

Thailand situation update on 20 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 20 April 2020, there were a total of 2,415,299 confirmed cases with 54,215 patients in critical condition and 165,195 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 (764,265), Spain (198,674), Italy (178,972), France (152,894), Germany (145,743), England (120,067), Turkey (86,306), the People's Republic of China (83,818 cases, as well as 1,026 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), Iran (82,211) and Russia (47,121).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 19 April 2020 showed that among 37,260 flights, there were a total of 4,400,829 passengers screened. Among those, 671 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 136,505 people from 1,733 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 18 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,814,856 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 189 April 2020. Between 30 January to 20 April 2020, a total of 157,678 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 673 people.

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

On 20 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,360 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 42,257 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)	42,257
• Detected from the airport screening	671
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	41,496
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	2,792
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,108
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	637
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	47
Characteristic of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,792
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,301
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	491
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	70

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

In Thailand, there have been 2,792 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,108 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 20 April 2020, Three additional cases were reported, which brought the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas to 70 cases. There are 62 cases among Thai people returning from Indonesia, six cases from America, and two cases from England. 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 5 cases quarantined in Narathiwat, 12 cases in Pattani, 8 cases in Yala, 18 cases in Songkhla, 19 cases in Satun, 3 cases in Krabi, 3 cases on Chonburi, and 2 cases in Bangkok.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 36 years old (ranging from 1 months to 91 years old). 1,445 cases are male, and 1,264 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.14:1). Gender data is not available for 83 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,437 cases are Thai, 33 are Chinese, 24 are French, 22 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, two are New Zealander (one case is Maori), two are Cambodian, one is Uzbek, one is Iranian, 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 (23 cases), hypotension (1 case), allergies (15 cases), diabetes (10 cases), other NCDs (13 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 (25 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), Breast cancer (1 case), and rheumatoid arthritis (1 case). There were 2,673 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). 1,769 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 983 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts.”

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Royal Thai Government Gazette published four Emergency Decrees and one Royal Decree. These regulations will be used as a tool for government and government agencies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the Bank of Thailand for economic rehabilitation.
 - 1) Emergency Decree on empowering the Ministry of Finance to borrow money to solve problems, remedy, and rehabilitate the ways in which the economy and society has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic B.E. 2563 (2020). No more than 1 trillion baht may be allocated for this initiative.
 - 2) Emergency Decree on providing financial assistance to entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19 pandemic B.E. 2563 (2020). No more than 500 billion baht may be allocated for this initiative.
 - 3) Emergency Decree on maintaining the financial and economic stability of the country B.E. 2563 (2020). No more than 400 billion baht may be allocated for this initiative.
 - 4) Emergency Decree on teleconferences through electronic means B.E. 2563 (2020).
 - 5) The Royal Decree prescribing the amount of protected deposits B.E. 2563 (2020).
- Researchers at Naresuan University have collected samples from human waste, i.e. stool and urine, for primary indication and screening to evaluate the probability of infection in the communities of Nakhonsawan Province and guide policies for relaxing quarantine measures in the province, all with a limited budget for testing.
- The MoPH planned to relax the lockdown by allowing businesses to reopen, and by giving decision-making authority to provincial governors. For the Bangkok Metropolitan Region, this area will be the last group allowed to reopen businesses since it is still considered an at-risk area. The measures which cannot be relaxed are as follows:
 - 1) The disease screening in the travelers departing from abroad (those travelers must be quarantined at predetermined locations prepared by the government for 14 days)
 - 2) Searching for new cases in the crowded places and communities
 - 3) Increasing the number of laboratory testing (this measure must not be relaxed).
- The businesses that must continue to remain closed are all entertainment places, such as pubs, bars, karaoke, massage service shops, and boxing stadiums where people gather, shout, and/or gamble. The implementation to relax the measures of controlling COVID-19 will start in the beginning of May. 32 provinces will be monitored; by the start of May, if there have been no reported new COVID-19 cases in the past two weeks, then measures

will be relaxed in those provinces. In the following two weeks, if the situation across Thailand improves, then the monitoring for potential relaxation of measures will occur across 38 provinces with low reported cases starting in the middle of May. For the rest of the 7 provinces with ongoing outbreaks, if they no longer present with cluster outbreaks, then the relaxation of measures for these provinces will start to be monitored at the beginning of June. The implementation of relaxing measures will be done with careful consideration to avoid second/third waves of the outbreak.

- Bangkok expanded the period of closing alcohol beverage shops or establishments from 10-20 April 2020 to 30 April 2020. The Communicable Diseases Committee suspects that selling alcohol beverages will promote alcohol beverage drinking and will ultimately cause people to gather socially, increasing the risk of spreading COVID-19. Bangkok intends to provide staff to help almshouse owners with management and safety. To provide assistance, Bangkok requests the cooperation of the almshouse owners to inform the district office before establishing an almshouse or establishing food/item distribution points. Moreover, almshouse's owners must monitor and adhere to hygiene recommendations while organizing food distribution, and must maintain at least one meter distance of space between people. To maintain social distancing, providing food and gathering in dining areas is not allowed.
- The government and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission have collaborated with all five mobile phone service providers to reduce the cost of mobile phone services during the COVID-19 pandemic. All networks will give their customers 100 minutes for free to call using their mobile phones for 45 days. People will start to receive these privileges from 1-15 May 2020. Click to receive the privilege with press *170*13-digit identification card numbers used for SIM registration#, and then press calling out (immediately available for 45 days after receiving the confirmation SMS). These privileges only apply to "Thai people." Everyone will receive one privilege per one service provider (except legal entities).

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.