

Special Announcement of COVID-19

On 11 April 2020

1. From 5 January to 11 April 2020 (as of 7:00 a.m.), the international situation has involved 209 countries, two special administrative regions of China, and cruise ships. There have been 1,697,533 confirmed cases and 102,687 deaths worldwide. The three countries reporting the most cases include the United States with 502,049 confirmed cases and 18,719 deaths, Spain with 158,273 confirmed cases and 16,081 deaths, and the Italian Republic with 147,577 confirmed cases and 18,849 deaths.

2. On 10 April 2020 at 4.00 p.m., 122 cases in Thailand recovered and were discharged, and 45 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed (the 2,474th - 2,518 cases), which include:

The first group: 23 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 23 confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group: 9 additional confirmed cases with the details as follows:

- 2.1 Three confirmed cases (Two Thai cases and one foreigner)
- 2.2 Three confirmed cases who had travel history to crowded places
- 2.3 One confirmed case who have occupational risks
- 2.4 Two confirmed cases who are healthcare workers

The third group: Four cases with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 infection) and are pending further investigation

The fourth group: Nine confirmed cases who returned from abroad and were under state quarantine

Today, two fatal cases were reported.

The first death was a 46 year-old Thai man who worked at a pawnshop. He had underlying diseases including high blood pressure and obesity. His family member was a confirmed case. He was treated at a private hospital in Nonthaburi province with high fever and cough. He died on April 9, 2020 (he was the 34th fatal case).

The second death was a 65 year-old Thai man who worked as a cleaning staff employee. He had history of contact with foreigners in Bangkok and he returned to Phayao province. He was treated at one hospital with cough, sore throat, runny nose, and fatigue and he was transferred to another hospital in Phayao. He died on 10 April 2020 (he was the 35th fatal case).

As of today, there have been 1,135 cases who returned home, 1,348 who are being treated at hospitals, and 35 fatal cases. The total number of confirmed cases is 2,518.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) strongly recommends to implement physical distancing to decrease the incidence rate of COVID-19

The MOPH reported that the number of new COVID-19 cases are decreasing. However, the MOPH strongly asked for the cooperation of the people to continue physical distancing, to not go outside if not necessary, and avoid mass gatherings to flatten the epidemic curve.

Today (10 April 2020) at the Office of the Permanent Secretary, MOPH, Nonthaburi province, Dr. Tanarak Plipat, Deputy Director General of the Department of Disease Control stated that the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Thailand tended to decrease during the last week. However, people should not be careless and still follow the measures of the government and MOPH. Focus on reducing crowds in public areas, limiting travel, leaving the house only if necessary and avoiding groups (social distancing) to slow down the increasing number of additional patients. The virus can spread easily and quickly if people travel to other places such as the situation at entertainment spots and the boxing stadium.

Dr. Tanarak Plipat also clarified the people's concern about getting the infection from asymptomatic patients, that is infected people with no fever or any symptoms, the opportunity that the disease will spread through saliva is quite low since in Thailand almost all people are wearing a surgical mask or cloth mask. However, if anyone visited crowded places or made contact with patients, they should closely observe their symptoms for 14 days. In addition, according to the epidemiological information, 30 of 100 infected people will not develop symptoms, and 50 of 100 infected people will show only mild symptoms. Those 80 infected people can recover by themselves and the chance that the disease will spread to other people is quite low, except in cases where patients contact other people closely (e.g. shouting, talking, coughing and sneezing which allow the viral agent in saliva to transmit to others).

Measures that are currently being implemented are just slowing the increase in the number of new cases of COVID-19. To decrease the cases as much as possible, we all must never let our guard down, so we are requesting all of you to only leave your residence when necessary and avoid social gatherings. Travel restrictions are still a significant measure that will enable the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to handle the burden of disease adequately. If the epidemic situation is likely to improve, the MoPH will continue to provide appropriate preventive measures," said Dr. Tanarak.