

Thailand situation update on 1 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 1 May 2020, there were a total of 3,319,856 confirmed cases with 50,869 patients in critical condition and 234,279 COVID-19 deaths across more than 209 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 (1,095,304), Spain (239,639), Italy (205,463), England (171,253), France (167,178), Germany (163,009), Turkey (120,204), Russia (114,431), Iran (94,640), and Brazil (87,187). The 11th is the People's Republic of China (83,959 cases, as well as 1,040 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 30 April 2020 showed that among 37,973 flights, there were a total of 4,415,905 passengers screened. Among those, 956 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 140,733 people from 2,008 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 29 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,861,599 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 30 April 2020. Between 30 January to 1 May 2020, a total of 167,834 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 958 people.

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

On 1 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 4,164 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 70,535 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) | 70,535 |
| • Detected from the airport screening | 956 |
| • Detected from seaports | 2 |
| • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals | 69,489 |
| • 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 | 2,960 |
| • Recovered and discharged from hospitals | 2,732 |
| • Undergoing Treatment | 174 |
| • Deaths | 54 |
| Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases | 2,960 |
| • Local Transmission | 2,450 |
| • 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 2,960 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,732 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, no additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas remained at 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). 1,620 cases are male, and 1,340 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.21:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,649 cases are Thai, 53 are Burmese, 34 are Chinese, 29 are French, 24 are British, 12 are Russian, 12 are American, 11 are Japanese, nine are Indian, eight are Canadian, eight are Italian, eight are German, six are Swedish, six are Belgian, six are Swiss, five are Danish, five are Filipino, five are Singaporean, four are Pakistani, four are Australian, four are Malaysian, four are Vietnamese, three are South Korean, three are Indonesian, three are Cambodian, two are Kazakh, two are Brazilian, two are Laos, two are New Zealander (one case is Maori), two are Spanish, two are Israeli, two are Albanian, One is American-Samua, one is Malian, one is Kuwaiti, one is Serbian, one is Tunisian, one is Taiwanese, one is Dutch, one is Palestinian, one is Portuguese, one is Finnish, one is Mexican, one is Ukrainian, one is Yemeni, one is Liberian, one is Thai-Indian, one is Iranian, one is Uzbek, one is Hungarian, and data is not available for the remaining 14 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 (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 2,826 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). 1,752 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 1,016 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts”. Total of 29 confirmed cases were found from the active case finding measures.

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration reported that a standardized manual for re-opening of six businesses is currently being processed for this on Sunday, May 3, 2020. There are three broad principles to prevent ourselves from becoming infected or spreading COVID-19: 1) staying in open areas 2) staying at least 1 meter apart from others, and 3) no close interactions with others. After statistics revealed that more people are leaving their houses now, a request for decreased travel has been issued.
- The Minister of Culture revealed that people must comply with recommendations from the Ministry of Public Health on Visakha Bucha Day this year therefore, Buddhism-promoted activities are being adjusted to comply with new restrictions. Exhibitions of "Visakha Bucha Day as an Important International Day of the World, B.E. 2563 " are being held between 27 April - 15 May 2020 at the exhibition center, Wattanathumwisit Building, Ministry of Culture. There is also live streaming of Buddhist sermons via Facebook of the Department of Religious Affairs on 6 April 2020 from 09:00 to 17:30. The Buddhist sermon was held at Suthat Thep Wararam Temple, which consisted of evening prayer, Buddhist preaching, walking with lighted candles in hand around a temple (only Buddhist monks), and encouraging Buddhists to listen to the Dharma online to keep Buddhist precepts alive, and to purify the mind while worshipping The Lord Buddha. The government is permitting Buddhists to participate in specific activities in-person if they desire to do so, however, people must strictly follow the measures of the Ministry of Public Health. The Ministry of Culture recommends that the elderly and children not participate in any activities. Instead, they can stay at home and follow along by listening to Dharma through online media and reading dharma books to embrace and put Buddhist principles into practice.
- The Royal Gazette published the announcement made by the Excise Department regarding the extension of the Excise Act 2017 duration (1 April to 30 June 2020). The deadline for filing the excise tax payment form has been extended to 15 July 2020. This applies to alcoholic drink operators whose alcoholic drinks are produced by liquor companies that have installed tele-communication and measurement systems of the Excise Department, and also for cases where there is a need to pay a tax and Value Added Tax since operators accepted that they commit an offense by transferring the goods from a bonded warehouse.

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.