

Thailand Report on January 14, 2020

1. International Situation

January 6, 2020 - The People's Republic of China reported the total number of pneumonia cases by a novel coronavirus as 59 patients under investigation including 41 confirmed cases, and one death. Six patients are in critical condition and seven patients have been discharged from the hospital. Moreover, 763 close contacts are under observation.

January 13, 2020 - Hong Kong identified 67 travelers from Wuhan who met the criteria for investigation. Of those, 56 people have been discharged from the hospital, 12 people still remain in the hospital and 48 people have viral infections other than the novel coronavirus as confirmed by laboratory examination.

January 11, 2020 - The Republic of Singapore identified one pneumonia case suspected with infection of the novel coronavirus. Laboratory examination was negative for novel coronavirus. Currently, the patients are being observed in the hospital.

January 9, 2020 - Taiwan identified 13 patients who met the criteria for investigation. Eleven patients were discharged from the hospital and two patients remain in the hospital while pending laboratory examination results.

January 8, 2020 - The Republic of Korea found one pneumonia case suspected with infection of the novel coronavirus and is waiting for laboratory result. Also 29 close contacts were followed up.

2. International Precaution

Countries and administrative regions such as the U.S., Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, South Korea, and the Philippines have taken surveillance measures by screening travelers who depart from Wuhan, China for fever and respiratory symptoms. Moreover, they have notified all passengers to take precautions and protect themselves from infection.

3. The Disease Situation in Thailand

The Department of Disease Control has been implementing its surveillance protocol by fever screening of travelers from all direct flights from Wuhan, China to the Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, and Phuket international airports. During January 3-14, 2020, among 70 flights, 11,163 passengers and aircrew members were screened for respiratory symptoms and febrile illness.

There were 15 people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Of those, six PUI sought treatment at government hospitals: two cases in Phuket and Chiang Mai and four cases at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute. None of them had any severe complications. Nine cases recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes. A laboratory result identified the novel coronavirus 2019 in one case. The etiologic agents for nine cases were identified as final diagnoses including Influenza A virus (5 cases), Influenza B virus (1 case), Influenza C virus (1 case), Adenovirus (1 case) and Coronavirus OC43 (1 case). There are five cases in which laboratory results are pending.

4. Thailand Precautions

The Department of Disease Control (DDC), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Thailand has scaled up the Emergency Operations Center to Level 2 to closely monitor the ongoing situation both at the national and international levels. The MOPH has also strengthened the surveillance system by screening travelers from Wuhan for viral pneumonia by strictly thermal scan passengers for detecting fever and respiratory symptoms at Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai and Phuket airports. Moreover, surveillance and preparedness to respond to emerging infectious diseases has been enhanced in the government and private hospitals, and areas of tourist attractions. There is integration and ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and Sport, the Royal Thai Police, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation.

5. Risk Communication to the Public

- The novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) can be prevented using the principles for respiratory disease prevention, i.e. washing hands, wearing masks and avoiding contact with patients who have a respiratory disease.
- People can still travel to China, however, it is recommended to avoid visiting crowded places and making contact with patients who have respiratory symptoms. If this is unavoidable, people should wear a mask.
- If anyone has symptoms including coughing, sneezing, panting or runny nose within 14 days after departing from Wuhan, China, please seek medical care at the hospital immediately and inform the doctor regarding the history of recent travel to China
- It is recommended to avoid visiting markets selling carcasses or live animals. If touching or handling live animals, people should wear gloves.
- Regularly wash hands with water and soap or use alcohol gel. It is also recommended to avoid using your hands to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Do not use or share personal stuff with others (i.e. handkerchief, glasses, and towels) since pathogens causing respiratory disease can be transmitted to other people through secretions.

You can download the documents related to the novel coronavirus 2019 at <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/index.html>