

Thailand situation update on 16 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 16 May 2020, there were a total of 4,641,376 confirmed cases with 45,009 patients in critical condition and 308,845 COVID-19 deaths across more than 210 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 (1,484,285), Spain (274,367), Russia (272,043), England (236,711), Italy (223,885), Brazil (220,291), France (179,506), Germany (175,699), Turkey (146,457), and Iran (116,653). The 11th is the People's Republic of China (84,039 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 15 May 2020 showed that among 38,735 flights, there were a total of 4,430,832 passengers screened. Among those, 1,147 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 144,254 people from 2,352 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 15 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,915,592 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 15 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 1,149 people.

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

On 16 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 2,591 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 120,659 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	120,659
• Detected from the airport screening	1,147
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	119,422
• 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 	2,856
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	113
<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
- 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, 2,856 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 16 May 2020, no additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas remained at 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 6cases 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 on 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 Royal Thai Government Gazette published the notification of the Ministry of Public Health concerning the list of territories outside the Kingdom of Thailand defined as Disease Infected Zones of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, in which the People’s Republic of China (including Hong Kong and Macau SAR) and South Korea were previously included. However, these areas have shown readiness in medical and public health aspects to cope with COVID-19 epidemic effectively as determined by the Minister of Public Health supported by the National Communicable Diseases Committee. Therefore, the Republic of Korea, the People’s Republic of China and two Special Administrative Regions of the People’s Republic of China (Hong Kong and Macau) have been officially removed as Disease Infected Zones regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The Civil Aviation Authorities of Thailand (CAAT) has extended the closure of Phuket International Airport. The previous announcement stated they will re-open on 16th May 2020, but this has been extended until 30 June 2020 because Phuket province is still classified as a Red Zone (High risk of infection). This extension is mainly to prevent a second wave of local transmission in Phuket.
- The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) made an announcement regarding the temporary ban on all international flights to Thailand (No.5) as follows: 1) Ban on international passenger flights to Thailand from 1 June 2020 to 31 June 2020, 2) All flight permits granted for the such period by the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) will be canceled (in the previous announcement).
- The Nonthaburi Governor and Nonthaburi Provincial Health Office in collaboration with Siam Cement Group (SCG) are preparing relaxation of the COVID-19 control measures.

However, to prevent a re-emerging outbreak, the province is implementing disease screening through the application "online clinic" which will facilitate people to have digital health appointments, minimize the risk of infection, and reduce the congestion of people. Patients at risk for infection or people with suspected symptoms are able to directly consult with medical staff or nurses via video calls and medical officers will investigate their risk history and analyze their symptoms to specify whether the patient should receive medical treatment at the hospital. If patients need to visit the hospital, they are able to book it in advance through the application. This kind of service will save time, reduce the risk to contact other patients, and help medical officers track and follow-up the symptoms of patients. This application will be piloted in eight hospitals in Nonthaburi.

- The MRT service providers, Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA) and Bangkok Expressway and Metro Public Company Limited (BEM) are ready to adjust the service times for the Blue Line and the Purple Line to facilitate travel to the public. The MRT Purple Line provides service from 05.30 - 22.30 and the MRT Blue Line from 06.00 - 22.30. The last train will arrive at the destination station at 22.30. In addition, Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company Limited, the BTS Skytrain service provider, will extend service of the BTS Skytrain and BR express until 10:30 pm in all stations, both Sukhumvit and Silom lines, from Sunday, May 17, 2020, onwards or until further notice.

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.