

Special Announcement of COVID-19

On 30 March 2020

1. The situation on 30 March 2020 at 8.00 a.m.

1. There are currently 1,388 confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) being actively treated in hospitals, 127 cases have recovered and have been sent home, and there have been 9 deaths, which brings the total number of COVID-19 cases detected in Thailand thus far to 1,524.

2. As of 7:00 a.m. on 30 March 2020, since 5 January 2020, the international situation has involved 197 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There were 721,277 confirmed cases and 33,942 deaths. 81,439 of these confirmed cases and 3,300 of these deaths are from the People's Republic of China. 141,781 of these confirmed cases and 2,471 of these deaths are from the United States. 97,689 of these confirmed cases and 10,779 of these deaths are from the Italian Republic.

2. MOPH reported 136 new COVID-19 cases, 16 cases were discharged.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported 136 additional COVID-19 cases, 16 cases have been discharged and returned to their homes and there are two additional deaths. The MOPH strongly recommends people who use public transportation to wear hygienic or cloth masks during the trip, and frequently wash hands with alcohol gel to decrease the chance of infection.

Dr. Anupong Sujariyakul, Senior Expert In Prevention Medicine, Department of Disease Control and Dr. Thongchai Lertwilairatanpong, Inspector General Region 1 stated about COVID-19 that today, 16 confirmed cases were discharged from the hospital and returned home. There were 136 additional confirmed cases and they are divided into three groups as follows:

The first group consists of 71 patients who had close contact history with confirmed cases or were involved with places that had confirmed cases. There are two confirmed cases with history of going to a boxing stadium, 10 confirmed cases with history of going to entertainment spots and 59 confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group consists of 59 additional confirmed cases. 21 confirmed cases returned from areas at risk (both Thais and foreigners), 15 confirmed cases had a history of working or living in crowded places or had close contact with foreigners, two confirmed cases are healthcare workers, three confirmed cases had a history of going to crowded places, four confirmed cases had history of taking public transportation and 14 confirmed cases had an unknown cause of pneumonia.

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

Two more people have died from COVID-19, one of whom was a 54 year-old Thai man with travel history to Malaysia and admitted at Yala Hospital. The second was a 56 year-old Thai woman with pneumonia and who was admitted at a private hospital in Bangkok. There are currently 23 patients who are in critical condition and are being closely monitored. There are 1,388 confirmed COVID-19 cases currently being actively treated in hospitals, 127 cases have recovered and have been sent home, and there have been 9 deaths, which brings the total number of COVID-19 cases detected in Thailand thus far to 1,524.

The 138 new confirmed cases were reported across 18 provinces; 80 cases were found in Bangkok followed by nine cases in Chiang Mai, seven cases in Samut Prakan, six cases in Phuket, three cases in Chonburi, three cases in Nakhon Sawan, and the rest in other provinces. In addition, the new cases have been continually reported among people using public transportation, i.e. taxis, buses, vans, sky train/MRT, ships and airplanes. Therefore, people affiliated with public transportation including drivers, passengers, relevant staff and people who are rely on public transport for essential travel are encouraged to implement self-protection by always wearing a mask during the trip, keeping a safe distance from other people, frequently washing hands, cleaning their body once returning home and self-observing symptoms and those of their family members.

The Public transport operators and employees must clean the vehicles regularly, open windows for ventilation, wear gloves during cleaning, and use 70% alcohol or disinfectant after receiving passengers with respiratory symptoms such as sneezing, coughing or runny nose. While cleaning, please be sure to clean the surfaces that people frequently touch, such as door handles, car cushions, arm rests, etc.

3. Advice for the general public

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.