



Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

DDC Confirms Thailand is Implementing Screening and Surveillance of Novel Coronavirus 2019 Intensively and Unremittingly

The Department of Disease Control (DDC), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) affirms that Thailand is implementing an intensive and unremitting screening and surveillance for novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) especially at the international points of entry upon passenger arrival to Thailand. Recently, the MOPH extended the screening of passengers who departed from affected areas such as Guangzhou or Guangdong.

On January 25, 2020 at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Dr. Tanarak Plipat, Deputy Director-General and health officials visited the International Communicable Diseases Control Checkpoint to reassure support for the health officials who have been strictly implementing the intensive prevention measures. After the visit, the People's Republic of China canceled all flights from Wuhan so there currently no flights from Wuhan to Thailand. The Department of Disease Control adapted and enhanced traveler screening for those who travel from other affected areas of China. The first two affected areas are Guangzhou and Guangdong provinces and the screening process will occur at five airports e.g. Suvarnabhumi Airport, Don Mueang International Airport, Chiang Mai International Airport and Chiang Rai International Airport, and began at 10.45 a.m.

Regarding that the second largest number of cases are in Guangzhou behind Wuhan, the screening protocol among travelers from other affected areas of China has been expanded. From January 3-24, 2020, travelers were screened from Wuhan and among 137 flights to the Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Krabi airports, 21,522 passengers and aircrew members were screened for respiratory symptoms and febrile illness. Sixty people met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Thirty seven cases recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes. Most of them were infected with seasonal influenza viruses. Laboratory results identified the novel coronavirus 2019 in five cases (four Chinese cases and one Thai case). Three of them recovered and returned to their homes, when the virus was no longer detected. The other two cases remain in the hospitals, and their conditions are improving.

Dr. Tanarak Plipat said human-to-human transmission has not yet been reported in Thailand. Intensive screening and disease surveillance for novel coronavirus is still underway. However, WHO has not yet declared travel restrictions to countries that novel coronavirus has been reported. Therefore, the public is recommended to closely monitor the situation.

For Thai people travelling to at-risk countries, it is recommended to check the outbreak situation to determine whether it can be visited or if there is a need to postpone the trip.

Traveler is recommended to protect themselves by avoiding visiting crowded places or markets selling the carcasses and live animals, and avoiding contact with patients who have respiratory disease symptoms.

If anyone has symptoms including coughing, sneezing, panting or runny nose after arriving from risky areas, please seek medical care at the hospital immediately and inform the doctor regarding the history of recent travel to China.