

Thailand situation update on 13 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 13 April 2020, there were a total of 1,857,670 confirmed cases with 50,847 patients in critical condition and 114,367 COVID-19 deaths across more than 207 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong and Macau), and on cruise ships. The ten countries with the most confirmed COVID-19 cases include: the United States (560,433 cases), Spain (166,831), Italy (156,363), France (132,591), Germany (127,854), England (84,279), the People's Republic of China (83,215 cases, as well as 1,010 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), Iran (71,686), Turkey (56,956) and Belgium (29,647).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 12 April 2020 showed that among 37,035 flights, there were a total of 4,396,031 passengers screened. Among those, 594 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 134,372 people from 1,546 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 12 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,794,603 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 12 April 2020. Between 30 January to 13 April 2020, a total of 152,612 people who were renewing their passports were screened at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road. The total number of PUI from all ports is currently 596 people.

2.2 Situation of Patients with Suspected Symptoms of COVID-19 in Thailand.

On 13 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 976 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 34,786 PUI, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Results of screening implementation to detect patients with suspected symptoms of COVID-19

Situation	Total number of PUI
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	34,786
• Detected from the airport screening	594
• Detected from seaports	2

Situation	Total number of PUI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals 	34,102
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	2,579
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	1,405
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,134
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	40
Characteristic of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,579
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,099
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	480
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	61

Notice: *The quarantine measures for travelers from aboard have been in effect as of 3 April 2020

In Thailand, there have been 2,579 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 1,405 patients have recovered and returned home, and 40 patients have died.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 11 April 2020, 3 additional cases were reported, which brought the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas to 61 cases. 60 cases were Thai people returning from Indonesia and one case from America. All Thai people returning from abroad are required to comply with State Quarantine measures, meaning they have to quarantine in specific provinces; in total there are 4 cases quarantined in Narathiwat, 12 cases in Pattani, 8 cases in Yala, 18 cases in Songkhla, 18 cases in Satun, and 1 case in Bangkok.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 1 months to 91 years old). 1,361 cases are male, and 1,136 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.2:1). Gender data is not available for 82 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,246 cases are Thai, 33 are Chinese, 22 are French, 20 are British, 13 are Burmese, 12 are Russian, 11 are Japanese, nine are American, eight are Canadian, six are German, six are Italian, six are Swedish, five are Danish, five are Belgian, five are Swiss, five are Singaporean, four are Pakistani, four are Indian, three are South Korean, three are Australian, two are Portuguese, two are Indonesian, two are Spanish, two

are Cambodian, two are Malaysian, two are Filipino, two are Albanian, two are Kazakh, one is Uzbek, one is Iranian, one is a New Zealander, one is Finnish, one is Ukrainian, one is Laos, one is Taiwanese, one is Serbian, one is Liberian, one is Vietnamese, one is Hungarian, one is Mexican, one is Tunisian, one is Thai-Indian, one is Dutch, one is Brazilian, one is Israeli, one is Palestinian, and data is not available for the remaining 117 cases.

Underlying diseases were found in some of these cases, including hypertension (19 cases), hypotension (1 case), allergies (15 cases), diabetes (9 cases), other NCDs (13 cases), asthma (8 cases), dyslipidemia (2 cases), thyroid disease (2 cases), psoriasis (1 case), salivary gland cancer (1 case), paranasal sinus disease (1 case), COPD (1 case), multiple underlying diseases (18 cases), stroke (1 case), epilepsy (1 case), thrombocytopenia (1 case), myasthenia gravis (1 case), valvular heart disease (1 case), and rheumatoid arthritis (1 case). There were 2,487 cases reported without any underlying disease. 40 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports (one case was found within the group of Thai workers returning from Wuhan). 1,602 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 909 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts.”

3. Thailand Precautions

- The World Health Organization (WHO) in Thailand cooperated with both Thai cartoon classic Kai Hua Roh and the KnowCovid groups. Both groups are led by Dr. Issara Sereewatthanawut, a party list member of parliament. The Democrat Party is distributing cartoons to deliver information and to combat misconceptions about COVID-19. These cartoons are easy to read, and they help people stay up-to-date on information, and help relieve any anxieties.
- All 76 Provincial Governors in Thailand serve as the provincial administration chiefs for the emergency situation chiefs of the provincial administration. They agreed to issue an order to temporarily close shops selling alcoholic beverages so as to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- The Patong Provincial Police, Kathu District, Phuket Province are in cooperation with the Disaster Response Association of Thailand use unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to take high-angle photographs in communities to investigate and search for violators of the Emergency Decree. If a violator is found, police officers will take action immediately. The use of flying drones allows the officials to inspect the areas more comprehensively and faster. The officials were also able to arrest 21 offenders who violated the Emergency Decree.
- The Government Housing Bank announced to provide more help to those impacted by COVID-19 epidemic situation. After their moratorium on both principal and interest of loans for 4 months, the bank will give the customers a moratorium on interest for 4 months at the end of loan agreement.

- The Mass Transit Authority of Thailand is collaborating with Bangkok Expressway and Metro Company Limited (BEM). As the MRT service provider, they added a channel for customers to top up their MRT ticket through the “MRT Mobile Top Up” application so that the customers can top up the ticket easily. In addition, this top up-application will provide convenience to customers, respond to the people’s way of life and reduce making contact with cash in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The aforementioned application will be available to use on 13 April 2020.
- The Ministry of Culture has issued practical guidelines for Songkran festival including 1) refraining from organizing Songkran events at all levels 2) refraining from returning to hometowns 3) refraining from water pouring rituals for the elderly 4) avoiding mass gathering events or traveling to areas at risk of infection. To preserve the traditional practice, people are encouraged to sprinkle holy water on images of Buddha. People are requested to express love and gratitude to their parents by maintaining a 2-meter distance. All family members were also suggested to strictly follow MOPH recommendations, and wear fabric masks or hygienic masks. Moreover, people can express their gratitude towards their parents via technology, such as a mobile phone.

4. Risk Communication to the Public

- The measures including disease screening, isolation, quarantine or quarantine for observation to control and prevent the disease are implemented among passengers departing from areas or countries affected by COVID-19.
- In cases where it is necessary to make contact with other people, please wear a mask and maintain a distance of at least 1 meter between yourself and the other person when interacting with others. It is also recommended to only make contact with people for a short period.
- Regularly wash hands with water and soap or use alcohol gel. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands.
- Do not use or share personal stuff with others (i.e. handkerchiefs, glasses, and towels) since pathogens causing respiratory disease can be transmitted to other people through secretions.
- Avoid eating raw food.