

Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 10 August 2020

Today (10 August 2020) at the Centre of COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi, Dr. Tanarak Pliapat, Deputy-Director of Department of Disease Control stated that today, there were no reports of new confirmed cases and the total number of confirmed cases remained at 3,351. Nine cases recovered and were discharged (a total of 3,160 cases have recovered or 94.3% of the total number of the confirmed cases) and 133 were being treated in hospitals (3.97% of the total number of confirmed cases). There were no reports of deaths as the total number of deaths remained at 58 cases.

The Thailand situation during this period still showed that the cases are people who returned from abroad and were all under state quarantine supported by the government to prevent the imported case into the nation. However, no reported cases does not mean that Thailand will not have local transmission of COVID-19 in the future since the easing of restrictions can increase the risk of the disease outbreak in the country. Thus, the important factor to decrease the chance of another outbreak is strictly implementing the protection measures including wearing a face mask/cloth mask every time when leaving the residence and visiting public places. In addition, people should frequently wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer, eat hot and cooked food, use personal serving spoons, avoid attending mass gathering activities and visiting crowded places especially places with closed ventilation such as air condition rooms because they have a 19 times higher risk of transmission than open air or well-ventilated rooms.

Other organizations can help to reduce the risk of COVID-19 as well by launching policies for working at home and staggering work/check-in times to reduce the number of people in public areas, screening suspected illness of employees before entering the area, and allowing staff to take sick-leave or work at home in cases where they have respiratory or flu-like symptoms. This is to prevent transmission and bring the suspected persons into the system for the treatment. For the public sector, intensive surveillance has been carried out to prevent and control the disease by implementing minimal compulsory measures that have the least negative impact on individual people. The public sector also supports vaccine research development and accelerates the procedure for arrangement of safe vaccines to be used for disease prevention. A vaccine is expected to be delivered in as early as 6 months. However, the vaccine does not eliminate the disease from the country, it only reduces the large clusters of the outbreak and the severity of the disease.

“Do not expect that Thailand will not find new cases. If we find them, we must limit the epidemic. We must prepare ourselves, families, organizations and communities to cope with the problem,” Dr. Tanarak Pliapat said. We recommend people to update the COVID-19 situation from the trustworthy sources from government organizations including Thailand’s Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) and the Ministry of Public Health. Above all, do not spread fake news if you do not know the origin of the source. If you have a question, you can call the Department of Disease Control hotline: 1422.