

Special Announcement of COVID-19

on 7 March 2020

1. The situation on 7 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 18 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 50.

2. From 3 January to 7 March 2020., the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 4,234 people. Of those, 175 PUI were detected from screening at all ports of entry and 4,059 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals, 2,508 cases returned to their homes and some of them are being continually monitored. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 1,726 PUI are still admitted at hospitals.

3. Regarding the international situation involving 93 countries, two administrative regions and one cruise ship between 5 January to 7 March 2020 at 7.00 A.M., there were 100,779 confirmed cases and 3,412 deaths, with 80,675 cases and 3,042 deaths coming from the People's Republic of China.

2. MOPH reported 2 additional cases of COVID-19, among people returning from Italy. Screening at all ports of entry continues.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported that two Thai men who returned from Italy were confirmed with COVID-19. Thailand has the 25th most COVID-19 cases in the world. For the Thai undocumented workers who returned from South Korea test results for SARS-COV-2 were negative. MOPH is continuing screening at all ports of entry in Thailand.

Dr. Sukhum Karnchanapimai, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health and his team stated about the COVID-19 situation that today, MOPH confirmed two additional COVID-19 cases among a group of Thais who went to Italy for work. The group had six people, and three were confirmed cases. The first patient was the 45th case (reported on 5 March 2020), and two more patients are today's new cases. The other three in the group had negative laboratory results and are still in the surveillance system of the Department of Disease Control.

One of the new cases is a 40 year-old male Thai office worker. The date of illness onset was 5 March 2020. He was treated at a private hospital with fever then he was transferred to Rajavithi Hospital for treatment. He has four close contacts who are his family members. None of them have symptoms and they all tested negative for the virus causing COVID-19. The second case is also a 40 year-old male Thai office worker. He went to the Institute for Urban Disease Control and Prevention with a sore throat without fever and then he was referred to Nopparatrajathanee Hospital. He has no close contacts.

Currently, there are 31 patients who fully recovered, 18 remain in hospitals, and one has died. The cumulative number of confirmed is 50. Thailand has the 25th most confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the world. A 30 year-old Thai woman who is an undocumented worker from South Korea, was detected at Suvarnabhumi Airport on March 5, 2020 with a fever. The laboratory tests were rechecked in two laboratories, showing negative results for the virus causing COVID-19. One severe case is still being treated at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute. He has since tested negative for the virus causing COVID-19 but at this time, he is in critical condition.

MOPH has continued implementing disease screening at all ports of entry including sea ports, ground ports and immigration checkpoints. On 5 March 2020, there were 79,669 people

screened. From 4 January - 6 March 2020, a total of 4,358,884 people were screened and there have been 4,234 PUI.

The measures taken by the Ministry of Public Health may affect the convenience of daily life among the general public such as traveling, self-quarantine at home, social distancing, seeing a doctor immediately when sick, and choosing the appropriate mask to use. These measures are for the safety of people in the country and to reduce the risk of widespread disease.

The Ministry of Public Health has increased the channels to provide education and advice for the people about COVID-19 on Twitter, Facebook, Line Official, Tik Tok, "ไทยรู้สู้โควิด" and Line Official ChatBot 1422 "Kor-Ror-OK." The MOPH is requesting cooperation from the public to use those channels instead of the Hotline 1422 to access information. Currently, there are nearly 2,000 users of the Hotline 1422 per day. Data from January 1 to March 7, 2020 shows that there are almost 20,000 people interested in asking about the disease.

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