

Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 28 March 2020

1. The situation on 28 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 1,139 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 100 cases have recovered and have been sent home, and there have been 6 deaths, which brings the total number of COVID-19 cases detected in Thailand thus far to 1,245.

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 557,660 confirmed cases and 26,448 deaths. 81,340 of these confirmed cases and 3,292 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China. 94,425 of these confirmed cases and 1,429 of these deaths are from the United States. 86,498 of these confirmed cases and 9,134 of these deaths are from the Italian Republic.

2. MOPH reported 109 new COVID-19 cases, 3 cases were discharged.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported 109 additional cases of COVID-19 infection, and 3 cases have been discharged and returned to their homes. The MOPH strongly requested at-risk people to implement social-distancing “Stay home - Stop spreading - For the nation”

Dr. Sopon Iamsirithaworn, Director of Division of Communicable Disease, Department of Disease Control and Dr. Anupong Sujariyakul, Senior Expert In Prevention Medicine, Department of Disease Control stated about COVID-19 that today, three confirmed cases were discharged from the hospital and returned home. There were 109 additional confirmed cases and they are divided into three groups as follows:

The first group consists of 39 patients who had close contact history with confirmed cases or were involved with places that had confirmed cases. There are 10 confirmed cases with history of going to a boxing stadium, eight confirmed cases with history of going to entertainment spots and 21 confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group consists of 17 additional confirmed cases. Eight confirmed cases returned from areas at risk (both Thais and foreigners), seven confirmed cases had a history of working or living in crowded places or had close contact with foreigners, and two confirmed cases are healthcare workers.

The third group consists of 53 cases with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 infection) and are pending further investigation.

Today (28 March 2020), 1 patient died, a 55-year-old woman with diabetes, poor glycemic control and high blood cholesterol. There are 17 severe cases with pneumonia that require ventilators and are being closely monitored. Of these, one case is in critical condition and requires ECMO support.

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Twelve of the severe cases are being actively treated in hospitals under the Ministry of Public Health, military hospital and university hospitals in Bangkok. Another 5 patients are being treated in

Chiang Mai, Surat Thani, Phetchabun, Nakhon Ratchasima and Buri Ram provinces. The age of the severe cases ranges between 31-76 years old and the patients have a history of contact with foreigners such as drivers, massage and spa staff and those who went to the boxing stadium.

For the new confirmed cases, they are not only people who visited pubs and boxing stadiums where reported cases have been continually found, but they are also people who departed from risk areas or worked in high-risk places, i. e. working in crowded places and making contact with foreigners. This information showed that people still are not refraining from traveling and have not adequately practiced self-protection while working. Therefore, people are encouraged "Stay home - Stop spreading - For the nation", which is important for national health security," implement social-distancing (keeping a space of 1-2 meters away from other people) both at workplaces and at home, wear a mask, frequently wash hands, separate the dining table and not share personal belongings with other people.

For those traveling from Bangkok and surrounding areas, they are part of high-risk groups that need to comply with the regulations of going in and going out of their residence in accordance with the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2548 (2005), by staying in the residences and not traveling unnecessarily outside. If leaving the residence is deemed important, such as visiting a doctor for an appointment, please kindly consider postponing the appointment, and consult the doctor or health care provider regarding the medical consultation and go to the hospital only if needed. To promote social-distancing in daily life, use online transactions or internet banking when ordering medication near the home, refrain from going to crowded areas such as blessings/traditional/religious ceremonies, meetings, restaurants, markets, or department stores. Avoid public transport as well. If travel is necessary, use a private car. When going outside the residence, people must wear cloth masks or surgical masks. If you feel unwell, with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose or dyspnea, you need to immediately tell the caregivers or family members for treatment and prevent the spread of infection.