

Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 29 March 2020

1. The situation on 29 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 1,270 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 111 cases have recovered and have been sent home, and there have been 7 deaths, which brings the total number of COVID-19 cases detected in Thailand thus far to 1,388.

2. As of 7:00 a.m. on 29 March 2020, since 5 January 2020, the international situation has involved 197 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There were 645,158 confirmed cases and 29,951 deaths. 81,394 of these confirmed cases and 3,295 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China. 116,050 of these confirmed cases and 1,937 of these deaths are from the United States. 92,472 of these confirmed cases and 10,023 of these deaths are from the Italian Republic.

2. MOPH reported 134 new COVID-19 cases, 11 cases were discharged.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported 143 additional COVID-19 cases, 11 cases have been discharged and returned to their homes and one new death. The MOPH strongly requested at-risk people to strictly implement the protective measures which were recommended by the government and the MOPH to decrease mortality and provide timely treatment.

Dr. Opas Karnkawinpong, Director General, Department of Medical Sciences, Dr. Tanarak Plipat, Deputy Director General, Department of Disease Control and Dr. Bancha Khakhong, Deputy Director General, Department of Health stated about COVID-19 that today, 11 confirmed cases were discharged from the hospital and returned home. There were 143 additional confirmed cases and they are divided into three groups as follows:

The first group consists of 70 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, 15 confirmed cases with history of going to entertainment spots, 49 confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases and one confirmed case with history of joining a religious gathering in Malaysia.

The second group consists of 43 additional confirmed cases. 22 confirmed cases returned from areas at risk (both Thais and foreigners), eight confirmed cases had a history of working, living or going to crowded places or had close contact with foreigners, eight confirmed cases are healthcare workers and five confirmed cases had an unknown cause of pneumonia.

The third group consists of 30 cases with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 infection) and are pending further investigation.

Today, one patient died, a 68-year-old Thai man with chronic diseases including high blood pressure and diabetes. The patient had difficulty breathing and he was admitted to a private hospital and detected with pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. He was then transferred to Phra Nang Klao Hospital but his symptoms did not improve, he died on March 26, 2020.

There are currently 17 severe cases with pneumonia that require ventilators and they are being closely monitored. Of these, one case is in critical condition and requires support from an ECMO machine.

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Today is a good day for the group of 83 people who returned from Italy and were quarantined at Sattahip Naval Base. According to the laboratory test results, all of them were negative for COVID-19 and the people returned home healthy. For the 17 severe cases, about 50% of these patients are in the significant risk group consisting of elderly (above 70 years old) with chronic underlying disease.

Regarding the current vital statistics, Thailand has 4.7 million seniors over 70 years old (data from the National Research Council of Thailand), therefore MOPH is asking groups of people at high risk of COVID-19 infection, including the elderly aged 70 years or more, people with underlying diseases, and young children under five years old to strictly comply with the measures delivered by the government sector and the Ministry of Public Health. Stay in your residence or home to prevent infection from outside. If you feel sick with a fever, cough, or respiratory symptoms, see a doctor immediately for timely treatment and to reduce mortality.