

Special Announcement of the COVID-19 on 14 February 2020

1. The situation on 14 February 2020 at 8.00 A.M.

1. There are currently 20 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) being treated in hospitals and 13 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 13 February 2020, the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 777 people. Of those, 54 PUI were detected from the airport screening and 723 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals, and 660 cases recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 117 PUI are admitted at hospitals.

3. Regarding the international situation involving 26 countries and two administrative regions between 5 January to 14 February 2020 at 7.00 A.M., there were 65,246 confirmed cases and 1,487 deaths, with 64,658 cases and 1,484 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. People should wear clean cloth hygienic masks when in crowded areas. The patients or people who have symptoms of coughing or sneezing should wear surgical masks to prevent the spread of infection. The staff who have close contact with the patients should wear an N95 mask.

2. The Ministry of Public Health provides artificial lung technology to help the critical condition cases of COVID-19

The Ministry of Public Health provided artificial lung technology to help the COVID-19 patients in critical condition. This is a technique to continuously support the cardiovascular and respiratory system outside the body for people who can not exchange oxygen by their own heart and lungs.

The Health Ministry Permanent Secretary Dr. Sukhum Karnchanapimai, Department of Disease Control Director-General I Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai and Department of Health Director-General Dr. Panpimol Wipulakorn reported the current situation of COVID-19 that another confirmed case, a 33 year-old Chinese woman has been discharged from Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute (BIDI).

For the COVID-19 situation summary in Thailand, 13 confirmed cases were discharged while 20 patients were receiving treatment at hospitals. No new confirmed cases were reported. The number of infected cases stands at 33. Other patients with confirmed COVID-19 were recovering, moving Thailand from being the country/administrative region with the 4th most cases to the country/administrative region with the 5th most cases of COVID-19, after China, Japan, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

For cases with severe symptoms at first admission, who exhibit abnormal chest CT findings, and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and who are treated at BIDI, doctors consider using an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and conventional ventilator due to hypoxemia.



Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

Since 12 February 2020, the medical expert team responsible for severe cases from Siriraj Hospital joined hands with MoPH to take care of the severe patient. Now, the patient is in stable condition, responding to the ECMO, and the oxygen saturation level has improved.

Regarding the concern of cross - border travel at Kokko natural crossing point (Mae Sot, Tak province), the Tak Provincial Health Office in collaboration with a military administration in the area ordered not to allow Chinese people to cross the border at the aforementioned natural crossing point. However, those people are recommended to cross the border at Mae Sot International Quarantine Office so that all people will be screened.

For the Westerdam cruise ship docking at Cambodia Sihanoukville Port, Thai MoPH already has a list of all passengers in that cruise and ordered the staff at immigration offices and Quarantine Offices at all points of entry including airports and seaports to strictly implement the disease screening measures in passengers travelling from Cambodia. If a PUI is detected, the PUI will be taken into the disease prevention and control system according to the measures of the Ministry of Public Health. During the COVID-19 situation, please choose the appropriate hygienic mask. For example, the general public who are not sick can protect themselves by wearing clean, cloth masks. Medical personnel, health care workers and persons with symptoms of coughing and sneezing should use surgical masks. For the N95 masks, they should be used by the healthcare workers that are in close contact with the patients.

For Thai people who arrived from Wuhan and returned to Sattahip Naval Base, today is the 10th day of disease surveillance. One confirmed case at Chonburi Hospital is in good condition without fever, coughing, or nasal discharge, but the case is still in an isolation room and their symptoms have been continuously monitored. Today the samples will be collected from the patient for laboratory testing again. As for the Thai people at the Sattahip Reception Building, all 137 people are well. None of them have fever or meet the criteria of PUI.

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 29 January to 13 February 2020. There were a total of 799 flights and 64,357 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 44,200 people that were screened at five sea ports (Bangkok, Laem Chabang, Chiang Saen, Phuket and Samui) since 1 January and 387,148 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.”