

## Special Announcement of COVID-19 On 14 April 2020

1. From 5 January to 14 April 2020 (as of 7:00 a.m.), There have been 1,923,280 confirmed cases and 119,587 deaths worldwide. The three countries reporting the most cases include the United States with 586,377 confirmed cases and 23,160 deaths, Spain with 170,099 confirmed cases and 17,756 deaths, and the Italian Republic with 159,516 confirmed cases and 20,465 deaths.

2. On 13 April 2020 at 4.00 p.m., 117 cases in Thailand recovered and were discharged, and 34 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed (the 2,580th - 2,613rd 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: Four additional confirmed cases with the details as follows:

- 2.1 Two confirmed cases who returned from abroad (Italy and Malaysia)
- 2.2 One confirmed case who had travel history to crowded places
- 2.3 One confirmed case who had occupational risks

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

The fourth group: One confirmed case who returned from abroad and was under state quarantine (in Satun returning from Malaysia).

Today, there was one additional fatal case of a 52 year-old Thai woman who was a public bus driver. She had hypertension and cardiomegaly as underlying conditions. She had recently gotten together with friends and had alcohol beverages. She sought medical attention as an outpatient at the hospital with fever, sore throat, runny nose, and mucus. After seven days, she had fever, diarrhea, and difficulty breathing, and she visited another hospital. She was admitted and her samples were collected and positive for SARS-CoV-2. Her health worsened and she died on 12 April 2020 (she was the 41st fatal case).

As of today, there have been 1,405 cases who returned home, 1,167 who are being treated at hospitals, and 41 fatal cases. The total number of confirmed cases is 2,613.

**Mr. Sathit Pitutecha, the Deputy Minister of Public Health referred to the WHO compliment of Thai Village Health Volunteers as the “Silent Heroes” fighting COVID-19.**

He also stated that the knocking on people's doors to check their health condition implemented by Village Health Volunteers has been effective and led to a decreasing number of new cases in provincial areas. This achievement became globally recognized and WHO admired this good implementation as the “Silent Heroes” fighting COVID-19. In the meantime, he added that Thai masseuses will be assisted with monetary support under the project "leaving no one behind."

Today (on 14 April 2020) at the Emergency Operations Center (Press Conference), Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi province, Mr. Sathit Pitutecha, Deputy Minister of Public Health stated that the total number of additional confirmed cases in Thailand has tended to decrease continuously. The groups at risk have been searched and investigated and have been included into the screening process and treatment system. Through rapid detection, monitoring, and treatment, the situation can improve. More than 1,040,000 Village Health Volunteers and 15,000 Bangkok Health Volunteers have been an important group operating with local officials. They have checked almost 12 million houses, given them information, emphasized the social distancing measures and searched 2,266 people who are at risk to bring them into the treatment system. This work was appreciated by WHO at the global level and can be disease control guideline models for other countries.

In the next phase, the role of health volunteers will focus on risk groups and they will cooperate with health promotion hospital staff. This will make the implementation of disease control and prevention at the community level more effective because the health volunteers are people with access to news and movements at the household level allowing for early detection and treatment.

"As a representative of the Ministry of Public Health, I would like to thank and encourage our family of health volunteers nationwide that work with the Health Promoting Hospitals. Today, the mission has not yet achieved the goal of preventing the spread of COVID-19 so we urge you to continue to perform these intensive duties. This mission still has a long way ahead of us, so we cannot let our guard down," said Mr. Sathit.

Mr. Sathit continued that a group of Thai traditional massage therapists should be taken care of according to the project, “Leave no one behind” due to being affected by the consequences of COVID-19. The Department of Health Service Support is taking this issue into consideration on the principle of preserving this individual right. There are currently 140,000 registered people under the Department of Health Service Support eligible to receive assistance by coordinating with the Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance to help the Thai traditional massage therapists get help as quickly as possible.