

MOPH revealed the progress on the case of the Thai woman who was detected with viral RNA fragments of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) during a medical checkup before traveling abroad for employment

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) revealed the progress on the case of the 35 year-old who had a medical checkup before traveling abroad for employment. Her laboratory results were positive for only minimal traces of SARS-CoV-2 genetic material while her blood samples were detected for immunity indicating that she had been previously infected. The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) investigated the case and has already brought all close contacts into the surveillance system.

On 20 August 2020 at the Department of Disease Control (DDC), MOPH Nonthaburi province. Dr. Taweessin Visanuyothin, the spokesperson of Centre of COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) and the MOPH together with Dr. Kajornsak Kaewjaras, Deputy Director of DDC, Dr. Walairat Chaifoo, Director of the Division of Epidemiology DDC, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surasak Leela-Udomlipi, and Dr.Chonnamet Techasaensiri, the Deputy Director of Ramathibodi Hospital stated that the case of the 35 year-old who was found to be positive for SARS-CoV-2 genetic material while she was preparing to travel abroad for employment, was asymptomatic.

It appears that the first laboratory test on 18 August 2020 found a low viral load of SARS-CoV-2. Upon further examination, the results of two more tests on 18 and 20 August 2020 with the same sample and a new sample, did not reveal viral RNA fragments of SARS-CoV-2. The results corresponded with the confirmed results at the Department of Medical Sciences. As for the serological tests, they showed immunity that indicated her as a person who had a previous infection in the past three months, according to the latest scientific evidence. The infection may have occurred while working in the United Arab Emirates or while in the province of Loei. The case was in the care of a doctor at the hospital while waiting for results of viral culture to confirm ineffective viral agents for transmission. The results will be confirmed within one week.

Although she cannot spread the infection to other people, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) and relevant organizations have still implemented investigation and disease control measures in accordance with the recommendations by the Ministry of Public Health, i.e. finding and tracking the close contacts in the family and community. In addition, DDC provided recommendations to people regarding self-protection from the virus. Therefore, people can be confident in Thailand's intensive program of prevention and control measures and there is no need to close schools since she has not visited any school. Above all, the officials recommended people to take care of themselves by strictly and continually complying with disease prevention measures including "Wearing masks, washing hands, separating personal items, keeping distance from others, and reducing gatherings." If people have any questions, they can ask for information at the Department of Disease Control hotline, call 1422.