

Special Announcement of COVID-19 on 8 March 2020

1. The situation on 8 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 16 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being treated in hospitals, 33 cases who returned to their homes and one death, which brings the total number of coronavirus infection cases detected in Thailand to 50.

2. From 3 January to 8 March 2020, the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 4,366 people. Of those, 181 PUI were detected from screening at all ports of entry and 4,185 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals, 2,629 cases returned to their homes and some of them are being continually monitored. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 1,737 PUI are still admitted at hospitals.

3. Regarding the international situation involving 96 countries, two administrative regions and one cruise ship between 5 January to 8 March 2020 at 7.00 A.M., there were 106,195 confirmed cases and 3,600 deaths, with 80,696 cases and 3,097 deaths coming from the People's Republic of China.

2. The MOPH implementing strict quarantine for “Little ghosts”

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) is implemented strict quarantine for the Thai workers who returned from South Korea at Sattahip Military Base and the workers' hometown provinces for 14 days. Today, two recovered cases have been discharged and there are no incident cases.

Dr. Suthep Petchmark, Inspector General of the Ministry of Public Health Region 6 and Dr. Tanarak Plipat, Deputy Director General of the Department of Disease Control stated about the COVID-19 situation that today, two confirmed cases were discharged from hospitals and returned home. There are no additional confirmed cases. The total number of people who were recovered from the hospitals is 33, as 16 still remain in the hospital and there is one death. The accumulated number of total confirmed cases is 50 cases. Currently, Thailand has the 27th most COVID-19 cases in the world.

For the case of Thai workers returning from South Korea on 7 March 2020 and 8 March 2020 (until 02.45 am), four flights with a total of 537 travelers (including 133 Thai workers from South Korea) underwent the screening procedures. Among those Thai workers, six people met the criteria of patients under investigation and have already been sent to the designated public hospital. Sixty Thai workers, 27 men and 33 women, from Daegu and North Gyeongsang were sent for their symptoms to be observed at Sattahip Naval Base for 14 days. The remaining 67 Thai workers have been sent to the designated areas in their hometowns for observation of symptoms under the supervision of the Provincial Governors for 14 days.

Regarding the solution to the shortage of surgical masks, the Ministry of Commerce informed that the company producing the surgical masks can produce 1.2 million masks per day. Everyday, 700,000 masks will be provided to public health officers at medical centers, of which 400,000 masks are to be allocated for hospitals under the MOPH, 30,000 masks are to be distributed to hospitals outside the responsibility of the MOPH and 270,000 masks are to be provided to hospitals in universities/faculties of dentistry/private hospitals and clinics/hospitals under the jurisdiction of Bangkok.

The intensive system for screening people is continuing at every point of entry including airports, seaports, and immigration checkpoints. On 7 March 2020, 140,380 people were screened, with fewer passengers traveling to airports. The accumulated screening results from January 4 to

March 7, 2020, showed a total of 4,499,264 people were screened and 4,366 people fell under the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI).

3. Advice for the general public

Request for 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.

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: ู้กัันทันโรค, Coronavirus2019, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health. People can check for scams at the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society. www.antifakenewscenter.com