding the international situation from 5 January to 9 February 2020, there were 40,553 confirmed cases around the world, and 909 deaths, with 40,171 cases coming from the People's Republic of China, and 907 deaths.

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 advises people to often wash hands and wear hygienic masks for preventing spread of the novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV)

The Ministry of Public Health said the novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) spread through droplets of saliva, coughing and sneezing. The MoPH advises people to wear hygienic masks and wash hands often to decrease the risk of getting the infection.

Dr. Sapon Iamsirithaworn, Director, Division of Communicable Diseases, Department of Disease Control, along with Adjunct Associate Professor, Dr. Tawee Chotpitayasunondh, a senior medical consultant, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health have jointly reported an update of Thailand's situation of 2019-nCoV. Dr. Sapon said MOPH still



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continues to focus on intensively screening tourists, workers who interact with travelers, and close contacts of patients in order to prevent a wide spread of the virus. The general public may have concerns about how to protect themselves against 2019-nCoV infection. Most often, novel coronavirus can generally spread through respiratory droplets with about a maximum of two metres distance from the infected person. People can be infected by direct contact with secretions including saliva, and phlegm that virus can transmit through mucous by touching their mouth, eyes, or nose mouth with contaminated hands.

However, some medical operation procedures, i.e. bronchoscopy and lung suctioning will make mucous droplets become smaller and travel farther. The high risk groups under this circumstance are medical doctors, nurses, health officers and close contacts. For the general public, it is recommended to protect themselves from the disease by frequently washing hands with soap or alcohol gel, and wearing a mask when visiting crowded places. For the group of people who traveled back from Wuhan, there are currently 5 people admitted at the hospital and 133 people living in a prepared residence. All of those people are in good health conditions without any fever and are waiting for the termination of the surveillance period on 19 February 2020. Regarding the confirmed case at Chonburi Hospital, the patient has not shown any abnormal symptoms. Now the case is in the process of further sample collection and awaiting laboratory results.

3. The results of implementation at Health Control

From 3-23 January 2020, the Department of Disease Control has been implementing the surveillance protocol by fever screening of arrival passengers of direct flights from Wuhan, China at the Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Krabi airports. On 24 January, the screening protocol began to be implemented at Chiang Rai Airport. The screening protocol has expanded to cover all arrival and departure flights from China at Suvarnabhumi Airport from January 29 to February 9, 2020. There were a total of 682 flights and 54,495 passengers and air crew members that were screened for the disease. The screening protocol has been expanded to cover all nations of passengers, and all arrival and departure flights at Suvarnabhumi airport. An accumulated number of 1,257,936 people was screened at the airport. For more effective screening throughout 24 hours, MoPH has also provided staff to assist the health officers at points of entry.

For the screening protocol outside the airports, there were 41,282 people that were screened at five sea ports (Bangkok, Laem Chabang, Chiang Saen, Phuket and Samui) since January 1, and 281,453 people at the ground ports.

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 strictly comply with the recommendations “eating cooked food, using serving spoons and washing hands”