

Special Announcement of COVID-19

On 10 April 2020

1. As of 7:00 a.m. on 10 April 2020, the international situation has involved 209 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There have been 1,602,619 confirmed cases and 95,657 deaths worldwide. The three countries reporting the most cases include the United States with 468,286 confirmed cases and 16,663 deaths, Spain with 123,222 confirmed cases and 15,447 deaths, and the Italian Republic with 143,626 confirmed cases and 18,279 deaths.

2. On 9 April 2020 at 4.00 p.m., 73 cases in Thailand recovered and were discharged, and 50 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed (the 2,424th - 2,473 cases), which include:

The first group: 27 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 27 confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group: 15 additional confirmed cases with the details as follows:

- 2.1 Three confirmed cases (all Thais)
- 2.2 Three confirmed cases who had travel history to crowded places
- 2.3 Five confirmed cases who have occupational risks
- 2.4 Four confirmed cases who are healthcare providers

The third group: Eight cases with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 infection) and are pending further investigation (Of these, four cases were detected from active case finding in high-risk areas of Phuket).

Today, there was one additional fatal case of a 43 year-old Thai woman and she was a vendor. She had systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) as an underlying condition. Her risk history had a lot of conversations with many people. She was admitted for treatment at a hospital in Chachoengsao province with symptoms including fever, diarrhea, and vomiting. She died on 7 April 2020 (the 33rd fatal case).

As of today, there have been 1,013 cases who returned home, 1,427 who are being treated at hospitals, and 33 fatal cases. The total number of confirmed cases is 2,473.

The Ministry of Public Health recommended Songkran festival this year should give love, prayers blessings via online channels, to focus on social distancing and prevent the elderly from infection.

Today (10 April 2020), at the Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi province, Dr. Panpimol Wipulakorn, Director General, Department of Health wished the people on Songkran festival this year to be safe from COVID-19 especially the elderly, who are at risk of infection and have a high fatality rate compared to other groups. Many elderly patients were infected by their descendants of working age who have high morbidity rates. During The Songkran festival this year, we suggest

sprinkling water on the Buddha image at your house, showing gratitude, making prayers and receiving blessings from parents and senior relatives who live in the same house.

Family members who live together are strongly recommended to keep a minimum distance of one or two meters away from other people in the home. Everyone should always wear a face mask or hygienic mask. Those who live far away from their family and their hometowns, can send a loving text and ask for good wishes from their parents and grandparents via online communication in order to mitigate risk of transmission.

Elderly people who live with children have to receive special care. Older people can be divided into 2 groups including

- 1) Elderly who are able to take care of themselves. This group is encouraged to follow basic personal hygiene habits by frequent hand washing, especially before meals and after using the toilet. Avoid touching your face, eyes, mouth, nose, and avoid close contact with people who have fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose or mucus. Please eat cooked, clean and healthy food, avoid use of the same utensils with others while having meals, take care of your mental health and avoid leaving the residence. If it is necessary to go out, wear surgical masks or cloth masks, reduce the time spent outside as much as possible, keep at least 2 meters away from other people (Social Distancing) and change the method of communication with others by using technology such as telephone, Line app etc.

2. Elderly people who have an underlying disease and have the capacity to take care of themselves shall implement the same measures with the mentioned first group as well as stocking a sufficient amount of medicine for at least 3 months or as per medical doctor's consideration. In case they need to receive medical treatment at the hospital, they shall wear a mask, wash their hands with alcohol gel, change their clothes, and take a bath and clean their hair immediately once returning home. For people taking care of the elderly, they must wear a mask and wash their hands every time before contacting the person as well as keeping a distance of at least 1-2 meters from the elderly. It is also recommended not to go outside of their home or visit crowded places.