

Thailand situation update on 21 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 21 April 2020, there were a total of 2,491,325 confirmed cases with 57,338 patients in critical condition and 170,634 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 (792,938), Spain (200,210), Italy (181,228), France (155,383), Germany (147,065), England (124,743), Turkey (90,980), the People's Republic of China (83,829 cases, as well as 1,026 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), Iran (83,505) and Russia (52,763).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 20 April 2020 showed that among 37,455 flights, there were a total of 4,402,079 passengers screened. Among those, 727 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 137,007 people from 1,771 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 20 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,819,905 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 20 April 2020. Between 30 January to 21 April 2020, a total of 158,980 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 21 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,799 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 44,056 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)	44,056
• Detected from the airport screening	727
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	43,239
• 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	2,811
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,352
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	411
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	48
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,811
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,319
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	492
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	71

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, one additional case was reported, which brought the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas to 71 cases. There are 62 cases among Thai people returning from Indonesia, seven 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 3 cases in Bangkok.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 36 years old (ranging from 1 months to 91 years old). 1,454 cases are male, and 1,2674 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.14:1). Gender data is not available for 83 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,455 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, eight 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 (24 cases), hypotension (1 case), allergies (17 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 (26 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), Hepatitis B virus (1 case), and rheumatoid arthritis (1 case). There were 2,684 cases reported without any underlying disease.

Translated by Office of International Cooperation, DDC Thailand

40 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports (one case was found within the group of Thai workers returning from Wuhan). 1,783 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 987 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts.”

3. Thailand Precautions

- On 25 March 2020, many Thai national airlines stopped their services temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) scheduled a meeting with airline operators on 23 April 2020 to prepare for Thai national airlines to reopen domestic flights starting 1 May 2020. The CAAT released regulations that all airlines must follow: 1) specify passenger spacing seat-by-seat, 2) passengers must wear a mask at all times while using the airline services, 3) food and beverages services temporarily terminated onboard to comply with social distancing measures. At this time, Thai Smile airlines has requested that the reopening of domestic flights be postponed from 1 May to 1 June 2020.
- Nok Airlines Public Company Limited has measures to focus on the safety of passengers such as seat distancing in the cabin, disinfecting/deep cleaning the insides of airplanes everyday at 34 points that are often touched by passengers (e.g. seats, toilets and kitchens), use high efficiency particulate air filter (HEPA Filters) systems and increasing the frequency of air filter changing in airplanes, and cleaning the shuttle bus via spraying disinfectant. Moreover, they have measures to help their passengers in case of flight cancellations by the airline or passengers. The passenger can search the details of the flight routes, the announcements of changing and canceling flights on www.nokair.com and can operate it by themselves on the air ticket purchasing channel, Nok Air ticket sales/ service office at airport or via call center 1318.
- Siam Commercial Bank introduced measures to help customers by launching the "SCB Stand By You Fight Together" campaign by developing service channels, especially SCB EASY mobile app and mobile banking service, which enable customers to perform transactions seamlessly amid the current situation so that people can avoid going outside and avoid touching cash. This campaign is not only for credit customers but also additional customers in three more groups including:
 - 1) SCB Payroll customers who have 1) Speedy Loans: a lump sum loan amount of 30,000-baht or more with monthly installments as low as 240 baht per each 10,000-baht loan, 2)Speedy Cash Card: a readily available backup credit line for emergency use offering promotions of 0% interest for up to 3 billing periods, or 3) Dee Jung Transfer Service: a credit line converted from credit cards or Speedy Cash cards into a loan with a special interest rate of just 0.79% per month and customers can apply for services by themselves conveniently via the SCB EASY Application.
 - 2) Small Business Owners targeting liquidity to boost business; customers can request loans by applying unsecured Mae Manee Than Jai Loans or “Business Loans” of up to 50 million baht. Mae Manee Free Solution provides cost reduction to help manage businesses professionally and payment channels have been added. The Mae Manee Application provides lower risk to customers.
 - 3) For insurance customers, the bank extended the grace period for payment of insurance premiums from 31 to 91 days with interest exemption and no health check-up for insurance policy renewals.

- The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security introduced cloth masks for the deaf. The middle of the aforementioned mask has a transparent plastic so that people can see the mouth of the deaf person while speaking. This kind of mask will enhance the efficiency of communication and help to prevent COVID-19. In addition, the Ministry also opened an online-shop in the Facebook page called “the Handicap’s shop” which offers the opportunity to the handicapped to sell products free of charge. People are encouraged to support the handicapped and develop their quality of life by buying the products from the handicapped during the COVID-19 crisis. This kind of support will make the handicapped able to live their life sustainably.
- General Prayuth Chan-O-Cha, the Prime Minister of Thailand will review and reconsider the COVID-19 Emergency Situation announcement next week on whether this announcement should be renewed to 30 April 2020. However, adjusting any measures depends on the collaboration from people, public health assessment and other relevant issues. In the meantime, the private sectors are recommended to prepare their safety measures and their readiness for the relaxation of the COVID -19 control measures which will allow businesses to reopen.
- The Social Security Office provides reimbursement for unemployed employees due to consequences during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rate is 62% of the daily wage and it is not to be paid for more than 90 days. This measure covers two groups 1) insured employees who do not work or their employers do not allow them to work for 14 days due to being quarantined from having contact with people with COVID-19 disease and 2) insured employees who are unable to work and not being paid due to their employers stopping operations of their business or stopping operations of the business according to the government order.
- The National Health Security Office (NHSO) issued seven proactive measures to control and prevent COVID-19 to people holding medical welfare gold cards who do not need to pay in case of treatment at the field hospitals, including
 - 1) Deliver medicine and medical supplies to existing patients by mail. The financial support is from the medical welfare gold card fund with a rate not exceeding 50 baht each time
 - 2) Expand drug stores into the "Near-home drug delivery project" to reduce congestion of customers who plan to get medicine at hospitals
 - 3) Chronic disease patients can receive medication or medical services outside of the regular service unit if considered to be an emergency illness
 - 4) Compensation for the service fee for COVID-19 disease to the medical welfare gold card service unit to increase access to services for people
 - 5) Compensation for COVID-19 disease to the field hospitals or agencies that have been evaluated by the Department of Health Service Support (Sor Bor Sor)
 - 6) Propose amendments to the announcement of the Ministry of Public Health in the article of rules, methods and conditions of receiving, payments, and items of related and necessary expenses to compensate for the depreciation of the structure and equipment related to COVID-19 and increase payment to service providers who have suffered from consequences of COVID-19 twice if compared to the current one
 - 7) Secretary General of the NHSO and Chairman of the NHSO Board will consider details about criteria, methods, and conditions for the benefit of fund management that are up to date with the COVID-19 epidemic situation

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.