

Special Announcement of COVID-19

On 25 March 2020

1. The situation on 25 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 860 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 70 cases have recovered and have been sent home, and there have been four deaths, which brings the total number of COVID-19 cases detected in Thailand thus far to 934.

2. As of 7:00 a.m. on 25 March 2020, since 5 January 2020, the international situation has involved 194 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There were 407,670 confirmed cases and 18,250 deaths. 81,171 of these confirmed cases and 3,277 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China. 69,176 of these confirmed cases and 6,820 of these deaths are from the Italian Republic.

2. MOPH reported 107 new COVID-19 cases, 13 cases were discharged.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported 107 additional cases of COVID-19 infection, 13 cases have been discharged and returned to their homes. If people develop a fever and suspect COVID-19 disease, please seek medical attention immediately, they should not conceal or withhold any information, as it has an effect on diagnosis and treatment.

Dr. Taweessin Visanuyothin, Senior Medical Officer and Spokesman of the Ministry of Public Health and his team stated about COVID-19 that today, there were 107 additional confirmed cases and they are divided into three groups as follows:

The first group consists of 27 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 a boxing stadium, five confirmed cases with history of going to entertainment spots, 14 confirmed cases had history of close contact with previous cases and four confirmed cases with history of joining a religious gathering in Malaysia.

The second group consists of 13 additional confirmed cases. Six confirmed cases returned from abroad, five confirmed cases had a history of working or living in crowded places or had close contact with foreigners. Two confirmed cases are healthcare workers.

The third group consists of 67 cases with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 infection) and are pending further investigation.

All four severe cases require respirators and are being closely monitored. As of now, there have been 70 patients who have recovered and returned home, 860 patients currently being treated at hospitals, and four deaths (the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is 934).

Many people who had been working in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region returned to their hometowns, which is creating the opportunity for the virus to spread to their close contacts. The Ministry of Public Health has instructed Provincial Chief Medical Officers, as Secretariats of the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee to order the provincial public health officers and village health volunteers to collect a list of returnees, give them suggestions on implementing self-isolation at their homes/residences for 14 days, and promote social distancing measures such as avoiding parties and social events. If anyone encounters someone with an illness especially elderly people, children, and people with underlying disease, they should notify public health officers, sub district

headmen, or village headmen. People with underlying conditions have a high probability to become sick, therefore, they should stay at home to reduce transmission of the virus causing COVID-19.

Regarding household members who must leave their home for work, it is recommended to clean their body once returning home, frequently wash hands and keep a safe distance away from family members in order to prevent disease transmission.

In addition, if people develop a fever and respiratory symptoms, they are requested to seek medical treatment at the hospital and be truthful when informing the doctor of their history to be promptly and accurately diagnosed further. The safety of medical doctors, nurses and public health officers is crucial, therefore, people are recommended not to conceal their risk history to the health care providers. Honesty from people will be beneficial for treatment and can reduce the risk to the medical staff. If medical staff become infected, it will greatly affect the medical services management and public health system, i.e. lack of staff to take care of patients.

3. Advice for the general public

The general public was asked for cooperation to be alert and to honor their social responsibility. 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.