

Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 11 March 2020

1. The situation on 11 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 24 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) actively being treated in hospitals, 34 cases have recovered and have been sent home, and there has been one death, which brings the total number of COVID-19 cases detected in Thailand thus far to 59.

2. From 3 January to 11 March 2020 at 11.00 A.M., the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) increased to 4,848 people. Of those, 216 PUI were detected from screening at one of the ports of entry, and 4,632 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals. 2,945 cases have recovered and returned home, but a few of these cases who have been sent home are being continually monitored. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 1,903 PUI are still being tested, and are admitted at hospitals.

3. Regarding the international situation involving 115 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and one cruise ship between 5 January to 11 March 2020 at 7.00 A.M., there were 116,657 confirmed cases and 4,091 deaths, with 80,761 of these cases and 3,136 of these deaths coming from the People's Republic of China.

2. MOPH confirmed 6 new cases of COVID-19, and 1 case was discharged.

The Ministry of Public Health's (MOPH) latest report revealed there are 6 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 1 case that has been discharged. This brings the total of confirmed cases to 59, total cases that recovered and were discharged to 34, and total cases currently under treatment to 24 cases. The total number of deaths remains 1. MOPH requires travelers from the Disease Infected Zone to quarantine themselves for a total of 14 days.

After assessing the situation in Thailand, Dr. Opas Karnkawinpong (Director General of the Department of Medical Sciences), Dr. Narong Apikulwanich (Deputy Director), and Dr. Sophon Samsirithaworn (Director of Division of Communicable Diseases at the Department of Disease Control) agrees that COVID-19 is not spread widely around Thailand. All of the confirmed cases could be identified as a source of exposure. From the investigations, the cases did not follow the instructions of home quarantine and did not practice social distancing, which led to the consequences of transmitting the infection to family members, close contacts, and their colleagues. The MOPH requests that all travelers arriving from the ongoing local transmission areas must comply with self-quarantine at home to observe the symptoms, and strictly follow the MOPH's instructions for self-prevention and social distancing for 14 days.

One confirmed COVID-19 case, in a 25 year-old male, has been resolved, and the patient was discharged from the Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute today. Additionally, 6 more cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed today.

The first patient is a 21 year-old Thai male who is an immigration officer at Suvarnabhumi Airport. He was admitted to a public hospital in Bangkok on 8 March 2020. After he presented with a fever, runny nose, and headache, he was immediately transferred to Klang Hospital. Out of the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Thailand, this patient is number 54.

The second case is a 40 year-old Thai male working as an officer in checkpoint services at Suvarnabhumi Airport. His symptoms of fever, runny nose, and headache began on 7 March, 2020, and on 9 March 2020, he was admitted to a private hospital in Bangkok, where his headache and fever persisted, and his cough became more productive. Out of the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Thailand, this patient is number 55.

The third case is a 25 year-old male who is a company employee. He developed a fever, which was accompanied by muscle aches. The onset of those symptoms occurred on 25 February 2020. He was admitted to private hospital in Bangkok two times (on 27 February 2020 and 2 March 2020) for a fever. He received a chest x-ray, which showed the patient had pneumonia. The patient was treated but did not improve, and the underlying reasons for the development of his pneumonia were unknown. Since the patient met the criteria of patient under investigation (PUI), he was brought to have further laboratory testing. His laboratory test results were positive for the virus causing COVID-19. Currently, he is being transferred to the Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute. Out of the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Thailand, this patient is number 56.

The fourth case is a 27 year-old Thai woman who returned from South Korea on 7 February, 2020. She reported that her symptoms began on 20 February 2020. She was admitted to a private hospital in Bangkok on 28 February 2020 after presenting with a fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and headache. Since then, she has been transferred to Nopparat Ratchathani Hospital. Out of the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Thailand, this patient is number 57.

Of the six newly confirmed cases, the fifth confirmed case is a 40 year-old Thai man who traveled from Japan. Before he returned to Thailand (on 25 February 2020), he had an accident and was treated at hospital in Japan. He arrived Thailand on 26 February 2020 and he was admitted to a private hospital because he had a broken wrist. He tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 and was treated at a private hospital. Out of the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Thailand, this patient is number 58

The sixth confirmed case is a 36 year-old male. He is a Singaporean restaurant owner located in Bangkok. His symptoms, which include a fever, cough, and body aches onset on 6 March 2020. On 9 March 2020, he was admitted to Bamrasnaradura hospital where he is currently receiving treatment. Out of the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Thailand, this patient is #59.

Today, there are 34 cases who have recovered, 24 cases currently admitted to a hospital, 1 case in critical condition (at Bamrasnaradura Hospital), and 1 death. The total number of confirmed cases in Thailand is 59.

In the case of the Singaporean staff member who had a travel history to many countries and was positive for COVID-19 after returning from Thailand (staying in Thailand for only one day). The DDC investigated and collected the sample of his 84 close contacts who worked in the same company. The diagnosis from the laboratory showed negative results. However, the DDC under MOPH in collaboration with experts will organize the seminar to share lessons learned on this matter.

There are a total of 241 unregistered Thai workers from South Korea being held at the Sattahip Naval Base, consisting of 104 men and 137 women (coming from Daegu and North Gyeongsang). Among the 241 unregistered Thai workers, there are 29 people under special care including six pregnant women, five children and 18 people with underlying diseases. No one presented with a fever, and screening results did not find anyone who met the criteria of a patient under investigation (PUI).

The Department of Medical Sciences has used three methods to test the effectiveness of cloth masks to replace the use of the surgical masks: 1) Microscopic examination to study fabric fibers in particle protection 2) Testing the flakiness of the mask with washing methods and 3) Testing the water permeability. The results showed that muslin cotton is more suitable for making cloth masks than other fabrics. However, it is recommended to wash and dry the mask every day. Do not use hands to touch the mask while wearing. Furthermore, protect yourself by eating cooked foods, using a serving spoon, and washing hands frequently to prevent infection.

3. Advice for the general public

Manage your 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 often, and wear cloth masks to prevent contracting disease.

Please follow the news from the Ministry of Public Health. If you have any questions, you can either call the Department of Disease Control's 24-hour Hotline 1422, or you can submit your questions to the website: <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/>, Twitter, Facebook, Line official, Tik Tok “ไทยรู้สู้โควิด” and Line official ChatBot 1422 “Kor-Ror-OK”, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health. People can read more about common misconceptions and fake news at the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society: www.antifakenewscenter.com.