



# Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

## Special Announcement of COVID-19 on 18 February 2020

### 1. The situation on 18 February 2020 at 8.00 A.M.

1. There are currently 18 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) being treated in hospitals and 17 cases who returned to their homes, which brings the total number of novel coronavirus infection cases detected in Thailand to 35.

2. From 3 January to 18 February 2020 at 11.00 A.M., the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 872 people. Of those, 55 PUI were detected from the airport screening and 817 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals. 790 cases returned to their homes and are under investigation. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 82 PUI are admitted at hospitals.

3. Regarding the international situation involving 27 countries and two administrative regions between 5 January to 18 February 2020 at 7.00 A.M., there were 73,332 confirmed cases and 1,873 deaths, with 72,436 cases and 1,868 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. Staff and healthcare workers who have close contact with patients should wear an N95 mask.

### 2. The Ministry of Public Health reported that two Chinese travelers who were confirmed cases can go back home

The Ministry of Public Health reported that two Chinese travelers who were confirmed cases can go back home. The total number of patients who were allowed to return home is 17. The disease control team is closely following up the passengers in Thailand who were on the Westerdam cruise ship.

Dr. Tanarak Pliapat, Deputy Director-General of the Disease Control Department and his team reported the updated situation regarding COVID-19. Today (18 February 2020 at 11.00 am) two Chinese tourists with COVID-19, who were patients admitted at the Central Chest Institute of Thailand and Rajavithi Hospital, had recovered and are ready to return home. As of today, 17 patients had completely recovered and had been discharged. No additional cases were reported.

For the passengers from the Westerdam cruise ship who entered Thailand since 14 February 2020 (before Thailand's announcement today to restrict all passengers of the cruise entering Thailand), there were 95 passengers that had already arrived in Thailand before the announcement. Most of them transited and connected to other countries. Four passengers entered Thailand including two foreigners and two Thais. All of them were screened by DDC officials. The laboratory results of the four passengers were negative for the virus causing COVID-19, and they are being followed up to complete the 14 day monitoring protocol.

Regarding the result of the meeting between the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Airports of Thailand and Immigration Bureau on 17 February 2020, the meeting agreed to not allow charter flights, which received passengers from the Westerdam cruise to enter to Thailand from now until the end of February.

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For the group of Thai passengers who traveled from Wuhan and are now residing at Sattahip Naval Base, they are now ready to return home. The MoPH collected the samples of 137 passengers living at the prepared residence for repeat laboratory testing. The laboratory results will be announced tonight. MoPH also assured the safety of Thai people.

### 3. The daily recommendations 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." Frequently clean the areas that people often touch, such as doorknobs, railings, push-buttons at elevators, handrails on public buses.

If you have any questions, please contact at DDC hotline Tel. 1422 for 24/day or the website <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/> และ Line@เฟซบุ๊ก : รู้กันทันโรค, Coronavirus2019, กรมควบคุมโรค