



Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

MOPH confirms the second case of Novel Coronavirus 2019; Patient is now receiving treatment at BIDI

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has screened all passengers who departed from Wuhan, China. The MOPH stated that there is a second confirmed case of novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV), and the patient is currently receiving treatment at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Disease Institute (BIDI) and pending duplication of laboratory examinations. The MOPH emphasizes that there is no outbreak of 2019-nCoV in Thailand.

On January 17, 2020, at the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi province, Dr. Sukhum Kanchanapimai - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, and Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai - Director-General of the Department of Disease Control joined a press conference about the situation of imported pneumonia cases from Wuhan, China that is caused by the novel coronavirus. They stated that the Department of Disease Control, MOPH has screened travelers at the airports arriving from Wuhan. On January 13, 2020 Thailand identified one more confirmed pneumonia case of 2019-nCoV, a 74 year-old female Chinese tourist. The case has been admitted at BIDI for medical treatment and her clinical signs are in recovery phase. However, the case is currently waiting for laboratory confirmation to determine if she is no longer infectious, upon which the doctor will then allow the case to return home. This case is the second confirmed case of 2019-nCoV in Thailand. Dr. Sukhum added that the two cases are not related to each other.

Dr. Sukhum also said that the MOPH has implemented surveillance protocol and control measures that follow the standard guidelines for emerging infectious diseases. The fever screening of travelers for direct flights arriving from Wuhan has been implemented at the Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai and Phuket international airports. From January 3 to 16, 2020, among 86 flights, 13,624 passengers and crew members have been screened, and 21 patients met the criteria for investigation. Most of the PUIs have been found to be infected with influenza virus, and 12 patients recovered and were allowed to return home. The two confirmed cases are receiving treatment in an isolation ward of negative pressure rooms at the BIDI.



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The first confirmed case has recovered and has no fever. The patient is currently waiting for confirmation that she is no longer infectious, upon which the doctor will then allow the patient to go home. The same protocol is being applied to the second confirmed case. Among the 16 close contacts of the first confirmed case and the 20 close contacts of the second confirmed case, the novel coronavirus has not been found. Therefore, there is no need for the public to panic since there is no outbreak of 2019-nCoV in Thailand.

The Ministry of Public Health confirmed its readiness to cope with this public health threat by implementing the following four aspects of disease prevention and surveillance measures: 1) enhancing disease surveillance, screening checkpoints and isolation and quarantine among patients. There is strict screening of passengers who take direct flights from Wuhan, China; 2) providing diagnosis and treatment to patients under investigation; 3) referring the suspected 2019-nCoV patients to negative pressure room at public and private hospitals; and 4) enhancing surveillance in areas of tourist attractions countrywide.

There are currently no announcements from the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring travel restrictions to areas with reported 2019-nCoV pneumonia cases. WHO advises the public to keep updated on the situation. If it is necessary to travel to the risky areas, please take care of yourself and avoid visiting markets that sell carcasses or live animals, or visiting crowded places. If anyone has symptoms including coughing, sneezing, panting or runny nose within 14 days after departing from Wuhan, China, please seek medical care at the hospital immediately since the possible complications of pneumonia may occur during this stage. Above all, public engagement with the government has played a crucial role to prevent and control the disease. Please refer suspected patients to the hospital or call the DDC Hotline 1422.