

Thailand situation update on 8 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 8 May 2020, there were a total of 3,931,668 confirmed cases with 48,980 patients in critical condition and 270,892 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 (1,292,879), Spain (256,855), Italy (215,858), England (206,715), Russia (187,859), France (174,791), Germany (169,430), Brazil (135,773), Turkey (133,721), and Iran (103,135). The 11th is the People's Republic of China (83,976 cases, as well as 1,045 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 7 May 2020 showed that among 38,305 flights, there were a total of 4,422,585 passengers screened. Among those, 1,085 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 142,186 people from 2,143 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 7 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,884,597 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 6 May 2020. Between 30 January to 8 May 2020, a total of 172,033 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 1,067 people.

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

On 8 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 3,853 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 93,644 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)	93,644
• Detected from the airport screening	1,085
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	92,469
• 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	3,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,787
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	158
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	55
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,461
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	539
- Designated Quarantine Places*	87

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

In Thailand, there have been 3,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,787 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 8 May 2020, no additional case was reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas remained at 87 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, two cases from Kazakhstan, 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 8 May 2020, 65 confirmed cases were found at the immigration quarantine unit at Sadao district in Songkhla province (37 cases were Burmese, 20 cases were stateless Rohingya, 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). 1,630 cases are male, and 1,370 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.19:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,666 cases are Thai, 56 are Burmese, 34 are Chinese, 29 are French, 24 are British, 20 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 2,846 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 35 confirmed cases were found from the active case finding measures.

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Director-General of the Department of Disease Control revealed the long-term plan to control the disease. The Ministry of Public Health will increase proactive surveillance by doing active case finding of both people at risk and in risky areas for Covid-19, in order to collect 400,000 samples for lab testing. In the past, it only focused on those who have close contacts of infected people or their family members. Thus, DDC MOPH gave the practice guidelines and the power to the Provincial Communicable Disease committee to look for active cases in their provinces to be considered by provinces. Moreover, DDC supports the saliva test kit for SARS-CoV-2 to replace the throat swab.
- Dr Taweessin Visanuyothin, the spokesman of the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration informed the public that the additional relaxation of measures in businesses and activities will be implemented during 8-12 May 2020. The clarification meeting to draft the relaxation of measures Phase 2 will be held on 13 May 2020. By 17 May 2020, if there is no any changes toward the draft and the outbreak situation is still stable, the relaxation of measures Phase 2 will be applied, therefore, people are requested to strictly protect themselves from the disease in order not to have new cases in the next 10 days before the announcement of the relaxation Phase 2 that many big enterprises will reopen leading to mass gatherings. In addition, the MoPH Permanent Secretary recommended to strictly comply with the national disease control measures and be careful about the imported cases so that Thailand can control the single - digit number of new cases. In the meantime, the Prime Minister also proposed to have specific measures for some activities/enterprises such as sky trains by preparing and solving problems to reduce crowds of people.
- A meeting of the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has agreed on the issue of time gaps for office hours to reduce congestion in public transportation for working people. It is also encouraged to have 50% work from home policies. In addition,

it was also clarified about removing the names of China and South Korea from the list of countries in Disease Infected Zones. However, this process has not been finished yet. It is just a proposal from the meeting of the CCSA on May 7, 2020, which must be brought into the meeting of the National Communicable Disease Committee. Furthermore, there are still restrictions on international flights into the country, requesting for Fit to Fly, and medical certification, including providing State/Local quarantine by the government upon arrival to Thailand.

- The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, as a chief responsible for the resolution of the emergency situation about coordination with the provincial governors and governor of Bangkok, commanded the provincial governors in Thailand to establish Covid-19 operations centres to follow COVID-19 prevention for all levels such as province, district and sub district with an informing structure and authority.

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.