

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

Thailand situation update on 23 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 23 April 2020, there were a total of 2,647,347 confirmed cases with 58,228 patients in critical condition and 184,386 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 (849,092), Spain (208,389), Italy (187,327), France (159,877), Germany (150,666), England (133,495), Turkey (98,674), Iran (85,996) the People's Republic of China (83,877 cases, as well as 1,034 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively) and Russia (62,773).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 22 April 2020 showed that among 37,506 flights, there were a total of 4,405,412 passengers screened. Among those, 784 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 137,416 people from 1,799 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 22 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,830,032 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 22 April 2020. Between 30 January to 23 April 2020, a total of 161,456 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 786 people.

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

On 23 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,890 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 47,786 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)	47,786
• Detected from the airport screening	784
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	46,912
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

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Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	2,839
• Recovered and discharged from hospitals	2,490
• Undergoing Treatment	299
• Deaths	50
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,839
• Local Transmission	2,347
• Imported Case	492
- 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 2,839 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,490 patients have recovered and returned home, and 50 patients have died.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 23 April 2020, no additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas remained at 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 in 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). 1,466 cases are male, and 1,290 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.14:1). Gender data is not available for 83 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,483 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 cases), salivary gland cancer (1 case), paranasal sinus disease (1 case), COPD (1 case), multiple underlying diseases (26 cases), stroke (1 case), epilepsy (2 cases), thrombocytopenia (1 case), myasthenia gravis (1 case), valvular

heart disease (1 case), HIV (2 cases), 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 2,711 cases reported without any underlying disease. 41 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports (one case was found within the group of Thai workers returning from Wuhan). 1,801 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 994 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts”. On 23 April 2020, 3 confirmed cases were found from the active case finding measure in Phuket province.

3. Thailand Precautions

- On 21 April 2020, The Royal Gazette published the announcement made by the Ministry of Public Health that listed the second edition of the COVID-19 Disease Infected Zones outside the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2563. Under Thailand's classifications, the updated Disease Infected Zones now include: Malaysia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Indonesia, and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
- Dr. Taweesil Vishnuayothin, spokesman of the government's Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration, said that the checkpoints on main roads will be reduced, however, this will lead to an increase in checkpoints in communities. There is an inclination to prolong the period of the Emergency Decree, but for right now some measures are going to be relieved. The final decision will be considered by and proposed at an upcoming meeting with the Cabinet.
- The government has been providing state and local quarantine facilities at 1,206 locations nationwide to observe symptoms of returnees from abroad for at least 14 days before reentry into society to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Ministry of Public Health is working with the Ministry of Defense to supervise the state quarantine facilities in Bangkok. For local quarantine facilities at the provincial level, the MOPH has collaborated with the Ministry of Interior. People under quarantine will receive appropriate medical care from officers, including a daily health check. There are teams operating 24 hours/day to offer medical advice at the quarantine facility. After five to seven days under quarantine, individuals will be tested for COVID-19. If found to be infected with COVID-19 or to meet PUI criteria, they will be transferred to a designated hospital specified by MOPH. The Department of Disease Control has assigned the Urban Institute for Disease Prevention and Control to be the center for state quarantine management and to train personnel who are stationed in order to develop their capacity. These implementations are to ensure that the operations for disease prevention and control run smoothly and are complete. The director of the Urban Institute for Disease Prevention and Control serves as incident commander at quarantine facilities in Bangkok.
- The Department of Health (DOH) requests that people coordinate with the government sector if they wish to donate food or set-up foodbank coordination. The government sector can assist with planning logistics and reducing the congestion of people to provide aid while maintaining safe practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, DOH also emphasises that food donors provide cooked foods that are difficult to spoil. Above all, DOH issued guidelines about donating food or setting up an area to provide food which are as follows:
 1. Deliver food to those who cannot leave their homes, such as for patients, the handicapped, and other affected people who cannot go outside the house. If any donors would like to donate under this format, they can contact the community to distribute the food to houses.

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2. If donors are unable to provide the food under condition number 1, they are requested to arrange an area to provide food without a mass gathering. Now, there are many appropriate places for providing food determined by government sectors. If any donors would like to use these said areas, they should inform the responsible government sectors in each area of provinces so that staff can be allocated to screen people, provide alcohol gel, maintain distance within queues, and tell everyone to wear a mask. Now we face a problem regarding high plastic usage, so people receiving food will be asked to bring their own cloth bags to reduce the plastic usage.
- The Governor of Chonburi Province mandated Chonburi Communicable Disease Committee announcement No. 18/2563 regarding urgent measures to prevent economical impacts of COVID-19 starting on 1 May 2020. They will cancel the lockdown to decrease the impact from the COVID-19 situation for helping people and business owners in Chonburi Province because the COVID-19 situation has improved and has not found new cases.
- Buriram Province is allowing flea markets, shops, restaurants (alcohol still not permitted to be sold), and the walking street to re-open on May 1, 2020. All customers and sellers must wear masks. People who wish to go out must carry proof of their good health. Those who show no evidence of COVID-19 will be granted a “Buriram Healthy” sticker to be placed either on their ID card or passport. If traveling outside the Buriram area, village officials and the police will remove the sticker from the card. Upon return to the Buriram area, all persons must be quarantined for another 14 days and receive health clearance before being given another sticker.

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.