



Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

MOPH announces the fifth case of nCoV 2019 in Thailand at Rajavithi Hospital

On the afternoon of January 24, 2020, Deputy Public Health Minister Satit Pitutecha was interviewed after visiting the fifth coronavirus patient at Rajavithi Hospital. He said that the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) received notification of a patient who met the 2019-nCoV criteria from the investigation team, and the patient was subsequently transferred to Rajavithi Hospital for treatment on 23 January 2020.

A 33-year-old female Chinese tourist from Wuhan developed fever, coughing, and muscle ache without a runny nose. She was treated in a negative pressure room. She and her daughter arrived in Thailand on January 21, 2020, but her 7-year-old daughter did not show any clinical signs. The woman had a low grade fever, mild weakness, a few productive coughs, and was generally in good condition that morning. The patient received supportive treatment to the patient. A laboratory test revealed her as the fifth confirmed case of 2019-nCoV in Thailand. All confirmed cases were infected outside Thailand. There is no local transmission in the country. Mr. Satit Pitutecha advised the public, "Please be confident in our effective surveillance system. We have had more case detection, and a more effective system." The latest case sought out treatment on her own. She followed the advice addressed in the Health Beware Card that has been distributed to all travelers from affected areas.

Currently, the situation surveillance level has been scaled up among the regional hospitals under the Ministry of Public Health, the Department of Medical Services and the Department of Diseases Control. The hospitals have the training and preparations available for patient treatment and effective infection prevention and control.

"Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General, released a statement after receiving public health advice from the meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) in which the outbreak situation did not constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to current data of its severity and the current measures," said Mr. Pitutecha referring to the Dr. Tedros's statement.

Rajavithi Hospital is prepared to admit new coronavirus patients. In this hospital, there are six negative pressure isolation rooms and ample medical supplies (e.g. medical gowns, masks, gloves, antivirals, antibiotics, and saline solution) which are sufficient for taking care of patients.

The hospital is equipped with health officers who have experience with taking care of pneumonia patients and have completed a simulation exercise to look after this group of patients.

In addition, this hospital serves as a coordinating center to refer patients, after the DDC Situation Awareness Team (SAT) diagnoses and confirms that patients who are suspected of 2019-nCoV need to be referred, and must guarantee patient safety within the referral system.