

Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 27 March 2020

1. The situation on 27 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 1,034 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 97 cases have recovered and have been sent home, and there have been 5 deaths, which brings the total number of COVID-19 cases detected in Thailand thus far to 1,136.

2. As of 7:00 a.m. on 26 March 2020, since 5 January 2020, the international situation has involved 196 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There were 519,899 confirmed cases and 23,588 deaths. 81,285 of these confirmed cases and 3,287 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China. 80,589 of these confirmed cases and 8,215 of these deaths are from the Italian Republic.

2. MOPH reported 91 new COVID-19 cases, 9 cases were discharged.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported 91 additional cases of COVID-19 infection, and 9 cases have been discharged and returned to their homes. The MOPH strongly requested people to implement social-distancing to decrease the number of patients.

Dr. Anupong Sujariyakul, Senior Expert In Prevention Medicine, Department of Disease Control, Dr. Supakit Sirilak, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Panpimol Wipulakorn, Director General, Department of Health, Dr. Paisarn Dunkum, Secretary General, Food and Drug Administration and team stated about COVID-19 that today, nine confirmed cases were discharged from the hospital and returned home. There were 91 additional confirmed cases and they are divided into three groups as follows:

The first group consists of 30 patients who had close contact history with confirmed cases or were involved with places that had confirmed cases. There are five confirmed cases with history of going to a boxing stadium, seven confirmed cases with history of going to entertainment spots and 18 confirmed cases had history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group consists of 19 new patients including 1) ten cases who returned from areas at risk (both Thais and foreigners) 2) five cases who work or live in crowded places or who have had close contact with foreigners and 3) four cases in another group who met the criteria for PUI such as people with pneumonia of unknown causes.

The third group consists of 42 cases with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 infection) and are pending further investigation.

Today, one new death was reported. The new death case was a 50 year-old Thai man at Sungaikolok Hospital, Narathiwat province. Among the eleven severe cases, all of them need ventilators and are being closely monitored. In summary, 97 cases have returned home, still hospitalized (1,034), deaths (5), for a total of 1,136 cases.

Today is day 12 of the quarantine for the 83 returnees from Italy, who have been quarantined to observe their symptoms at Sattahip Naval Base. All of them were in good condition with no fever and their samples will be collected for testing a 3rd time.

The results of patient data analysis showed that 88% of patients across 52 provinces are Thai and 12% are foreigners. Based on data from the movement of people from Bangkok to other provinces, the Ministry of Public Health has predicted the number of new confirmed cases from now to April 15, 2020 will increase onwards. If there are no preventive measures, the accumulated number of patients could increase to 25,225. If 50% of the social distancing measures were implemented, the model predicts

there will be 17,635 cumulative cases. If people are able to implement 80% of the social distancing measures, the model predicts there will be 7,745 cumulative patients.

Examples of the Intensity of Social Distancing

Place	Social Distancing 50%	Social Distancing 80%
Public Bus	Reduce the number of passengers by half (e.g. one person per twin seat)	
Sky Train/MRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit the number of passengers in the coach. - Keep space (at least 1 seat) between seats - For standing seats, keep a distance of at least 1 meter from other people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep space (at least 1 seat) between seats - No standing
Department Stores	Closure of only the crowded areas, i.e. Playground zones, theatres and restaurants (not allowed to eat in the restaurants)	Close all areas except the supermarket. Keep distance while queuing up.
Workplaces	Work from home 50% of the time	Work from home as much as possible (more than 50%)
Restaurants	Limit the seats per table (1 -2 people per table)	Not allowed to eat in the restaurant (only take-away is available)
Service places including Government agencies, State Enterprises and Banks	Limit the seats and keep distance for queuing up	Using online service as much as possible (not allowed to enter the areas)

However, Now the government elevated the level of every measure under the Emergency Decree 2005, closed some areas and control the activities in high risk areas, i.e. Bangkok Metropolitan Region, areas of tourist attractions, big cities in the region and provinces located in the southern areas including issuing measures to control going in and out of their residence.

People traveling ...

People traveling from other areas to their hometown	People living in their hometown	Risk group for severe symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - present themselves to the head of the community and village health volunteers in order to be screened within 24 hours and report their health condition to the officer everyday until the termination of the 14 day quarantine - when they arrive at their residence, it is recommended to wash hands and clean their body immediately - quarantine/isolate themselves from other people for 14 days including separating their bedroom, not sharing their belongings with other people and wearing a cloth mask - If anyone develops the symptoms including cough, sneeze, runny nose and sore throat within 14 days, they should seek medical treatment at the hospital immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - go out of the residence as necessary - avoid visiting crowded places - when going out the residence, please wear a mask or cloth mask and frequently wash hands - when returning to the residence, please wash hands with water and soap immediately - if it is necessary to go outside their area, please check their health condition before departure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refrain from going outside the residence - if it is necessary to seek medical treatment for their underlying disease, please contact the public health officer in the area in order to receive medicine from the healthcare provider near their home. - refrain from visiting community areas or attending social activities, i.e. religious ceremonies, funerals and wedding ceremonies

The risk groups for severe illnesses are elderly people aged 70 years and older, those with underlying diseases such as diabetes mellitus, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, stroke, paralysis, chronic respiratory disease, asthma and immunosuppressed people such as those receiving immunosuppressive drugs. Another risk group for disease infection are young children up to 5 years old.