

Special Announcement of COVID-19

On 23 March 2020

1. The situation on 23 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 668 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 52 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 721.

2. As of 7:00 a.m. on 23 March 2020, since 5 January 2020, the international situation has involved 185 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There were 329,624 confirmed cases and 14,433 deaths. 81,054 of these confirmed cases and 3,261 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China. 59,138 of these confirmed cases and 5,476 of these deaths are from the Italy Republic.

2. MOPH reported 122 new cases of COVID-19, seven cases have recovered and returned home.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported 122 additional confirmed cases of COVID-19, seven cases have recovered, been discharged and returned home. The MOPH requested all people who return to their hometowns to present themselves to the disease control officers and strictly follow the MOPH instructions including self-quarantines for 14 days, monitoring their symptoms and keeping 1-2 meters of space between others.

Dr. Supakit Sirilak, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health and Dr. Taweessin Visanuyothin, Senior Medical Officer of Region 10 and Spokesman of the Ministry of Public Health stated about COVID-19 that today, seven patients were discharged from the hospital and returned home. There were 122 additional confirmed cases and they are divided into three groups as follows:

The first group consists of 20 patients who had close contact history with confirmed cases or were involved with places that had confirmed cases. There are four confirmed cases with history of going to the boxing stadium and 16 confirmed cases had history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group consists of 10 additional confirmed cases. Four confirmed cases came back from abroad. Six confirmed cases had a history of working or living in crowded places or had close contact with foreigners.

The third group consists of 92 cases with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and are pending history information and investigation. The seven severe cases are at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Disease Institute, Phetchabun Hospital, university hospitals, and private hospitals, and they require the use of ventilators as they are being closely monitored. In summary, 52 cases have fully recovered and were discharged, 668 cases are being treated at hospitals, and there has been one death, which brings the country's total number of confirmed cases to 721. Currently, there has been a tendency

for more new confirmed cases in provinces outside of Bangkok because some people returned to their hometown provinces before and after the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's announcement of closing the Bangkok Metropolitan Region. Those who return to their homes are requested to report to the communicable disease control officers.

Disease control officers include: Provincial Health Medical Doctors, Provincial Governors, Directors of Hospitals, Sheriffs, District Public Health Officers, Subdistrict Headmen, Village Headmen and Village Health Volunteers. In addition, it is recommended to comply with MoPH recommendations by strictly implementing self-quarantine at home for at least 14 days, not making contact with other people, keeping a distance of at least 1-2 meters from other people, refraining from unnecessary trips, not visiting crowded places and not sharing food with other people. If anyone develops a fever or respiratory symptoms, please seek medical advice at the hospital immediately, especially for high-risk groups including audience, working colleagues, staff at the boxing stadium and pubs who return to their hometowns. These kinds of high-risk groups can spread the virus to their close contacts, i.e. parents, spouses, children, and other family members and friends. The MoPH recommended that the best protection is implementing self-quarantine and social distancing.

Keep in mind that people in the risk groups without fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, or muscle aches need to strictly isolate themselves from others and maintain social-distancing. To importantly note, if there are still no symptoms it is unnecessary to be tested for infection due to the low probability of viral detection. This misconception from negative results can lead people to falsely interpret that they are not infected, which may lead them to still go out for social activities. They may have a lack of caution and a false sense of security. If they get sick, they can infect other close contacts and or make them become high-risk contacts. Negative consequences from many more illnesses can occur in communities. According to the latest laboratory tests, a total of 30,000 samples were collected for testing, of which around 10,000 met the PUI criteria and only 400 of those PUI were revealed to be the confirmed cases.

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 “ไทยสู้โควิด” 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.