

## Special Announcement of COVID-19 on 4 March 2020

### 1. The situation on 4 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 11 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being treated in hospitals, 31 cases who returned to their homes and 1 death, which brings the total number of coronavirus infection cases detected in Thailand to 43.

2. From 3 January to 4 March 2020 at 11.00 A.M., the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 3,680 people. Of those, 104 PUI were detected from screening at all ports of entry and 3,576 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals. 2,135 cases returned to their homes and some of them are being continually monitored. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 1,545 PUI are still admitted at hospitals.

3. Regarding the international situation involving 73 countries and two administrative regions between 5 January to 4 March 2020 at 7.00 A.M., there were 92,321 confirmed cases and 3,137 deaths, with 80,152 cases and 2,945 deaths coming from the People's Republic of China.

### 2. The MOPH revealed that Thailand has the 17th most COVID-19 cases in the world.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported that Thailand has the 17th most COVID-19 cases in the world and Thailand announced 14 urgent measures for disease prevention and control.

Dr. Taweessin Visanuyothin, Senior Medical and Spokesman of the Ministry of Public Health and his team stated today about the COVID-19 situation, that 11 confirmed cases still remain in the hospital, 31 confirmed cases were discharged from the hospital. There has been one severe case and one death. Thus, the total number of confirmed patients is 43. Thailand has the 17<sup>th</sup> most cases in the world. Thailand still has strict surveillance to slow down the country from entering a widespread epidemic. This disease can be prevented by eating cooked food, using serving spoons, washing hands and wearing masks. The prime minister announced 14 measures for the prevention of COVID-19 as follows:

1. Request every sector and organization to strictly comply with the MoPH recommendations.
2. Closely follow up the situation and provide assistance to Thai people living in the affected countries.
3. Recommend every government sector to cancel or postpone plans to travel to affected countries and countries defined as risk areas as announced by the MoPH and based upon the surveillance method.
4. Arrange designated areas to observe and screen people who have suspected symptoms.
5. Government officers departing from affected areas shall implement self-quarantine for 14 days (the absence from work for this quarantine will not be considered official leave).
6. Prepare and stock necessary equipment. If it is necessary (in the case there is a lack of equipment), the relevant sectors can request additional budget.
7. Set up a data center to implement measures for solving any consequences caused by the COVID-2019 at the Government House of Thailand.
8. Have regular meetings to prepare for prevention.
9. All departments need to accelerate the procurement of any product used to meet the needs of preventing the disease.
10. Take care of health care workers appropriately.
11. The Ministry of Commerce is responsible for preventing stockpiling and for controlling prices of supplies.

12. The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Public Health are to jointly integrate and link data to comply with the Public Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act, B.E. 2550.

13. The Ministry of Transport is to implement strict screening among users of transportation services and travelers.

14. Request cooperation from the public to refrain from attending mass gathering activities.

For travelers returning from affected areas (from Korea, please see further information in special announcement issue #2) and any travelers exhibiting fever with at least one of the following symptoms, cough, runny nose, sore throat and dyspnea, they need to contact a healthcare provider for referral to the appropriate health care treatment facility. If the travelers do not have symptoms, they are recommended to self-quarantine at home for 14 days, and requested to strictly follow the instructions including wear a mask, stay 1-2 meters away from other people, avoid going to class or work, refrain from participating in social activities, sleep in separate rooms, cover their mouth and nose every time they cough or sneeze, clean their accommodations, separate their belongings, eat food in separate dishes from others, use serving spoons, discard masks in the appropriate way, avoid close contact with others especially with patients, children, elderly people. If travelers have fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, or shortness of breath, see a doctor and report travel history.

Regarding the Thai workers in the Republic of Korea, today General Prayut Chan-o-cha, the Prime Minister of Thailand and the Minister of Defence consulted with the relevant sectors, i.e. Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Transport, the Immigration Bureau and the Security Sector in order to make a joint plan. The Ministry of Public Health was assigned to be responsible for the outbreak prevention and control and perform the duties in accordance with the assignment/orders.

### 3. Recommendations to the Public

3.1 If anyone has symptoms including fever, sore throat, respiratory tract infection symptoms such as runny nose, cough, reproductive cough, tachypnea or dyspnea within 14 days after departing from a risk or affected area, they should wear a hygienic mask, wash their hands and seek medical care at a nearby hospital or meet the public health officers immediately, and inform the healthcare workers of their travel history to reduce the risk of complications from pneumonia progressing to severe or fatal outcomes.

3.2 A person with an underlying disease should avoid traveling outbound, where there is an ongoing outbreak. If this is unavoidable, people should avoid making contact with patients who have respiratory symptoms, avoid visiting markets selling live animals and avoid close contact with animals, especially with sick or dead animals.

3.3 For the general public, please take care of yourself during seasonal changes and comply with the recommendations “eat cooked food, use serving spoons, wash hands,” and wear masks while coughing, sneezing, and avoid making contact with patients who have respiratory symptoms.