

Special Announcement of the COVID-19 on 13 February 2020

1. The situation on 13 February 2020 at 8.00 A.M.

1. There are currently 21 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) being treated in hospitals and 12 cases who returned to their homes, which brings the total number of novel coronavirus infection cases detected in Thailand to 33.

2. From 3 January to 12 February 2020, the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 823 people. Of those, 53 PUI were detected from the airport screening and 770 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals, and 673 cases recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 150 PUI are admitted at hospitals.

3. Regarding the international situation involving 26 countries and 2 administrative regions between 5 January to 13 February 2020 at 7.00 A.M., there were 60,062 confirmed cases and 1,360 deaths, with 59,539 cases and 1,358 deaths coming from the People's Republic of China.

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 : รู้ทันทันโรค, 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 reported one case of COVID-19 is prepared to go back home and the MoPH launched the online disease screening form

The Ministry of Public Health reported one Chinese citizen with COVID-19, had improved and is prepared to return home. MoPH cooperated with Chiang Mai University and the National Research Council of Thailand to develop the online disease screening form in three languages. The public can assess their risk of COVID-2019 (Self-Screening).

Dr.Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, Director – General, the Department of Disease Control, Dr. Tanarak Plipat, Deputy Director – General, the Department of Disease Control, Dr Narong Aphikulvanich, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Medical Services and Professor Sirirung Songsivilai, Secretary-General, National Research Council of Thailand who represented the director of NRCT, jointly reported the current situation of COVID-19. Today, a 61 year-old Chinese tourist, a confirmed case for infection, has recovered and is ready to return home. The symptoms are improving for other patients. There are two patients with severe symptoms who were first admitted to Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute and they are being closely monitored by doctors.



Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

The Ministry of Public Health, Thailand has cooperated with the Faculty of Public Health, Chiang Mai University and the National Research Council of Thailand to conduct online self-screening for those who are suspected of COVID-19, available in 3 languages including Thai, Chinese, and English to reduce anxiety, fear of the public. People will be asked to answer only four questions to assess the risk of contracting the virus. People can find more information about health advisories through <http://sescimande.net/Self-Screening/>

For the Westerdam cruise ship, Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health ordered the preparation of a response plan by coordinating with all relevant organizations. He is also reiterating to staff at all points of entry including ground, sea, and air ports to prepare procedures for passengers who transit in Thailand and coordinate information for healthcare management planning of Thai people aboard on those ships.

As for the tourist ship that is going to embark in Phuket today (13 February 2020), the disease control officers from the Ministry of Public Health have already gone up to assess the hygiene on the ship and are working together with medical doctors on board to check-up the health information of passengers and crew members. No one met the criteria of patient under investigation (PUI). The medical doctors on board will recheck temperatures among those passengers before leaving the ship. Afterward, the medical team from the Ministry of Public Health and the Royal Thai Navy will check symptoms of fever again according to international standards. The public should not panic because this group of passengers are not patients. This ship embarks as part of the usual shipping route and the ship has notified the point of entry correctly following the protocol.

For the Thai people who returned home at Sattahip Naval Base, today is the 9th day of the disease surveillance protocol. One confirmed case at Chon Buri Hospital has normal health conditions without fever, coughing or nasal discharge. Laboratory results still show infection. The case is still in an isolation room and continues to be monitored for health status. As for the 137 Thai people at the Sattahip Reception Building, all of them are all fine and without fever.

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 12, 2020. There were a total of 766 flights and 61,655 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.

- For the screening protocol outside the airports, there were 44,148 people that were screened at five sea ports (Bangkok, Laem Chabang, Chiang Saen, Phuket and Samui) since January 1, and 323,543 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 COVID-19

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”