

Thailand situation update on 17 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 17 April 2020, there were a total of 2,190,317 confirmed cases with 56,601 patients in critical condition and 147,027 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 (678,210), Spain (184,948), Italy (168,941), France (165,027), Germany (138,135), England (103,093), the People's Republic of China (83,755 cases, as well as 1,018 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), Iran (77,995), Turkey (74,193) and Belgium (34,809).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 16 April 2020 showed that among 37,249 flights, there were a total of 4,398,341 passengers screened. Among those, 651 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 135,792 people from 1,658 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 16 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,806,356 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 16 April 2020. Between 30 January to 17 April 2020, a total of 156,388 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 653 people.

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

On 17 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,208 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 38,670 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)	38,670
• Detected from the airport screening	651
• Detected from seaports	2

Situation	Total number of PUI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals 	37,929
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	2,700
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	1,787
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	866
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	47
Characteristic of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,700
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,218
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	482
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 2,700 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 1,787 patients have recovered and returned home, and 47 patients have died.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 17 April 2020, No 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). 1,413 cases are male, and 1,205 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.18:1). Gender data is not available for 82 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,357 cases are Thai, 33 are Chinese, 22 are French, 20 are British, 16 are Burmese, 12 are Russian, 11 are Japanese, nine are American, eight are Canadian, seven are Italian, six are German, 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 120 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 2,579 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). 1,696 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 964 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts.”

3. Thailand Precautions

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially released a list of vaccine research teams consisting of 70 companies developing vaccines, three of which are currently being trialed in humans. There are two means by which Thailand will obtain vaccines: 1) importing the original vaccine from abroad and conducting vaccine trials in Thailand and 2) developing the vaccine internally by Thai researchers and partners. One of the 70 pharmaceutical companies around the world, according to WHO announcement, is a Thai company, Bionet Asia. There are many vaccine research teams in Thailand working together under policy support from the National Vaccine Institute, Ministry of Public Health, such as Mahidol University, Department of Medical Sciences and the Government Pharmaceutical Organization.
- Sungai Kolok District, Narathiwat Province is prepared to support Thai people traveling from Malaysia. There are detention facilities, MOPH teams to screen travelers, Immigration Bureau staff, Su-Ngai kolok Custom House staff, and staff from other related agencies. The government specified that Thai people traveling from Malaysia are required to have a certificate of entry to the Kingdom issued by Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate and a health certificate. Screening checkpoints are divided into three steps: 1) screening checkpoint at Immigration Bureau which provides initial screening including temperature measurement, 2) disease investigation by public health officers from Su-Ngai Kolok Hospital and District Public Health Office, 3) registration for sending travelers to a local quarantine center. Before being sent to a local quarantine center, travelers will have their body temperature rechecked, and will be provided with specific transportation. Travelers will also pass the screening

checkpoint before detention in their hometown province. The Su-Ngi Ko-Lok checkpoint will reopen on 18 April between 07:00-19:00. in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Interior.

- Thai Lion Air plans to open domestic flight services on 1 May 2020. Both domestic Thai Lion Air flights have been halted since 25 March 2020. The flight routes will initially start from Bangkok (Don Muang Airport), and go to select areas in every region of Thailand. International flights services will not be made available by 1 May 2020. The latest announcement by The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) issued an order to continue the temporary prohibition of all international commercial flights entering Thai Airports until 30 April 2020 (23.59 hrs.)
- The Royal Thai Gazette website published the Chief Traffic Officers' countrywide regulations. 4-wheel, 6-wheel and 10-wheel trucks are prohibited from operating in Bangkok during the curfew time, effective from 17 to 30 April 2020.
- The Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) announced that a meeting may be held to discuss the potential benefits and consequences of reopening some businesses such as barber shops and department stores. Some measures include that barbershops may provide services for customers not exceeding two hours, keep a distance at least 1 meter for seating or washing seats, and refrain from services that require shared equipment without cleaning. Department stores may limit the number of customers for entrance. Some department stores may begin to gradually open, sector by sector. The decision should be made by next week.

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.