

Thailand situation update on 30 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 30 April 2020, there were a total of 3,231,054 confirmed cases with 59,739 patients in critical condition and 228,403 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 (1,064,572), Spain (236,899), Italy (203,591), France (166,420), England (165,221), Germany (161,539), Turkey (117,589), Russia (106,498), Iran (93,657), and the People's Republic of China (83,945 cases, as well as 1,038 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 29 April 2020 showed that among 37,923 flights, there were a total of 4,414,176 passengers screened. Among those, 929 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 140,190 people from 1,965 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 29 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,858,049 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 29 April 2020. Between 30 January to 30 April 2020, a total of 167,097 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 931 people.

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

On 30 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 4,353 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 66,371 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)	66,371
• Detected from the airport screening	929
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	65,352
• 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	2,954
• Recovered and discharged from hospitals	2,719
• Undergoing Treatment	181
• Deaths	54
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,954
• Local Transmission	2,444
• Imported Case	510
- Designated Quarantine Places*	81

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

In Thailand, there have been 2,954 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,719 patients have recovered and returned home, and 54 patients have died.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 29 April 2020, three additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas increased to 81 cases. There are 62 cases among Thai people returning from Indonesia, nine cases from America, four cases from the United of Arab Emirates, three cases from Malaysia, 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 12 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 Yemeni, 1 case was Cambodian, and 1 case was Indian).

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 1 month to 99 years old). 1,619 cases are male, and 1,335 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.21:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,553 cases are Thai, 51 are Burmese, 34 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 Malian, one is Yemeni, 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 (19 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 2,821 cases reported without any underlying disease. 40 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports (one case was found within the group of Thai workers returning from Wuhan). 1,751 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 1,016 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts”. Total of 24 confirmed cases were found from the active case finding measures.

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Royal Thai Government Gazette revealed requirements issued under Article 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2005 (No.4), which states: During the meeting that took place on 28 April 2020, the Cabinet approved the extension of the Emergency Situation Declaration in all areas in the Kingdom of Thailand through May 31 2020, which has been in action since 26 March B.E. 2020. The government has been continuously monitoring the rate of COVID-19 infection both within Thailand and in other countries. All the orders, whether they are prohibition or relaxation of measures, coming from the Governor of Bangkok, Provincial Governors, the Disease Control Officers (under the Communicable Disease Act), the Officials authorized by the Thailand Air Navigation Act, and the Immigration Act will be enforced. Under Article 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2005, the same conditions will continue to apply unless there are further orders issued May 1, 2020 and beyond.
- The Ministry of Public Health and World Health Organization opened a COVID-19 hotline in three languages. Dr. Suwannachai Wattanayingchareonchai (Director of Department of Disease Control) and Dr. Daniel Kertesz (Representative of World Health Organization Thailand) presided along with representatives from other organizations, such as The International Organization for Immigration (IOM), Division of Health Economics and Health Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Raks Thai Foundation and World Vision Foundation of Thailand. Together, these organizations opened a migrant worker hotline to provide support and make accurate information readily accessible to migrant workers. This hotline can be reached at 1422 (DDC hotline), and the numbers to dial to access other language systems are 81 for Cambodian language, 82 for Lao language, and 83 Burmese language and the service will open on 1 May 2020.
- The Association of Private Higher Education Institutions of Thailand (APHEIT) revealed that 46 private universities and colleges, consisting of 41 universities, 17 colleges, and 6 institutions, are implementing measures to alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 on the teachers, parents, and students at every educational institute. These measures include 1) establishing a special fund, 2) arranging online teaching, 3) delaying the tuition fee period, 4) providing assistance with medical expenses and health insurance, 5) providing communities with social assistance, 6) coordinating with the Student Loan Fund, 7) hiring graduates and students to work at the institutions. APHEIT is under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, President of Council of University Presidents of Thailand, and private institutions.

- Chulalongkorn University announced they will extend the closure of their offices both inside and outside of Bangkok until 31 May 2020. This is in response to the government's decision to extend the terms of the Emergency Decree.
- The Institute of Geriatric Medicine under the Department of Medical Services recommended ways the elderly can practice daily habits to maintain good health without putting themselves at risk of getting COVID-19. They also made recommendations on how to prevent depression during self-quarantine at home. Such exercises and recommendations include enjoying hobbies, contacting friends and family via phone or social media, and creating a routine schedule filled with activities, including physical activities.
- The Transport Company Limited announced extended temporary termination of bus services that have routes going to areas more than 300 kilometers away; this will remain in effect until there is a change in policy. Van services are allowed to open between 05:00 a.m. to 04:30 p.m; passengers may use the van service available at Chatuchak Station. These announcements are in response to the new cabinet resolution to extend the Emergency Decree to 31 May 2020. Additionally, the temporary termination of travels both in and out of Thailand from ground ports, sea ports, and airports has been extended to 31 May 2020. Parcel delivery service is allowed to open between 05:00 am to 08:30 pm.
- Per the Phuket Governor, The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) announced they will extend the closure of Phuket International Airport for 15 more days (through 15 May, 2020). This temporary closure of flights does not apply to state or military aircrafts, emergency landings, technical landings without disembarkation, humanitarian aid, medical and relief flights, repatriation flights, or cargo flights.

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.