

Special Announcement of COVID-19

On 12 April 2020

1. From 5 January to 12 April 2020 (as of 7:00 a.m.), There have been 1,778,210 confirmed cases and 108,755 deaths worldwide. The three countries reporting the most cases include the United States with 532,092 confirmed cases and 20,562 deaths, Spain with 163,027 confirmed cases and 16,606 deaths, and the Italian Republic with 152,271 confirmed cases and 19,468 deaths.

2. On 10 April 2020 at 4.00 p.m., 83 cases in Thailand recovered and were discharged, and 33 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed (the 2,519th - 2,551st cases), which include:

The first group: 17 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 15 confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases.
- 1.2 Two confirmed cases related to entertainment spots.

The second group: 10 additional confirmed cases with the details as follows:

- 2.1 One confirmed case (Thai citizen)
- 2.2 One confirmed case who had travel history to crowded places
- 2.3 One confirmed case who had occupational risks
- 2.4 Seven 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: two confirmed cases who returned from abroad and were under state quarantine.

Today, three fatal cases were reported.

The first death was a 74 year-old Thai man with underlying diseases including diabetes and hyperlipidemia. He had a history of alcohol consumption and cigarette smoking. He also had a history of visiting a mass gathering. He was treated at a private hospital in Nakhon Si Thammarat province with fever, stomachache, melena, but did not feel nauseous or experience vomiting. After the laboratory result confirmed he had COVID-19, he was sent to another hospital in Nakhon Si Thammarat province. He died on 11 April 2020 (he was the 36th fatal case).

The second death was a 65 year-old Thai woman. She had underlying diseases including high blood pressure, hyperlipidemia and obesity. She had a risk history of traveling to visit her relatives and her relatives came to visit her during treatment. She was admitted at a hospital in Chumphon province with cellulitis and after that, she became sick with fever, cough, sore throat,

feeling very tired, and fatigue. Her symptoms did not improve, and she experienced muscular pain and difficulty breathing. She died on 11 April 2020 (she was the 37th fatal case).

The third death was a 44 year-old Thai man admitted at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute. Previously, he was transferred from a private hospital and he was in critical condition. He was treated with multiple treatments and he had multiple organ failures. He died on 12 April 2020 (he was the 38th fatal case).

As of today, there have been 1,218 cases who returned home, 1,295 who are being treated at hospitals, and 38 fatal cases. The total number of confirmed cases is 2,551.

The National Communicable Disease Committee gave advice on the COVID-19 prevention measures during the Songkran festival.

The National Communicable Disease Committee under the Communicable Disease Act B.E 2558 gave advice on the COVID-19 prevention measures during the Songkran festival to reduce the spreading of the disease within communities and families.

Today (11 April 2020), Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, Director General of the Department of Disease Control, as a committee member and secretary of the National Communicable Diseases Committee, signed the recommendations to prevent the COVID-19 outbreak during Songkran festival to the governor of all provinces as committee members of the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee on 9 April 2020. The recommendations were released to request the cooperation from the people in Thailand to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 especially during the Songkran festival this year.

The number of patients and new deaths in the country are still being reported, so intensive measures are being implemented in all areas. Each year, during the Songkran festival, people always return to their hometowns and celebrate various traditional activities. To reduce the risk of infection among communities and families during the COVID-19 outbreak, the government has canceled the Songkran holiday and activities. The Department of Disease Control has therefore issued recommendations for the prevention of the COVID-19 outbreak by asking all provinces to proceed as follows:

1. Suspend Songkran festivals at all levels including mass gathering activities such as organizing big merit events at temples.
2. Recommend to avoid return to hometowns during the festival. If necessary, the local authorities are requested to establish registration points consisting of information of the names and surnames of people coming from other provinces, the addresses or residences that they are going to stay and the date of arrival in the areas in order to screen people and for the benefit of rapid detection of COVID-19 patients and suspected cases.
3. Complying with cultural traditions can be done at home, i.e. sprinkling water onto Buddha images and statues. However, the equipment used for sprinkling the water such as a

bowl, scented water bottle and flower stalk should be cleaned. It is also recommended to wash hands with water, soap or alcohol gel every time before using the said equipment. While expressing gratitude and paying the respect to parents or elder relatives at home, please keep a distance of at least 1 meter, do not make close contact with the elder people, frequently wash hands and wear a surgical mask or cloth mask every time. For people whose parents live far from their residences, it is recommended to pay respects through online platforms or phone calls.

4. If anyone makes contact with other people or visits risk areas, when they return home, it is recommended to clean their body, take a bath, wash their hair, and change clothes before meeting with elder relatives (avoid close contact with the elderly).

5. Eat well-cooked food, separate bowls, dishes and personal spoons and forks, and keep a distance between seats of at least 1 meter.

6. Refrain from joining groups for drinking alcohol or alcoholic beverages.

7. Regularly clean the house including appliances and furniture.

8. Avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight during the summer. Be careful not to dehydrate. Keep healthy and get enough sleep.

Dr. Suwannachai gave more suggestions for the elderly group and those with underlying disease such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic renal failure, etc., that they should reside in the house. Do not let unknown people come near you. Refuse to participate in social activities or traditional activities with groups of people. Stay at home with hobbies to relax, such as watering plants, cleaning the house and exercising to maintain good health. Those suggestions are to reduce the risk of becoming sick with COVID-19 from the outside environment and should also be taken as your responsibility to society.