

Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 14 March 2020

1. The situation on 14 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 46 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 35 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 82.

2. From 3 January to 14 March 2020 at 11.00 A.M., the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) was 5,713 people. Of those, 249 PUI were detected from screening at ports of entry, and 5,464 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals. 4,014 cases have recovered and returned home, but a few of these cases who have been sent home and are being continually monitored. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 1,699 PUI are still being admitted to hospitals for further testing.

3. As of 7:00 a.m. on 13 March 2020, since 5 January 2020 the international situation involves 134 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships, there were 142,592 confirmed cases and 5,373 deaths. 80,815 of these confirmed cases and 3,177 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China.

2. The MOPH reported 7 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19, 4 of them from the same family.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) confirmed 7 new cases of COVID-19, with four of them from the same family. People who return from outbreak areas (Disease Infected Zones and countries with ongoing local transmission) are requested to quarantine themselves and not share personal items to decrease the spread of the disease to their families and society.

Dr. Sukhum Karnchanapimai, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health and Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai (Director General of Department of Disease Control) stated about the COVID-19 situation that today, there are seven additional confirmed cases. The first case is a 63 year-old woman who is a high-risk close contact among the 11 patient cluster who went to the entertainment spot (reported on 12 March 2020). She is the patient number 76.

The 2nd-5th cases are family members and were diagnosed at a private hospital in Bangkok as follows: the second case (index case) is a 57 year-old woman (Mother) and traveled from Japan on 4 March 2020 with fever and productive cough (patient number 77), the third case is her daughter who is a 30 year-old employee and close contact with her friend who traveled from South Korea (On 2 March 2020) and her mother who traveled from Japan. She was sick on 9 March 2020 with a fever, runny nose, and productive cough (the patient is the 78th confirmed case).

The fourth case is a 33 year-old Japanese man, (the husband of the 78th confirmed case). He is an employee who became sick on 9 March 2020 with fever, cough, and productive cough (he is the 79th confirmed case).

The fifth case is a 4 year-old Thai girl (granddaughter of the index case). She became sick on 9 March 2020 with a fever, cough, and productive cough (she is the 80th confirmed case).

The sixth case is a 20 year-old Thai woman who returned from Japan and arrived to Thailand on 14 February 2020. She became sick on 27 February 2020 with fever, cough, difficulty breathing, muscle aches, headache and productive cough. She had a productive cough and her symptoms did not improve. On 11 March 2020, she was admitted to a private hospital in Bangkok. (She is the 81st confirmed case).

The seventh case is a 41 year-old Thai man, an actor and MC who became sick on 11 March 2020 with fever, cough, and muscle aches. He had contact with his friend who had travel history abroad. He was being treated at Rajavithi Hospital. The investigation is now in the process of contact tracing (he is the 82nd confirmed case).

In addition, the close contacts (high-risk group) will be followed up and under surveillance. Now, there are around 36 PUI who are waiting for laboratory results. Once the results are confirmed, the MoPH will make an announcement.

There are currently 35 patients who recovered from the disease, 46 patients admitted at the hospital and one death. The total number of confirmed cases is 82 with one severe case being treated at Bamrasnaradura.

Now, travelers departing from outbreak areas are becoming aware of COVID-19. This is a good sign but the most important thing to do is self-quarantine at home for 14 days in accordance with MOPH's recommendation, and not share personal items with others so as to prevent transmission in the family. For instance, the four new confirmed cases today are members of the same family. People shall practice social distancing and not visit crowded places in order to honor their social responsibility. If anyone develops one of these symptoms including a fever with at least one symptom of respiratory infection including, coughing, runny nose, or muscle aches. it is recommended to seek medical treatment at the hospital and inform the doctor about travel history so that the doctor can diagnose, treat, and inform surveillance officers to prevent the spread of the disease.

Close contacts with confirmed cases of COVID-19 are considered "high-risk exposure" contacts, which include family members, people having direct contact or conversations with the case within a distance of no more than 1 meter for more than 5 minutes or being sneezed on by patients without protecting oneself or in a closed space without ventilation, such as air-conditioned vehicles, air-conditioned rooms with the patient for more than 15 minutes and staying with the patient without protection within a distance of one meter.

All high-risk exposure contacts will be tracked by the staff and will be diagnosed. They must quarantine themselves strictly at home for 14 days, while other low-risk exposure contacts are considered by the epidemiological investigations. For the low-risk exposure group, they are advised to observe their symptoms for 14 days, keep away from social activities in both the period and time (Social Distancing) and avoid social activities. If sick, ask to see a doctor immediately. "There is very little chance of viral detection for people who still have no symptoms," Dr. Sukhum said.

3. Advice for the general public

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/>, 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 check for scams at the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society. www.antifakenewscenter.com