

Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 21 March 2020

1. The situation on 21 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 366 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 44 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 411.

2. From 3 January to 21 March 2020 at 11.00 A.M., the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) was 9,670 people. Of those, 335 PUI were detected from screening at ports of entry, and 9,335 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals. 5,937 cases have recovered and returned home. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 3,733 PUI are still admitted to hospitals.

3. As of 7:00 a.m. on 21 March 2020, since 5 January 2020, the international situation involves 179 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There were 265,867 confirmed cases and 11,179 deaths. 80,967 of these confirmed cases and 3,248 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China.

2. MOPH reported 89 new cases of COVID-19, one case has recovered and returned home.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported 89 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19, one case has recovered, been discharged and returned home. People are requested to not panic and strictly follow the instructions of the Ministry of Public Health.

Dr. Taweessin Visanuyothin, Senior Medical Officer of Regional 10 and Spokesman of the Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Sophon Iamsirithaworn, Director of the Division of Communicable Diseases, Department of Disease Control and their team stated about COVID-19 that today, one patient was discharged from the hospital and returned home. There were 89 additional confirmed cases and they are divided into two groups as follows:

The first group consists of 51 patients who had close contact history with confirmed cases or were involved with the places that had confirmed cases. There are 32 confirmed cases with history of going to the boxing stadium, 2 confirmed cases had history of going to entertainment spots, 11 confirmed cases had history of close contact with previous cases and six cases had history of joining a religious gathering in Malaysia.

The second group consists of 38 additional confirmed cases. Twelve confirmed cases came back from abroad. Of these there are many cases who have travel history to pubs in Poipet, Cambodia among previous confirmed cases. Six confirmed cases had a history of working or living in crowded places or had close contact with foreigners. Twenty cases, with risk of exposure history, are pending for the results of the investigation.

There are seven severe cases at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute, Phetcharat Hospital, Rajavithi Hospital, Siriraj Hospital and private hospitals who require the use of ventilators and they are being closely monitored. In summary, 44 cases have fully recovered and were discharged, 366 cases are being treated at hospitals, and there has been one death, which brings the country's total number of confirmed cases to 411.

When the Ministry of Public Health receives a new report of confirmed cases, relevant authorities/officers investigate within 12 hours and report the number of new confirmed cases to the World Health Organization daily.

Reporting patients requires an investigation report together with the complete laboratory results, which contributes to the cumulative data. Some days there may be a large number of patient reports or data that does not match the local data. Therefore, to match with the current situation, the Ministry of Public Health has instructed provinces to initially report new confirmed cases immediately after laboratory confirmation.

Many new confirmed cases are young people of working age who have risky behavior. Many have not refrained from attending social activities and have not kept a safe distance from other people. This kind of behavior may spread the virus to close contacts, i.e. family members and friends. Above all, this virus can be dangerous for groups including the elderly, infants and people with underlying diseases, therefore, people should comply with the MoPH recommendations by refraining from attending social activities, and keeping a distance of at least 1 meter from other people. In addition, people should abide by the WHO recommendations by refraining from unnecessary trips to crowded places and if possible, working from home. If people strictly implement self-protection, it can reduce the disease transmission.

For those who have previously been to areas with reported illnesses such as boxing stadiums, entertainment spots, cock-fighting stadiums, and theaters, they need to strictly self-quarantine themselves at home for at least 14 days, not stay close to other people and self-monitor their symptoms. If there is no fever, coughing, runny nose, sore throat, or muscle aches, you do not need to be tested for infection. The probability of detecting the virus is minimal if symptoms are absent. If the result shows negative, you may have lack caution with a false sense of security that you are free from disease.

3. Advice for the general public

Please follow the news from the Ministry of Public Health. If there are any questions, you can ask at the Department of Disease Control Hotline 1422, 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