

## Special Announcement of COVID-19

On 8 April 2020

1. As of 7:00 a.m. on 8 April 2020, the international situation has involved 209 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There have been 1,425,803 confirmed cases and 81,972 deaths worldwide. The three countries reporting the most cases include the United States with 395,612 confirmed cases and 12,790 deaths, Spain with 141,942 confirmed cases and 14,045 deaths, and the Italian Republic with 135,586 confirmed cases and 17,127 deaths.

2. On 7 April 2020 at 4.00 p.m., 64 cases in Thailand recovered and were discharged, and 111 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed (the 2,259th - 2,369 cases), which include:

The first group: 37 cases who had close contact history with confirmed cases or were involved with places that had confirmed cases with the details as follows:

1.1 37 confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group: 11 additional confirmed cases with the details as follows:

2.1) Two confirmed cases among Thai nationals who returned from abroad

2.2) Three confirmed cases who had travel history to crowded places

2.3) Four confirmed cases who have occupational risks

2.4) Two confirmed cases who are healthcare providers (the total number of confirmed cases among healthcare providers is 55)

The third group: 21 cases with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 infection)

and are pending further investigation (Of these, 18 cases were detected from active case finding in risky areas of Phuket).

The fourth group: 42 confirmed cases who returned from Indonesia and were under state quarantined.

Today, there were three additional fatal cases.

The first case was a 48 year-old Russian man and a tourist. He had history of traveling and going to the airport. He was admitted for treatment at a private hospital in Chonburi province with symptoms including high fever, cough and sore throat. He died on 5 April 2020 (the 28th fatal case).

The second case was a 69 year-old Indian man who ran a personal business at Soi Thonglor. He had diabetes, thyroid disease and cardiovascular disease as underlying diseases. He was admitted at a private hospital in Bangkok with symptoms including cough, runny nose, muscle pain and diarrhea. Then, he was referred to another private hospital in Bangkok and died on 7 April 2020 (the 29th fatal case).

The third case was a 69 year-old American man who had contact history with groups of people while departing from the United States. He was admitted at a hospital in Buriram with symptoms including cough, muscle pain and difficulty breathing. He died on 7 April 2020 (30th fatal case).

As of today, there are 888 cases who returned home, 61 severe cases, 1,451 who are being treated at the hospital, and 30 fatal cases (the total number of confirmed cases is 2,369).

Currently, the government has arranged a total of 1,883 rooms (data as of 8 April 2020) for State Quarantine to observe symptoms of arriving passengers. The distribution of the rooms for quarantine is divided as follows: 1) 136 rooms with 358 guests in two government facilities consisting of Kamphaeng Saen Flying Training School with 36 rooms and 75 people, and the Sattahip Reception Building with 100



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by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

rooms and 283 detainees and 2) a total of 1,747 ready-to-accommodate rooms for private accommodations. There are already 307 people currently under quarantine at these facilities.

Regarding the 5th day of quarantine at Sattahip Naval Base, among 284 people who returned from 17 countries, today everyone is in good condition without fever. For those being treated at Queen Sirikit Hospital, nobody has exhibited fever today and the laboratory results are pending.

## **The MOPH expanded the COVID-19 PUI criteria to increase screening capacity in areas that have many cases.**

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has expanded the COVID-19 Patient under Investigation (PUI) criteria to more widely screen people in Thailand, especially in provinces that have reported large numbers of cases such as Bangkok, Nonthaburi, Phuket, and the three provinces in South. These measures are expected to increase the disease control capabilities. Moreover, the MOPH supports the strict measures that limit entry and exit in some areas.

Today (8 April 2020), Department of Disease Control Director-General Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai reported on the COVID-19 situation in Thailand at the News Operations Centre, Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi province. There were 111 new confirmed COVID-19 cases, of which 69 cases were people in the surveillance system. More than 50% are confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases. To control the disease, MOPH has focused on active case finding. The high risk group that needs specific attention includes Thai nationals who returned from abroad, in which the Thai government has strong measures for preventing imported cases.

Currently, 42 (of 52 symptomatic cases) Thai people returning from Indonesia were found to be infected with SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). 80% of these reported cases were sent to the hospital for treatment, the rest were under state quarantine. No one has returned home to assure that these returnees will not spread the disease to others.

“Currently, the measures that need to be concentrated on are the proactive enhancement of detection and surveillance. There is a focus on areas which have a lot of patients such as Bangkok, Nonthaburi, Phuket and three southern border provinces. The Department of Disease Control will inform the target areas to carry out surveillance and disease prevention and control measures. Moreover, we strictly support the measures to limit entering and exiting of some areas,” Dr. Suwannachai stated.

The confirmed cases started to be reported in Phuket from the middle of March 2020 and have continued. There are currently 158 confirmed cases in Phuket. 84% of them are working age (119 Thai people, 39 foreigners and 1 medical staff). The risk factors are people working with foreigners or coordinating with many people including close contacts and foreigners departing from outbreak areas. Phuket issued measures closing entertainment places, massage services shops and points of entry. However, new cases are still being found because the province has implemented active surveillance in communities to detect new cases. The most important measures are implementing surveillance in risk areas, following up with patients and their symptoms, and the quarantine of people to prevent the spread of disease.

Bangkok has been at the center of the outbreak since the first confirmed case was found in Thailand. Although the situation will improve, nobody should let their guard down since the patients mainly found now are close contacts of previously confirmed cases. This suggests that the government measures have been effective in controlling the disease at the community level, yet there is still transmission among



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groups of close contacts. Therefore, social distancing shall be strictly implemented both in the workplace and at homes or gathering places. However, effective disease control implementation must receive good collaboration from the people, and from every sector, both public and private.