

## Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 13 April 2020

1. From 5 January to 13 April 2020 (as of 7:00 a.m.), There have been 1,851,734 confirmed cases and 111,179 deaths worldwide. The three countries reporting the most cases include the United States with 560,402 confirmed cases and 22,105 deaths, Spain with 166,831 confirmed cases and 17,209 deaths, and the Italian Republic with 156,363 confirmed cases and 19,899 deaths.

2. On 13 April 2020 at 4.00 p.m., 70 cases in Thailand recovered and were discharged, and 28 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed (the 2,552nd - 2,579th cases), which include:

The first group: 18 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 18 confirmed cases with history of close contact with previous cases.

The second group: 7 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 Two confirmed case who had occupational risks

2.4 Three confirmed cases who are healthcare workers

The third group: no reported cases

(Remark: the third group is laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection pending further investigation)

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

Today, two fatal cases were reported.

The first death was a 56 year-old who had a history of visiting the boxing stadium. He was treated at a private hospital in Samut Prakan province with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. He died on 12 April 2020 (he was the 39th fatal case).

The second death was a 43 year-old Thai man. He had underlying diseases including chronic kidney disease, diabetes and hyperlipidemia. He was admitted at a private hospital in Bangkok with high fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, difficulty breathing and diarrhea. He died on 11 April 2020 (he was the 40th fatal case).

As of today, there have been 1,288 cases who returned home, 1,251 who are being treated at hospitals, and 40 fatal cases. The total number of confirmed cases is 2,579.

## **The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has been adequately preparing beds and ventilators to treat COVID-19 cases.**

The MOPH cooperated with the public and private hospitals in the Bangkok metropolitan area and surrounding provinces to adequately prepare 2,701 beds for the COVID-19 cases. There are 1,978 beds for mild cases, 120 ICU beds, and 603 rooms in “Hospitels” prepared for recovered cases under control for observation. There are enough ventilators prepared for two times the number of ICU beds. The MOPH is confident that the preparations are enough for this situation.

This afternoon (13 April 2020), Dr. Narong Aphikulvanich, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Medical Services reported progress in management of hospital beds in the Bangkok metropolitan areas and surrounding provinces to accommodate COVID-19 patients. The number of COVID-19 patients has been continually decreasing as the mobilization of medical facilities provided by the government continues. Moreover, there is cooperation among all sectors regarding treatment and care of patients, hospital planning and management and ‘Hospitels.’ The number of discharged patients is 1,288 (approximately 50%) and this reflects the joint success in the face of the COVID-19 situation.

According to the information on 13 April, there is progress on the integration for providing hospital beds for COVID-19 patients. Now, there are 2,701 beds to support patients:

1. There are 1,978 beds in medical wards including 930 beds from government sectors (e. g. medical institutes, Royal Thai Armed Forces, police, Bangkok and Ministry of Public Health) and 1,048 beds from private sectors.

2. There are 120 beds provided to Intensive Care Units (ICU) including 65 beds are in the government medical facilities and 55 beds are in private medical facilities. However, there is a plan to increase the number of beds for ICU to 187 beds by the end of April and 292 beds by the end May.

3. 603 beds are provided for recovering patients and are being discharged in 2 main hotels and Thammasat University dormitory. These are called "Hospitels."

High-capacity ventilators, which can dramatically improve outcomes of severe cases quickly and accurately, were prepared to support medical practitioners. The ventilators are used for treating COVID-19 patients who have severe lung infections. There are at least double the number of ventilators to ICU beds. An additional 400 ICU beds were prepared in Thailand, 100 ICU beds were also prepared in the private sector and there are plans to procure 100 additional ventilators. Thailand ensures that there are enough beds and ventilators to treat the COVID-19 patients at this time.

There are approximately 6,000 ICU beds in Thailand and approximately 10,000 ventilators that can be used in the ICUs. The ventilators are divided into two groups 1) The highest-capacity ventilators that can be used at a maximum level to support health care providers (4,000 devices), and 2) high-capacity ventilators with advanced features and measurement systems to display various outputs (6,000 devices). However, the World Health Organization and the US government have allowed information to be disclosed about Puritan Bennett-Covidien PB560 ventilators (devices that can be used in ICUs) to reproduce and produce without patent fees. Scientists are now working on this important piece of work. It is expected to be ready for use next year.