

Thailand situation update on 5 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 5 May 2020, there were a total of 3,659,623 confirmed cases with 49,652 patients in critical condition and 252,583 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 (1,212,955), Spain (248,301), Italy (211,938), England (190,584), France (169,462), Germany (166,152), Russia (155,370), Turkey (127,659), Brazil (108,620) and Iran (98,647). The 11th is the People's Republic of China (83,967 cases, as well as 1,041 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 4 May 2020 showed that among 38,157 flights, there were a total of 4,420,156 passengers screened. Among those, 1,039 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 141,485 people from 2,081 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 4 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,874,819 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 4 May 2020. Between 30 January to 5 May 2020, a total of 169,327 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 1,039 people.

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

On 5 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 3,859 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 82,627 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)	82,627
• Detected from the airport screening	1,039
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	81,498
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	2,988
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,761
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	173
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	54
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,988
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,457
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	531
- Designated Quarantine Places*	102

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

In Thailand, there have been 2,987 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,747 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 5 May 2020, no additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas remained at 84 cases. There are 62 cases among Thai people returning from Indonesia, nine cases from America, four cases from the United of Arab Emirates, four cases from Malaysia, two cases from England, one case from the Netherlands, one case from Japan, and one case from India. 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 14 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). 18 confirmed cases were found from active case finding in migrant groups (17 cases are Rohingya, and one case is Burmese).

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 1 month to 99 years old). 1,624 cases are male, and 1,363 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.21:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,658 cases are Thai, 54 are Burmese, 34 are Chinese, 29 are French, 24 are British, 17 cases are Stateless Rohingya, 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 (28 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 2,834 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, 1,021 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts”. A total of 31 confirmed cases were found from the active case finding measures.

3. Thailand Precautions

Songkhla province has opened a field hospital. The 2nd floor of the Songkhla Detention Center will serve as a field hospital after 18 foreigners were reported with COVID-19. Of these, 17 are women aged between 19-20 years and one is a 10 year-old boy who was detained with his mother (but his mother is negative for COVID-19). By this time, the boy has received X-rays by the medical team to check respiratory symptoms and pulmonary function. If pneumonia symptoms are found, he will be sent to Hat Yai Hospital for treatment. Those with mild symptoms will be treated at the detention center. In addition, those who are negative for COVID-19 will be quarantined to another place to prevent further spread of the disease.

The Yala Governor and team met with the Yala Islamic Committee with the main objective to discuss and consult each other regarding the announcement issued by the Sheikhu Islam Office on 3 May 2020, regarding the relaxation of measures which allows Thai Muslims to pray Salah on Fridays. The meeting agreed upon postponing of praying Salah on Friday for two weeks since there have still been reported cases in the province and this Muslim ritual may cause a widespread outbreak in area (the effective date on 8 May 2020). In addition, the governor also established a committee to consider providing permission to pray Salah on Friday in consultation with the Chair of the Yala Islamic committee. Meanwhile, the disease control measures for the Muslim ritual on Friday shall be implemented in accordance with the MoPH recommendations by providing alcohol gel in the mosque area, requesting the participants to wear a mask, keeping a distance of at least 1-2 meters, not praying Salah in a gathering group format, and strictly arranging the way people enter and leave the mosque. Yala province will engage to work with staff from governing sectors, public health officers, village health volunteers and the community leaders. However, the relaxation of measures allowing to pray Salah on Friday will be piloted at one mosque as a model of practice for other mosques in areas.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior ordered the most urgent issue to all provincial governors to arrange regulations, guidelines, and practices for entrepreneurs



The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

and managers that are taking relaxation measures. Owners or managers of those businesses must strictly comply with disease preventive measures determined by the government. If they do not comply, there may be a punishment under the law to close the premises. Public relations efforts have been implemented to the general public to request cooperation from people to strictly comply with disease preventive measures of the government as well. All relevant officials are responsible to monitor enforcement measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 by arranging mobile teams for active case finding in the communities regularly.

The Minister of Social Development and Human Security added 60 telephone lines for the hotline to support the uncertain situation. The information about telephone reception on 1 May 2020, showed there were 388 calls and from 1-30 April 2020, it showed that 84 Thai people attempted suicide because their problems about debt, unemployment, health, family, and did not receive the 5000 baht subsidy from the government regarding the impact from the COVID-19 situation. Their close friends and family can help them and observe their behavior. If someone needs help or advice, they can contact the involved organization in the area and MSDHS's hotline tel. 1300 24 hours/day.

The Sangha Supreme Council has ordered all temples under its jurisdiction, both in Thailand and overseas, to suspend all religious rituals for Visakha Bucha Day on Wednesday (May 6) to prevent the transmission of Covid-19. However, there will be a live streaming at 7 pm that people can join online while staying at home.

The Department of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Culture has released the Performing Religious Ceremonies Manual of each religion as a way to practice religion properly and according to religious principles and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Details can be read here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mGBVQZjM7TnP8itJrZX1MB9lbgqEEjFb/view>

Mr. Amornwongwan, Municipal Clerk of Hat Yai has issued an announcement stating that markets can be reopened as normal from 3 May 2020 onwards. The owners of the markets need to clearly specify the entrances and exits. Vendors and sellers must wear hygienic masks or cloth masks, provide hand washing products at the entrances and exits sufficiently and specify the distance between customers as prescribed by Songkhla Province and the markets must be cleaned regularly.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has continually collaborated with the Sheikhul Islam Office and the Humanitarian Assistance Council for 3 years in the project "This Ramadan for Muslim Relatives" with the main objective to mobilize the fund for supporting poor Muslim refugees, and now especially those affected by the situation of COVID-19.

The Urban Institute for Disease Prevention and Control, Department of Disease Control and Grab Thailand have jointly organized the activity "working as a team for active case finding of COVID-19 patients" among Grab's taxi drivers including food and parcel

providers in a total of 1,674 persons under the project of active case finding in communities with the cooperation of the public and private sectors. This project has been initiated to build confidence among customers and to revive the economy in accordance with the relaxing measures of the government.

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.