

Thailand situation update on 6 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 6 May 2020, there were a total of 3,741,489 confirmed cases with 49,242 patients in critical condition and 258,512 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 (1,237,761), Spain (250,561), Italy (213,013), England (194,990), France (170,551), Germany (167,007), Russia (165,929), Turkey (129,491), Brazil (115,953) and Iran (99,970). The 11th is the People's Republic of China (83,969 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 5 May 2020 showed that among 38,157 flights, there were a total of 4,421,144 passengers screened. Among those, 1,041 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 141,716 people from 2,101 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 5 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,877,724 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 5 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 6 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 3,703 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 86,320 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)	86,320
• Detected from the airport screening	1,041
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	85,3189
• 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	2,989
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,772
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	162
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	55
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,989
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,457
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	532
- Designated Quarantine Places*	85

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, 2,772 patients have recovered and returned home, and 55 patients have died.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 6 May 2020, one additional case was reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas increased to 85 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, one case from India, and one case from Russia. 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, 14 cases in Bangkok, and one case in Samut Prakan.

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). On 4 May 2020, 18 confirmed cases were found from active case finding in migrant groups (17 cases are stateless Rohingya, and one case is Burmese) which brought the total number to 60 cases.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 1 month to 99 years old). 1,625 cases are male, and 1,364 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.19:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,660 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-Samoa, 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 2,835 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

- The Director-General of the Department of Health explained that there are many people going to exercise at parks, sports stadiums and various public areas. Screening check points have been established in those places to observe symptoms, inquire about initial symptoms, and provide temperature measurements. Anyone with a temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or higher, and is coughing, sneezing, has a runny nose, or fatigue will be denied to use the services and they will be recommended to see a doctor immediately. Workers in those places must wear hygienic masks or cloth masks all the time. Handwashing points with soap or alcohol gel need to be provided in all areas where activities are conducted. People who go to run should not wear a mask or cloth mask as the body needs more oxygen. When CO₂ accumulates during inhalation within face masks, the body will not receive enough oxygen. Therefore, every runner should increase the space required to maintain a proper social distance to reduce the risk of COVID-19. People should avoid contact with surfaces in various public places, including avoiding talking up-close, and not unnecessarily touching the face. After exercise, wash hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol gel. In addition, when returning home, change clothes and take a shower immediately.
- The Cabinet has a resolution regarding measures for assisting tap water users to reduce their burden during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Metropolitan Waterworks Authority extended the period of providing water without interest for 6 months and reduced all kinds of water bills. In situations where users consume not more than 10 cubic meters of water, they will be able to use the tap water for free without monthly service and raw water charges. In situations where users consume more than 10 cubic meters of water, the first used 10 cubic meters of tap water will be free and the cost of the surplus use will be reduced by 20%. For the Provincial Waterworks Authority, they will extend the period of providing water without interest as well. However, all kinds of water bills will be reduced by 20%, except for government sectors and public enterprises whose water bills

will be reduced by 3%. Free service charge for 3 months will be applied for those paying their water bill at 7-11, Lotus Department Stores and Big C.

- The Gazette has published details of the announcement of the Ministry of Finance, signed by the Minister. Regarding the types of businesses, duration and conditions for employees or employers to stop or postpone money transfers to provident (pension) funds, it is to help and alleviate economic impacts for the employees and the employers affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. Those employees and employers can temporarily stop or postpone money transfers to provident funds from the current period until December 2020, and will be considered as the remaining status onwards.
- The Director General of the Department of Rail Transport has coordinated with the Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company Limited (BTSC) to prevent the occurrence of train problems. They coordinated with other rail service organizations to increase their strictness of train maintenance, systems and equipment readiness to service their passengers. If there are crowds of passengers, they should provide the service with system management measures to control the spread of COVID-19 such as social distancing of at least 1 meter while waiting for the service. They can separate people into three groups i.e. 1st group: before going up and down to the ticket office level, 2nd group: before passing the automatic ticket gate, and 3rd group: before entering the train. Moreover, increasing the public relations for people to limit the time of travel to reduce the number of crowds that can lead to the spread of COVID-19.
- The Vice-Spokesman of the Royal Thai Police has clarified the Royal Thai Gazette regarding the notifications of the Chief of Traffic Officers in the Kingdom of Thailand on the prohibition of 4-wheel, 6 wheel, 10 wheel trucks to enter Bangkok during curfew time under the Emergency Decree under the COVID-19 outbreak (Issued No.2) until May 31, 2020.
- The Police Commissioner General Chakthip Chaijinda, ordered all sectors under the Royal Thai Police to urgently mitigate the problems/difficulties of people affected by COVID-19. In addition, each Provincial Police Region will be provided funding support in the amount of 50,000 baht.
- The CP mask factory, which was established in accordance with the concept of Mr. Thanin Chearavanont, senior president of Charoen Pokphand Group is to distribute the mask for free at hospitals, for medical staff and the general public, with a total production of 1,168,800 masks. Up to this date, 711,600 masks have already been distributed to 54 hospitals across the country. If medical personnel have received sufficient masks, the masks will be distributed to the general public in the next order.

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.