

Thailand situation update on 15 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 15 May 2020, there were a total of 4,542,388 confirmed cases with 45,548 patients in critical condition and 303,651 COVID-19 deaths across more than 212 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 (1,457,593), Spain (272,646), Russia (262,843), England (233,151), Italy (223,096), Brazil (203,165), France (178,870), Germany (174,975), Turkey (144,749), and Iran (114,533). The 11th is the People's Republic of China (84,031 cases, as well as 1,053 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 14 May 2020 showed that among 38,680 flights, there were a total of 4,430,003 passengers screened. Among those, 1,145 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 143,974 people from 2,318 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 14 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,911,472 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 14 May 2020. Between 30 January to 15 May 2020, a total of 176,361 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 1,147 people.

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

On 15 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 3,663 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 118,608 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) divided by ports	118,608
• Detected from the airport screening	1,145
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	116,833
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	3,025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,855
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	114
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	56
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,476
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Cases 	549
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	97

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

In Thailand, there have been 3,025 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,855 patients have recovered and returned home, and 56 patients have died.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 15 May 2020, seven additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas increased to 97 cases. There are 62 cases among Thai people returning from Indonesia, nine cases from America, nine cases from Pakistan, five 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 6 cases quarantined in Narathiwat, 12 cases in Pattani, 8 cases in Yala, 19 cases in Songkhla, 18 cases in Satun, 3 cases in Krabi, 13 cases in Chonburi, 17 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 97 years old). 1,645 cases are male, and 1,380 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.19:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,691 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-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 (20 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 2,870 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). 1,758 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 1,027 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts”. A total of 55 confirmed cases were found from the active case finding measures.

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Ministry of Education collaborated with the Distance Learning Foundation Under The Royal Patronage and Office of The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission to jointly prepare a teaching plan during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which teaching will be conducted on digital platforms. Testing of online learning systems and online teaching via digital TV channels will begin on May 18. There are 17 free TV channels for distance learning, which are provided for kindergarten to the junior high school level (Mattayom 3). For the senior high school level (Mattayom 4 - 6) across the country, online media of teachers and content developed by the Ministry of Education will be provided. There will be video conferences with the 9 provincial governors of provinces where COVID-19 patients have not been reported in order to prepare for the semester on July 1.
- 15 May 2020 was the first day that Pattani allowed about 200 mosques to reopen for praying Salah on Friday. The measure is mostly for mosques that are not located in risk communities and they must provide staff to strictly implement disease screening at the mosque entrances. Since there have been no new confirmed cases in the area for the past 24 days, the Pattani Communicable Diseases Committee allowed people to pray Salah on Friday, one week prior to the determined date. The Pattani Central Mosque set up a checkpoint at the entrance, provides alcohol gel at all doors and maintains a 1-2 meter distance between people praying Salah. In addition, all Muslim people who pray Salah at the Pattani Central Mosque are requested to bring their own mat to the mosque. Practices in other mosques will be under the consideration of the Provincial Islamic Committee and the committee of each mosque.
- Mosques that request opening for praying will be checked for readiness. If they are ready and are not in risk villages, people will be allowed to pray at those mosques. The government officers will also monitor the situation at the mosques. It is expected to have

more than 200 mosques open on Friday. In villages that were previously closed, the Islamic committee and the mosque committee will consider what is appropriate. All mosques are expected to open for prayer on Friday, May 22. The Pattani governor announced to open the closed villages on May 18, 2020 in the three districts with no reported cases including Panare, Yaring, and Mae Lan Districts. The governor also emphasized areas to maintain social distancing, such as banks, fresh market areas, and exercise facilities.

- After the Transport Company Ltd. closed their services for more than one month, they prepared to open the northern, northeastern and eastern routes. They will open 7 northern routes and 9 northeastern and eastern routes on 18 May 2020 and prepare to open 3 southern routes on 1 June 2020 for people who need to travel. They have prevention measures for their drivers, ticket sellers and platform staff. Their staff must take care of their health, keep areas clean, pass temperature screening and wear hygienic masks while working. The company will manage the seats in their bus for distancing of at least one meter, clean the buses, toilets and surfaces that were frequently touched before and after providing services, ventilate the air in the buses and park the buses under sunlight after providing service everyday, for at least 1 – 2 hours per day.
- The Centre of COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has announced to allow additional businesses and activities of the 2nd phase of relaxing measures during this COVID-19 outbreak. The curfew time was changed to 11.00 pm until 04.00 am. In case of shopping malls, the service time is 10.00am - 8.00 pm except for gyms, cinemas, and bowling alleys located in the malls. Sports facilities for only outdoor sports (of less than or equal to 3 persons) without viewers are allowed. For beauty businesses/clinics and salons, customers are allowed to use the services if less than 2 hours. Those businesses include nail shops, beauty clinics, and Thai massage (only foot massage). Film shoots must have less than 50 participants. These relaxed measures will take effect on 17 May 2020.

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.