

Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 15 March 2020

1. The situation on 15 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 76 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 37 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 114.

2. From 3 January to 15 March 2020 at 11.00 A.M., the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) was 6,176 people. Of those, 258 PUI were detected from screening at ports of entry, and 5,918 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals. 4,223 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 1,953 PUI are still being admitted to hospitals for further testing.

3. As of 7:00 a.m. on 15 March 2020, since 5 January 2020 the international situation involves 147 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships, there were 155,817 confirmed cases and 5,814 deaths. 80,824 of these confirmed cases and 3,189 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China.

2. MOPH reported 32 new cases of COVID-19, 2 cases were discharged, advising not to visit crowded areas.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has confirmed 32 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as 2 cases were discharged and returned to their homes. Moreover, they also advised not to visit crowded places and avoid traveling abroad during this situation.

Dr. Sukhum Karnchanapimai, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health and his team stated about the COVID-19 situation that there was a Ministry of Public Health meeting with Mr. Anutin Charvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health, as the chairman on 14 March 2020. They discussed government management measures for the next offer to the Prime Minister to control the disease such as decreasing the number of entering travelers, closing crowded or high risk entertainment spots and ceasing aspects of public activity due to the previous report about patients related to entertainment spots and restaurants.

Today, 32 new confirmed cases have been reported who were associated with public places as follows:

- 1st group was associated with a boxing stadium: 9 cases
 - 2nd group was associated with a nightlife spot: 8 cases
 - 3rd group was associated with travel groups: 3 cases
 - 4th group was associated with people returning from abroad: 7 cases
 - 5th group had contact with a confirmed case (restaurant owner): 2 cases
 - 6th group were already undergoing the investigation process: 3 cases
- Laboratory results from 51 tests are still pending

There were 2 cases who fully recovered and were discharged, a 29 year-old Thai man and a 22 year-old Thai woman treated at the Bamrasnaradura Infectious Disease Institute. There are currently 37 patients who recovered, 76 patients admitted at hospitals and 1 death. The total number of confirmed cases is 114.

New cases were found at crowded places, i.e. pub, boxing stadium and restaurants. Therefore, it is recommended to avoid or refrain from visiting the aforementioned places. If the visit is necessary, people should wear masks, wash hands frequently, and not share personal items with others (e.g. glasses and spoons). For the staff in the said places, they should wear a mask, frequently wash hands with soap and water or with alcohol gels. For operators in the mentioned places, increasing the frequency of cleaning the service areas i.e. chairs and tables, and opening the doors or windows for good ventilation everyday are recommended. In addition, people are recommended not to travel abroad in order to prevent the disease transmission.

Moreover, restaurants and entertainment venues that the confirmed cases reported visiting have already been cleaned down by Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. Next week, the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee will hold a meeting to implement the law under Article 35 of the Communicable Disease Act 2015 (B.E. 2558) to allow the order to close any place. This order must be approved by the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee.

This morning, Sattahip Naval Base received 83 Thai people from Italy, consisting of 78 exchange students, three tourists, and two airline employees, of which six met the criteria for patients under investigation (PUI). They did not have fever, but exhibited coughing and nasal discharge. Three of them were referred to Sattahip Hospital KM.10, one to Ban Chang Hospital, one to Map Ta Phut Hospital, and one to Rayong Hospital. The other 77 travelers were sent for symptom monitoring at the Army Base Reception Building of Sattahip Naval Base, Chonburi province until the end of 14 days.

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.
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