

Thailand situation update on 18 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 18 April 2020, there were a total of 2,259,352 confirmed cases with 57,136 patients in critical condition and 154,401 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 (710,272), Spain (190,839), Italy (172,434), France (147,969), Germany (141,397), England (108,692), the People's Republic of China (83,786 cases, as well as 1,022 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), Iran (79,494), Turkey (78,546) and Russia (36,793).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 17 April 2020 showed that among 37,251 flights, there were a total of 4,398,898 passengers screened. Among those, 651 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 136,091 people from 1,693 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 17 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,809,743 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 17 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 18 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 786 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 39,456 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)	39,456
• 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 	38,715
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	2,733
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	1,928
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	758
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	47
Characteristic of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,733
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,249
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	484
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	65

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

In Thailand, there have been 2,733 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 1,928 patients have recovered and returned home, and 47 patients have died. Of the remaining 36,723 PUI, 34,650 cases returned negative laboratory results, and results are pending for 2,073 PUI.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 18 April 2020, Two additional cases were reported, which brought the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas to 65 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, 2 cases in Krabi and 2 cases in Bangkok.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 1 month to 91 years old). 1,427 cases are male, and 1,223 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.18:1). Gender data is not available for 83 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,382 cases are Thai, 33 are Chinese, 23 are French, 21 are British, 17 are Burmese, 12 are Russian, 11 are Japanese, 10 are American, eight are Canadian, seven are Italian, seven are Indian, six are German, six are Swedish, five are Danish, five are Belgian, five are Swiss, five are Singaporean, four are Pakistani, four are Australian,

three are South Korean, three are Filipino, three are Indonesian, two are Portuguese, two are Spanish, two are Malaysian, two are Albanian, two are Kazakh, two are Laos, one is Cambodian, one is Uzbek, one is Iranian, one is a New Zealander, one is Finnish, one is Ukrainian, 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 123 cases.

Underlying diseases were found in some of these cases, including hypertension (22 cases), hypotension (1 case), allergies (15 cases), diabetes (9 cases), asthma (8 cases), dyslipidemia (3 cases), thyroid disease (3 cases), psoriasis (2 case), salivary gland cancer (1 case), paranasal sinus disease (1 case), COPD (1 case), multiple underlying diseases (22 cases), stroke (1 case), epilepsy (2 case), thrombocytopenia (1 case), myasthenia gravis (1 case), valvular heart disease (1 case), HIV (1 case), depression (2 cases), Anemia (1 case), Migraine (1 case), Liver cirrhosis (1 case), and rheumatoid arthritis (1 case). There were 2,632 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). 1,724 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 969 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts.”

3. Thailand Precautions

- Dr. Taweessin Visanuyothin, spokesman of the government's Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration, stated that relaxation of lockdown measures, like opening barber shops and department stores is currently being discussed with the prime minister. Any reduction of lockdown measures will require other preventive measures to be put in place to compensate. In one interview with an owner of a barber shop regarding the government's lockdown measures, the owner said that they are ready to accept all conditions. The initial plan is to maximize distance between customers, for example if there are 3 shampoo beds next to each other then the bed in the middle must be removed. Also, appointments must be scheduled in advance.
- Dr. Anupong Suchariyakul, senior expert in preventative medicine, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health said that the Permanent Secretary has instructed to accelerate the process of finding active cases as soon as possible by expanding the screening to two more groups:
 1. Active case finding in areas with confirmed cases, unknown infections or risk factors. Dr. Suchariyakul suggests that the suspected infection group should include those in the same area as confirmed cases; these areas are at-risk and must be searched.
 2. Active case finding for asymptomatic cases in communities that have had confirmed cases continuously in the past 28 days.

- Dr. Chanchai Chanworachaikul, Director of Khon Kaen Hospital, revealed that Khon Kaen hospital's infrastructure and medical engineering section produced more stretcher cots to move COVID-19 patients and patients with other infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis. This is a measure to prevent the spread of infection to healthcare workers and other people who come in contact with the patients that are being moved.
- Prof. Dr. Yong Poovorawan, the Head of the Centre of Excellence in Clinical Virology at the Faculty of Medicine in Chulalongkorn University, invited COVID-19 patients who have been in remission for 14 days to donate their plasma to treat new cases. There is still no medicine to treat COVID-19 directly, so collecting the plasma of recovered COVID-19 patients is a critical step towards treatment. He is contacting COVID-19 patients and inviting them to do so through Facebook.
- Senior officers, government officers, pensioners, and the network of the Ministry of Interior jointly donated 50 percent of their salaries for 3 months and set up a fund called "Interior, Co-suffering, Co-Happy regarding COVID-19" to help people who have not received help from organizations, do not have access to the system or are unable to request their rights in accordance with government regulations.
- The first group of Thai workers in Malaysia have returned to Thailand at the Su-ngai Kolok border checkpoint in Narathiwat Province. The staff at this checkpoint is preparing the equipment and screening tools to screen for COVID-19. The screening protocol will require details of medical certificates and consular letters. Not more than 100 people can be screened each day. For those who pass the screening, they will be sent to immigration, and go to pre-prepared local quarantine places (67 places, 2,495 rooms) to detain Thais returning from abroad.
- Mr. Weeranun Pengjun, the Satun Governor checked the readiness of health staff, police officers, soldiers, governing section officers, emigration officers and relevant officers for providing services to 16 Thai people returning to Thailand through Tammalang Pier. The negative pressure machine, the innovative device made by the Technical College will be applied for detecting the virus. It is estimated that it will take 2 hours to finish the disease screening process on passengers.
- Mr Wichian Jantaranothai, the Nakorn Ratchasima Governor revealed the process to relax the measures in risk areas after there were no reported cases in the province for 10 days, that the markets, important places for trading, can be opened if they have good management, the hotels will be considered to open if they have a good standard on COVID-19 prevention, and the opening of salons needs to wait for the announcement from the central office in order to have the same direction of disease control implementation.
- 284 Thai people returned to Thailand from abroad, completed 14 days of quarantine, and have gradually returned to their hometowns. The officials have prepared buses from Transport Co., Ltd. which are escorted by tourist police cars to return people to their hometowns. The previous protocol has been amended to include that public health vehicles escort them to the destination. Provincial Halls and Bangkok

Metropolitan Administration set the destination meeting points where relatives can wait to pick up their family members. For those who have to go to another province by plane, there will be a car to drop them off at Suvarnabhumi Airport or Don Mueang Airport.

- Chon Buri Province is prepared to bring Thai people back from abroad with the preparation of quarantine facilities in Sattahip in the form of State Quarantine. The quarantine areas will be under the responsibility of the central organization. The government will determine places for where groups can be quarantined. Cars from the Ministry of Transport will provide transportation from the airport to the accommodations, with the officials from Navy and the Ministry of Public Health as the principal supervisors. Unlike local quarantine, in a State Quarantine the Provincial Governor will supervise and manage the facilities. Quarantine management for Thai people returning from abroad to Chonburi Province will be divided into two areas of State Quarantine: one local quarantine, and one field hospital.

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.