



# Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

## Special Announcement of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 on 1 February 2020

### 1. Situation on 1 February 2020 at 8.00 A.M.

1. There are currently 12 confirmed cases being treated in hospitals, and 7 cases who returned to their homes, which brings the total number of novel coronavirus infection cases detected in Thailand to 19.

2. From 3-31 January 2020, the total number of patients under investigation (PUI) was raised to 344 people. Of those, 39 PUIs were detected from the airport screening. 305 people sought medical services on their own at hospitals, and 70 cases recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes. Most of the PUI were infected with seasonal influenza, and 274 PUI are admitted at hospitals. On January 31st, 64 new cases met the criteria of PUI.

3. Regarding the international situation from 5 to 30 January 2020, there were 9,819 confirmed cases around the world, with 9,692 cases coming from all regions of the People's Republic of China, and 213 have died.

The Ministry of Public Health needs the cooperation from the public to follow its recommendations. With the public's cooperation, the situation will improve. The public is advised not to believe all of the circulating rumors from different sources. Please "Check before you Share." Information about patients are prohibited to share on online channels out of respect to the individual. Do not share the news situation from unreliable sources because incorrect information may cause widespread panic. Individuals spreading fake information can be found guilty under Thailand's Computer Crime Act of 2017. Please follow the news from the Ministry of Public Health. If you have any questions, you can ask the Department of Disease Control hotline: 1422, 24 hours per day or visit the website <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/intro.php>, Line @ / Facebook : รัฐบาลโรค, Coronavirus2019, กรมควบคุมโรค กระทรวงสาธารณสุข. You can avoid fake news by checking from the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society [www.antifakenewscenter.com](http://www.antifakenewscenter.com).as well

### 2.The Ministry of Public Health has a mission to bring back Thai people from Wuhan to Thailand and emphasizes continuous surveillance for 14 days.

The Ministry of Public Health consulted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other related organizations to prepare to bring back Thai people from Wuhan, China in accordance with disease surveillance, prevention and control standards. If patients are found who meet the criteria for PUI, they will be isolated and admitted to the hospital. Individuals without symptoms will be followed up for 14 days continuously.

Dr. Tanarak Plipat, Deputy Director of the Department of Disease Control, Thailand said the Thai government has instructed all relevant agencies to prepare to repatriate Thai nationals from Wuhan and the Ministry of Public Health has consulted with the Department of Consular Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant agencies on this matter. The Ministry of Public Health has prepared all necessary measures from the point of departure, time on board, and when they arrive to Thailand. All medical supplies and necessary equipment are also provided for this important task. There is also coordination among medical teams and other partners, and preparation at the screening areas when they arrive at the airport in Thailand. The group of Thai passengers from Wuhan must



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pass through the screening process. People who have symptoms which meet PUI criteria, will be sent to designated hospitals with the highest preventive measures. People showing no respiratory symptoms will be screened and will be kept under intense monitoring by the medical team for 14 days.

Thailand has still implemented strict disease surveillance and screening at the six main international airports including Chiangrai, Chiangmai, Phuket, Krabi, Donmuang and Suvarnabhumi. If there are any passengers who meet the criteria for PUI, those passengers will be followed up and will be under the disease surveillance process. On 31 January 2020, there were 64 additional patients under investigation (PUI). The current total number of PUI is 344 cases. The total number of confirmed novel coronavirus 2019 cases is 19, comprising 12 patients who are being treated at hospitals and 7 patients who were treated and discharged from hospitals. People were recommended to protect themselves from the disease by wearing a mask, frequently washing hands with alcohol gel or soap, avoiding visiting crowded or polluted places, and not making any contact with patients showing symptoms of coughing and sneezing. If anyone has symptoms including coughing, sore throat and runny nose, please wear a mask and seek medical treatment at a hospital. For the process of discarding used masks, it is recommended to fold the mask into a prepared bag and cover it fully before discarding into a closed cover bin. Hand washing is also recommended after discarding. However, if anyone uses fabric masks, please provide a back up mask. Wash and dry them in the sun after every use. For further information, please call the DDC Hotline 1422 or visit the DDC Website.

### **3. Activity Report at Points of Entry**

- From 3 January to 25 January 2020, among 137 flights to Thailand, 21,522 travelers were screened with thermal scans at five airports, including Suvarnabhumi Airport, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Krabi. There were 152 flights with 8,792 passengers and air crew members travelling from China that had been screened for suspected symptoms of the disease at Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Krabi, Don Mueang, and Suvarnabhumi Airport between 24 January and 31 January 2020. The Ministry of Public Health has provided staff rotating schedules to support officers at the points of entry for efficient work 24 hours per day.

- All tourists will receive health advice (health beware cards) from the immigration officials and officers at the points of entry.

### **4. Daily recommendations for protecting yourself from pneumonia caused by new coronavirus 2019.**

Remind all people to frequently wash their hands with soap and water or alcohol gel. Do not use your hands to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth unnecessarily and strictly follow the "Avoid eating uncooked food, use serving spoons, wash your hands" instructions.