

Thailand situation update on 26 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 26 April 2020, there were a total of 2,924,265 confirmed cases with 57,881 patients in critical condition and 203,324 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 (960,896), Spain (223,759), Italy (195,351), France (161,488), Germany (156,513), England (148,377), Turkey (107,773), Iran (89,328) the People's Republic of China (83,910 cases, as well as 1,038 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively) and Russia (74,588).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 25 April 2020 showed that among 37,676 flights, there were a total of 4,409,294 passengers screened. Among those, 817 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 139,197 people from 1,865 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 25 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,843,140 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 819 people.

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

On 26 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,544 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 53,238 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)	53,238
• Detected from the airport screening	817
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	52,331
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	2,922
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,609
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	262
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	51
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,922
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,425
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	497
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	76

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

In Thailand, there have been 2,922 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,609 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 26 April 2020, five additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas increased to 76 cases. There are 62 cases among Thai people returning from Indonesia, seven cases from America, four cases from the United of Arab Emirates, two cases from England, and one case from the Netherlands. 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, 4 cases on Chonburi, and 7 cases in Bangkok.

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

The median age of the confirmed cases is 36 years old (ranging from 1 month to 91 years old). 1,495 cases are male, and 1,311 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.14:1). Gender data is not available for 116 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,522 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 (27 cases), hypotension (1 case), allergies (18 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 (27 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 2,790 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). 1,747 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 1,001 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts”. Active case finding measures from the beginning of its implementation until 26 April 2020, has identified 16 confirmed cases including 3 cases in Phuket province and 13 cases in Yala.

3. Thailand Precautions

The Ministry of Public Health has set the guidelines for relaxing the measures of "Beauty clinic-massage parlors, spas-service facilities". These measures include maintaining social distance between customers, screening, wearing masks, washing hands, and limiting the number of clients. The Department of Health developed an evaluation system, the THAISTOPCOVID platform (stopcovid.anamai.moph.go.th), to help check the availability of services and track implementation of health standards.

The Department of Health Services Support warned private hospitals against setting up COVID-19 screening and testing services in public places, such as department stores and gas stations, as a precautionary measure to prevent disease transmission. However, if private hospitals would like to provide such services, they can do so only at places of residence or designated quarantine. The provision of these services in public or crowded places is prohibited. If these mandates are broken, then the Department of Health Services Support or the Provincial Health Office will punish all healthcare providers responsible, in accordance with the Health Facility Act (1998).

Dr. Sukhum Kanchanaphimai, Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Public Health, talked about how to increase the public's confidence after quarantine measures are relieved. The Prime Minister intends to better understand who are most likely to be among the risk groups and to ensure those people are not carriers of or infected by the disease. The Prime Minister has approved an additional budget of more than 3 billion baht to be allocated to the development of testing services. For example, in the case of sample collections, using more advanced technology can allow us to make a diagnosis faster. This budget will allow us to work towards ensuring that these relief measures will be readily available and accessible in all parts of Thailand.

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.