

Thailand situation update on 16 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 16 April 2020, there were a total of 2,089,617 confirmed cases with 51,118 patients in critical condition and 134,809 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 (644,348), Spain (180,659), Italy (165,155), France (147,863), Germany (134,753), England (98,476), the People's Republic of China (83,404 cases, as well as 1,018 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), Iran (76,389), Turkey (69,392) and Belgium (33,573).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 15 April 2020 showed that among 37,155 flights, there were a total of 4,397,729 passengers screened. Among those, 649 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 135,605 people from 1,648 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 15 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,800,967 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 15 April 2020. Between 30 January to 16 April 2020, a total of 155,174 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 594 people.

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

On 16 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 967 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 37,462 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)	37,462
• Detected from the airport screening	649
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	36,723
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	2,672
• Recovered and discharged from hospitals	1,689
• Undergoing Treatment	937
• Deaths	46
Characteristic of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,672
• Local Transmission	2,190
• Imported Case	482
- Designated Quarantine Places*	63

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

In Thailand, there have been 2,672 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 1,689 patients have recovered and returned home, and 46 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, One additional case was reported, which brought the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas to 63 cases. 61 cases were Thai people returning from Indonesia and two cases 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, 19 cases in Satun, and 2 cases in Bangkok.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 1 months to 91 years old). 1,401 cases are male, and 1,189 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.18:1). Gender data is not available for 82 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,333 cases are Thai, 33 are Chinese, 22 are French, 20 are British, 14 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 119 cases.

Underlying diseases were found in some of these cases, including hypertension (21 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 (21 cases), stroke (1 case), epilepsy (1 case), thrombocytopenia (1 case), myasthenia gravis (1 case), valvular heart disease (1 case), HIV (1 case), and rheumatoid arthritis (1 case). There were 2,569 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). 1,675 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 957 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts.”

3. Thailand Precautions

- Ruso Hospital is designated to treat only suspected cases of COVID-19, those with respiratory illnesses, and any emergency patients. The hospital is not offering services for general patients, and is temporarily suspending service for issuing medical certificates. Patients with chronic illnesses who require continuous medication can contact the pharmaceutical department to receive medication. These new practices and changes to the hospital system are now required after discovering that a confirmed case of COVID-19 did not provide adequate medical history information to allow medical staff to implement necessary safety precautions. This patient was treated in the hospital between April 6-14, 2020. There are now 28 health care providers who are at risk of being infected, and need to be quarantined, thus negatively affecting human resources.
- The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University proposed that it would be best to wait 14 days before deciding whether to reduce COVID-19 control measures. In order to make a decision, the number of new cases, fatality rate, number of patients returning home, balance of the medical care and disease control, and socioeconomic conditions should be taken into consideration.
- Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, Thailand has determined two main strategies: 1) reduce the number of new cases and 2) minimize the number of fatal cases and increase the number of patients returning home. Based on statistics, these two measures and improving public awareness are expected to help reduce the number of new cases. The implementation of these measures must be accompanied by compliance of the people.
- The Phitsanulok Governor proposed new guidelines for increasing the efficiency of screening of outer and inner checkpoints to the Communicable Disease Control Committee. The committee approved and issued 2 types of screening cards; one type for people in Phitsanulok and another for those in all other provinces outside of Phitsanulok. The tickets are color-coded to ease recognition of every person by their card to reduce traffic at Screening Checkpoints. The officer can accurately recognize all types of people by cards.
- The Minister of Interior as the chair of the Commodities Hoarding Survey Committee appointed officers and established guidelines for compliance with the Commodities Hoarding Act B.E. 2497 in order to enable the provincial officers to comply with these orders and announcements. A notification channel is being provided to the general public by public relations. If people discover or suspect anyone hoarding, they can report through the Damrong Dharma Center. There is a strong emphasis on building awareness and making commodity owners understand the effects of hoarding. If hoarding is found, then officials can proceed in accordance with their powers and duties. This is to prevent double aggravation from COVID-19 outbreak among people.

- The Governor of Chonburi Province made an announcement applicable to anyone who visited the following places on 5 April 2020 between 17:30-18:00: Foodland Supermarket, M level, Terminal21 Pattaya, Bang Lamung District, Chonburi Province. If anyone has respiratory symptoms, high fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat or difficulty breathing, they must isolate themselves, wear a mask and seek a medical practitioner. Communicating with a medical practitioner indicates that one must fully disclose any contacts that have come into close proximity to them, as well as any recent travel to places where contact was made with a COVID-19 patient. Moreover, the governor stated that the people should follow the disease prevention and control measures mandated by the Ministry of Public Health to efficiently decrease the epidemic of COVID-19.
- The Royal Thai Air force called 50 medical reserve staff to provide medical services to help prevent and manage the spread of COVID-19.
- On April 18, southern border provinces will open a checkpoint for Thai people currently in Malaysia to return to Thailand. There will be 4 checkpoints, including Wang Prachan checkpoint in Satun Province, Sadao checkpoint in Songkhla Province, Betong checkpoint in Yala Province, and Sungai Kolok checkpoint in Narathiwat Province. All checkpoints will have the capacity to screen around 300 people daily. The Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur announced that Thai people can begin the registration process after midnight of April 14, and they also provided information regarding the necessary documents and information required for the process of registering. The Ministry of Interior issued a letter instructing the governor of every province to prepare detention facilities in accordance with preventive measures for the spread of the COVID-19; it is expected that detention facilities will be adequate.

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.