

Special Announcement of COVID-19

on 6 March 2020

1. The situation on 6 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 16 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 48.

2. From 3 January to 6 March 2020 at 11.00 A.M., the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 4,023 people. Of those, 143 PUI were detected from screening at all ports of entry and 3,880 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals, 2,392 cases returned to their homes and some of them are being continually monitored. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 1,631 PUI are still admitted at hospitals.

3. Regarding the international situation involving 84 countries, two administrative regions and one cruise ship between 5 January to 6 March 2020 at 7.00 A.M., there were 96,953 confirmed cases and 3,310 deaths, with 80,430 cases and 3,031 deaths coming from the People's Republic of China.

2. MOPH reported one British man was confirmed as the 48th case in Thailand. The official letter was delivered to the Provincial Governors serving as Chairs of the Provincial Communicable Diseases Committees.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) confirmed the 48th case of COVID-19, a 43 year-old British man. A letter was sent to the provincial governors acting as the chairs of the provincial communicable diseases committees to inform them of the measures providing for the Thai workers returning from affected areas

Dr. Sukhum Karnchanapimai, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health and his team reported today that Thailand has one new confirmed case of COVID-19 and is awaiting results for another case, an undocumented worker from South Korea.

The 48th confirmed case is a 43 year-old British man who is a company consultant who traveled from London, England on 28 February 2020. En route to Thailand, he transited in Hong Kong on 29 February 2020. He was admitted to a private hospital on 3 March 2020 exhibiting fever with a reproductive cough. He was referred to the Central Chest Institute.

For the screening process among undocumented Thai workers who arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport yesterday, a 30 year-old woman was identified with symptoms of having a fever on 5 March 2020 and was sent to Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute (BIDI). The laboratory result was positive for SARS-CoV-2 from one laboratory and they are currently waiting for the results from another laboratory for confirmation.

Currently (6 March 2020), the number of patients that were completely recovered and discharged from hospitals is 31, while 16 others are still being treated in hospitals. There is one death. The total number of confirmed cases in Thailand is now 48 cases. For the severe case that is being treated at BIDI, the laboratory results show negative results for SARS-CoV-2 but the said patient is still under close medical supervision. For now, the number of COVID-19 cases in Thailand is 24th most in the world.

Yesterday (5 March 2020) The Royal Government Gazette announced the territories outside the Kingdom of Thailand: the Republic of Korea, the Italian Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China, including Special Administrative Regions of Macau and Hong Kong, are to be defined as Disease Infected Zones of the dangerous communicable disease for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in B.E. 2563 (2020). The announcement of the Disease Infected Zones can be changed

depending on the current situation. It is decided based on the cumulative number of cases, the continually increasing numbers of incident cases and other pieces of information.

The MOPH announcement will support the disease control officers and relevant officers to accelerate and efficient prevention and control in travelers from the Disease Infected Zones. Moreover, the disease control officers including provincial governors, provincial chief of medical officers, district public health offices, directors of hospitals and other designated people have the power to take legal action immediately such as bringing suspected cases to be examined, isolated or quarantined at the designated locations. The officers can take action against those refusing to notify or not notifying within the time specified by law when finding suspected cases or suspected events.

Regarding the Thai workers returning from South Korea, MOPH submitted a letter outlining the measures to provide for the aforementioned workers in accordance with the Prime Minister's Order to the Provincial Governor of every province (as the Chair of Provincial Communicable Disease Committee). The said order requests every relevant sector to take care of this group and clarify the information on this matter to the public. The following guidelines are introduced:

1. At the entry screening, if any travelers have a body temperature equal to or more than 37.5 Celsius degree and have one of these symptoms: cough, runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath, they will be referred to the hospital for medical treatment.

If a traveler has no fever but has travel history to the high-risk areas (e.g. Daegu and North Gyeongsangbuk of South Korea), the staff at the Quarantine Office will coordinate with the staff from the Ministry of Transportation to bring those passengers to the quarantine areas prepared by the Thai Government for at least 14 days.

Travelers departing from other cities of South Korea (not Daegu or North Gyeongsangbuk) will be brought to the designated areas prepared by the relevant sectors for at least 14 days under supervision of the Provincial Governors and relevant sectors.

2. Bringing the travelers to the quarantine facilities and determination of the quarantine areas or places or designated areas is to proceed with the necessary actions in accordance with the guidelines and procedures of the Ministry of Public Health together with the Ministry of Transport and related departments.

3. Disease surveillance, prevention and control measures must be implemented for at least 14 days. The disease control officers shall proceed with the relevant agencies to take action according to the Communicable Disease Act of 2015 (B. E. 2558), as well as strictly abiding by the protocol or procedures described by the Ministry of Public Health.

3. Advice for general public

Request people to manage their health by doing the following:

1. Avoid going to crowded places
2. Avoid staying close to people who have respiratory disease symptoms
3. Take measures to eat cooked food, use serving spoons, wash hands and wear cloth masks to prevent the disease.

Requesting cooperation from the public to comply with the recommendations of the Ministry of Public Health, the situation will improve by the cooperation of the people. Do not believe rumors from all sources of information. Please "Check before sharing", refrain from sharing patient information via social media, and refrain from sharing information from unreliable sources in order to prevent widespread or incorrect information. Incorrect information can cause panic among people and is against the law according to the Computer Act. Please follow the news from the Ministry of Public Health. If there are any questions, ask at the Department of Disease Control Hotline 1422 for 24 hours per day or website: <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/> and Line @ / Facebook: รู้กันทันโรค, Coronavirus2019, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health. People can check the scam at the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society. www.antifakenewscenter.com