

Thailand situation update on 25 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 25 April 2020, there were a total of 2,834,697 confirmed cases with 58,382 patients in critical condition and 197,421 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 (925,758), Spain (219,764), Italy (192,994), France (159,828), Germany (155,054), England (143,464), Turkey (104,912), Iran (88,194) the People's Republic of China (83,897 cases, as well as 1,036 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively) and Russia (68,622).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 24 April 2020 showed that among 37,673 flights, there were a total of 4,407,969 passengers screened. Among those, 807 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 137,790 people from 1,859 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 24 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,839,467 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 24 April 2020. Between 30 January to 24 April 2020, a total of 162,623 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 809 people. Situation of Patients with Suspected Symptoms of COVID-19 in Thailand.

On 25 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,304 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 51,694 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)	51,694
• Detected from the airport screening	807
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	50,797
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	2,907
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,594
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	262
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	51
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,907
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,415
<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 2,907 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,594 patients have recovered and returned home, and 51 patients have died.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 25 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 on Chonburi, and 3 cases in Bangkok.

On 25 April 2020, 42 confirmed cases were found at the immigration quarantine units at Sadao district in Songkhla province (34 cases are Burmese, 3 cases are Vietnamese, 2 cases are Malaysian, 1 case is Yeman, 1 case is Cambodian, 1 case is Indian)

The median age of the confirmed cases is 36 years old (ranging from 1 months to 91 years old). 1,486 cases are male, and 1,305 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.14:1). Gender data is not available for 116 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,507 cases are Thai, 51 are Burmese, 33 are Chinese, 24 are French, 23 are British, 12 are Russian, 11 are Japanese, 10 are American, eight are Canadian, eight are Italian, eight 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, four are Filipino, four are Malaysian, three are South Korean, three are Indonesian, three are Cambodian, two are Portuguese, two are Spanish, two are Albanian, two are Kazakh, two are Laos, two are New Zealander (one case is Maori), 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, one is Mali, one is Yeman, and data is not available for the remaining 123 cases.

Underlying diseases were found in some of these cases, including hypertension (26 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 (2 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 2,777 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). 1,810 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 1,000 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts”. On 25 April 2020, 14 confirmed cases were found from active case finding measures including 3 cases in Phuket province, and 11 cases in Yala.

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) discussed with more than 20 Thai and foreign airlines regarding protective measures prior to the reopening of domestic flights on May 1, 2020. Basic guidelines for disease prevention measures that were disclosed from the discussion, are as follows:
 - 1) Airlines with large aircrafts are required to sell flight tickets. The airlines have to ensure seating distance between passengers to comply with the standards of prevention for pandemics. For airlines with small planes or propeller planes, only 70% of the available seats can be sold. Reducing the number of seats in each flight will cause transportation costs of airlines to rise. Therefore, airlines shall increase the ticket price with the maximum air ticket price from 9.40 baht per kilometre.
 - 2) The distance between individuals must be controlled from the moment passengers enter the airport to when they board, including standing in a queue to buy flight tickets, waiting for security checks, using passenger boarding bridges, and using busses to board the plane. Within any vehicle, people must be least one metre apart.
 - 3) Food and beverage services on flights are prohibited, including restrictions on selling food. Passengers are not allowed to bring their own food and beverages onboard.
 - 4) Cabin crew must wear face masks, gloves, and face shields on flights. Passengers are also required to wear face masks while traveling.
 - 5) Passengers must wear a mask as they enter the airport, and throughout their travels. If passengers are unmasked, airlines are required to prohibit them from boarding the plane, or deny them a flight ticket. The airline has the power to impose wearing masks.
 - 6) For airlines that have flight routes longer than 90 minutes, the airline must keep the back row seats empty so that passengers displaying suspicious symptoms during the flight can be isolated in that row.

- The Dental Association of Thailand announced "The Guidelines for Infectious Control in Dental Practices during the COVID-19 Outbreak Edition 1," to ensure that the dental procedures have a high safety standards both for the patient and the dentist. In addition, the Dental Association also outlined recommendations for how dentists should practice.
- The Department of Medical Services, MoPH introduced the New Normal Medical Service model used to avoid congestion in hospitals and reduce the spread of the disease. This new model will reduce time and money spent by patients during transport and increase social distancing. The hospitals under the supervision of the Department of Medical Services provide consultation to patients through video calls, and deliver all medicine via post mail for patients who have some form of health insurance. This implementation will be primarily piloted in a group of patients with chronic diseases, and the service will be expanded to cover all hospitals under the Ministry of Public Health so that the Personal Health Record of patients in every hospital can be linked to each other, thus improving the development of referral systems and the consultation process.
- The Central Institute of Forensic Science changed its DNA testing laboratory to a COVID-19 testing laboratory to detect traces of the virus in samples. This pilot project is going to start among officials at the Office of Juvenile Observation and Protection in Bangkok (Bang Na), and the Office of Juvenile Observation and Protection in Pathum Thani Province. The testing equipment will be brought to the nursing unit of these offices to collect the secretions used for screening for infection. Anyone can be tested, even those who are not suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases. It is necessary that the Ministry of Justice make sure that prisoner inmates and relatives of inmates feel comfortable and confident with the procedure of the experiment before proceeding. The Central Institute of Forensic Science has been certified by the Department of Medical Sciences and has received standards for COVID-19 testing from the Ministry of Public Health.
- The Ministry of Industry reported that according to household registration data from the Department of Provincial Administration, a total of 5,450,000 cloth masks have been distributed to people in Bangkok via postal service. The amount distributed reflects the number of people that appear in the household registration data in every household recorded by the Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior. Therefore, if anyone is unaccounted for in the house registration, then they will not receive a cloth mask; please contact the Ministry of Industry to fix this issue via website www.industry.go.th or www.หน้ากากไทยต้านโควิด.com.
- The Food and Drug Administration warns people against buying Chinese Medical Herbs online because there is a risk of receiving artificial medicine, with false claims of being able to treat COVID-19. Those who are found advertising banned herbal products or claiming false benefits of herbal products will be imprisoned up to 1 year in prison, or pay a fine up to 100,000 baht, or both. Those without a license who are found selling or importing herbal products will be imprisoned up to 3 years, or will pay up to 300,000 baht, or both. Those found to be importing artificial herbal products will be imprisoned for up to 10 years, or will pay a fine as high as one million baht.
- If anyone has any questions or issues regarding medicine, they are strongly encouraged to consult healthcare workers for professional medical advice. Consumers considering traditional medicine should read the labels of herbal products and any information leaflets prior to using. The following website contains a document with information approved by the Food and Drug

Administration: <http://www.fda.moph.go.th/sites/oss/SitePages/ContentViewInformation.aspx?IDitem=%209>. Countries around the world are searching for COVID-19 medical treatment and a vaccine. It is a long process to experiment, explore, and test. Other medications should be taken only by suggestion from a medical practitioner. If anyone has a question or would like to report healthcare products that are falsely advertising the ability to treat COVID-19, they can either call the Food and Drug Administration hotline 1556 or communicate via Food and Drug Administration SmartApplication.

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.