Special Announcement of COVID-19
On 12 August 2020

Regarding today's COVID-19 situation in Thailand, five new COVID-19 cases were confirmed. One confirmed case returned from the United States, one confirmed case returned from India and three confirmed cases returned from Egypt and they were all under state quarantine. This brought the total number of cases to 3,356. Six cases recovered and were discharged (a total of 3,169 cases have recovered or 94.43% of the total number of the confirmed cases) and 129 were being treated in hospitals (3.84% of the total number of confirmed cases). There were no reports of deaths so the total number of deaths remained at 58 cases.

Today, all five newly confirmed cases returned from abroad as follows:
- One confirmed case who returned from the United States is a 50 year-old American male business officer who arrived in Thailand on July 28 and was observed under Alternative State Quarantine in Bangkok. His laboratory results were positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) on the second test on August 10 th (day 13 of quarantine) but he was asymptomatic. He was referred to receive treatment in a private hospital in Bangkok.
- One confirmed case who returned from India is an 18 year-old Thai male student who arrived in Thailand on July 30 and was observed under state quarantine in Bangkok. His laboratory results were positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) on the second test on August 10th (day 11 of quarantine). He was sick since August 3 with a fever, muscle ache, headache, and was referred to receive treatment in a hospital in Bangkok. Prior to that on the same flight, one case was confirmed with SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Three confirmed cases who returned from Egypt are 23, 24, and 29 year-old Thai male students who arrived in Thailand on July 30 and were observed under state quarantine in Chonburi province. Their laboratory results were positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) on the second test on August 10th (day 11 of quarantine). They all were asymptomatic. Prior to that on the same flight, six cases were confirmed with SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Dr. Sopon Iamsirithaworn, the Director of the Division of Communicable Diseases stated that even though Thailand has not reported local transmission cases for a while, the phase of new infections in other countries that have coped with the disease such Vietnam and New Zealand signal to all sectors in Thailand to continue strictly implementing surveillance, prevention, and control. This is especially for people who return from abroad and need to comply with the MOPH prevention measures by being observed at quarantine facilities and who will be tested for COVID-19 by real-time PCR, the standard for COVID-19 diagnosis to prevent and intercept imported cases into the nation.

The concern in this situation is that many places and businesses have reduced the stringency of their disease prevention measures, such as letting customers stay in crowded areas without wearing a face mask/cloth mask. It is a risk that may cause transmission. In addition, some people are not registering with the "ThaiChana" platforms/application when

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they enter and exit through public places. If there are infected people in the public area, it will be difficult to bring the contact persons into the surveillance system.

However, no matter what the situation is, the people should continue to practice their protection measures including wearing a face mask/cloth mask, washing their hands frequently, and keeping space between others. Avoid visiting crowded places, with poor ventilation. This can reduce the risk of infection. Organizations have several ways to decrease the chance of transmission such as working at home. Alternating working hours, screening for fever and symptoms before entering the area and allowing employees with respiratory symptoms or flu symptoms to stay at home to prevent transmission and seek treatment are all important policies.

If all sectors join together, starting with the individuals and expanding to families, communities, society, it will keep Thailand safe, and prevent and limit the COVID-19 outbreak if Thailand has local transmission cases again.

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