

## Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 17 March 2020

### 1. The situation on 17 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 135 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 41 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 177.

2. From 3 January to 17 March 2020 at 11.00 A.M., the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) was 7,045 people. Of those, 283 PUI were detected from screening at ports of entry, and 6,762 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals. 4,588 cases have recovered and returned home, but a few of these cases have been sent home and are being continually monitored. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 2,457 PUI are still admitted to hospitals for further testing.

3. As of 7:00 a.m. on 17 March 2020, since 5 January 2020 the international situation involves 160 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships, there were 179,188 confirmed cases and 7,066 deaths. 80,880 of these confirmed cases and 3,213 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China.

### 2. MOPH reported 30 new cases of COVID-19, 3 cases have recovered and returned to their homes.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported 30 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19, 3 cases have recovered, been discharged and returned to their homes. The MOPH requires people to seek medical attention at health care clinics near their homes immediately if they have symptoms such as fever, cough, or runny nose, especially people who have been involved in areas that MOPH announced the confirmed case.

Dr. Sukhum Karnchanapimai, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health and his team stated about COVID-19 situation that today, one confirmed case was discharged from the Central Chest Institute of Thailand and two confirmed cases were discharged from the Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute. There were 30 additional confirmed cases. The classifications for the two groups are as follows:

The first group consists of 14 patients who had close contact history with confirmed cases or were involved with places that had confirmed cases i.e. 11 confirmed cases had history of going to the boxing stadium, one confirmed case had history of going to an entertainment spot, and two confirmed cases had history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group consists of 16 additional confirmed cases. Nine confirmed cases came back from abroad, one confirmed case had a history of close contact with foreigners and six cases are pending additional investigation.

Test results are pending for 22 cases. There are 41 cases that have recovered and have been sent home, 135 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals and there has been one death, which brings the total number of COVID-19 cases detected in Thailand thus far to 177. Doctors are closely monitoring the severe case who is being treated at BIDI.

A total of 83 Thai students who returned from Italy were quarantined at Sattahip Naval Base. Of these, 6 cases were sent to hospital, and none of those have fever. One case has a runny nose, they all have negative results for SARS-CoV-2. Another 77 cases were being quarantined at the naval base and none of them have fever. Yesterday (March 16, 2020) samples were collected and sent to the Regional Medical Sciences Center 6, Chonburi for COVID-19 tests. They will receive the results of the lab tests tomorrow, and they will be monitored for 14 days.

The MOPH requested the collaboration from people to strictly comply with the recommendations by keeping a distance of at least 1 meter from each other, canceling unnecessary trips, wearing a mask when visiting public places, bringing alcohol gel, not joining parties, not sharing personal items with other, eating well-cooked food, using a common spoon and frequently washing hands. If anyone develops symptoms including a fever, coughing, runny nose and sore throat, it is recommended to wear a mask and seek medical advice immediately and inform the health authorities of their travel history e.g. returning from abroad, visiting crowded places, pubs, bars, restaurants, boxing stadiums, and theaters. The diagnosis, treatment and disease surveillance will help prevent the spread of the disease.

The MOPH also requested people who have a fever, cough or runny nose as well as history of visiting places where there have been confirmed cases e.g. boxing stadiums, pubs and restaurants, to seek medical treatment at their local hospital.

### 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/eng/index.php>, 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 at [www.antifakenewscenter.com](http://www.antifakenewscenter.com)