

## Special Announcement of COVID-19

On 9 April 2020

1. As of 7:00 a.m. on 9 April 2020, the international situation has involved 209 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There have been 1,509,435 confirmed cases and 88,333 deaths worldwide. The three countries reporting the most cases include the United States with 427,101 confirmed cases and 14,668 deaths, Spain with 148,220 confirmed cases and 14,792 deaths, and the Italian Republic with 139,422 confirmed cases and 17,669 deaths.

2. On 8 April 2020 at 4.00 p.m., 52 cases in Thailand recovered and were discharged, and 54 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed (the 2,370th - 2,423 cases), which include:

The first group: 22 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 22 confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group: 21 additional confirmed cases with the details as follows:

2.1 Five confirmed cases (three are Thai nationals who returned from abroad, two are non-Thai citizens who arrived from abroad)

2.2 Four confirmed cases who had travel history to crowded places

2.3 Eight confirmed cases who have occupational risks

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

The third group: Six 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 high-risk areas of Phuket).

The fourth group: Five confirmed cases who returned from Indonesia and were under state quarantine.

Today, there were two additional fatal cases.

The first case was a 74 year-old French man. He had history of returning from France and traveling by bus. He was admitted for treatment at a private hospital in Chonburi province with symptoms including fever, cough and abdominal pain and he was referred to Chonburi Hospital. He died on 7 April 2020 (the 31st fatal case).

The second case was an 82 year-old Thai man. He was admitted at a sub-district health-promoting hospital with symptoms including fever, cough, runny nose and difficulty breathing. He was referred to Phra Samut Chedi Sawatyanon Hospital, in Samut Prakan province. He died on 8 April 2020 (the 32nd fatal case).

As of today, there have been 940 cases who returned home, 1,451 who are being treated at hospitals, 36 severe cases, and 32 fatal cases (the total number of confirmed cases is 2,423).

### 3. MOPH set up the social-distancing guidelines in hospitals.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) set up social-distancing guidelines in hospitals to reduce congestion and the spread of infection in outpatient departments during the COVID-19 pandemic. People are asked to give true information to receive appropriate treatment to reduce the risk of severe pneumonia.

Today (on 9 April 2020) at the Emergency Operations Center (Press Conference), Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi province, Dr. Somsak Akkslip, Director-General, Department of Medical Services stated that services for outpatient departments in hospitals, especially government hospitals, are crowded with patients. Many patients are at risk and have chronic diseases or are elderly. Infection among these groups can be severe and possibly fatal. Social distancing is the important measure to decrease the spread of infection but it is quite difficult to follow. So, the Ministry of Public Health released guidelines to decrease crowds in outpatient departments and the risk of the spread of COVID-19 via additional personnel and medical supplies to prepare in case of an outbreak.

If the patients are in stable condition with recent normal laboratory results, the patients can pick up medication from a pharmacy near their homes, or home-delivery medicine services, or postponing non-urgent appointments with doctors or having tele-consultations. For patients whose symptoms do not improve or who show any health problems, they should be strict with making their appointments. They may be asked about details and communication channels at the hospital before receiving any treatment services. Patients with severe illnesses and emergency cases should go to hospital for emergency services as usual.

On 8 April 2020, MoPH adjusted the medical treatment guidelines for COVID-19 patients. This adjustment will allow patients to receive the favipiravir drug faster than before. In addition, MoPH in collaboration with relevant professional associations and medical institutes considered to adjust the provision of medical treatment based on the updated knowledge, the outbreak situation, and the number of cases and available resources for the greatest benefit of patients in the country. Above all, MoPH emphasized that even though some COVID-19 patients may develop just a mild disease or flu-like symptoms, they must be under medical treatment at the hospital or places determined by the hospital for at least 14 days for your safety and to reduce the chance of spreading the infection to others in society .

When the doctor evaluates that you are recovering, you should stay at home until completely recovered. If it is necessary to go to work, try to isolate yourself from others and wear a mask at all times for one month from the date of detection of the viral agent or the date of symptom onset.

"It is important to have public cooperation and to provide true and complete information so that the doctor can give an accurate and timely diagnosis. It can reduce your risk of developing severe pneumonia, reduce the spread of infection to your family members and also protects medical personnel while providing care to other people as well," said Dr. Somsak.