

Thailand situation update on 18 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 18 May 2020, there were a total of 4,818,025 confirmed cases with 44,760 patients in critical condition and 316,925 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 (1,527,664), Russia (290,678), Spain (277,719), England (243,695), Brazil (241,080), Italy (225,435), France (179,569), Germany (176,651), Turkey (149,435), and Iran (120,198). The 13th is the People's Republic of China (84,055 cases, as well as 1,056 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 17 May 2020 showed that among 38,849 flights, there were a total of 4,432,601 passengers screened. Among those, 1,171 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 144,766 people from 2,411 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 17 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,923,687 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 17 May 2020. Between 30 January to 18 May 2020, a total of 177,350 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 1,173 people.

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

On 18 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 4,016 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 127,108 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	127,108
• Detected from the airport screening	1,171
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	125,847
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	3,031
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,857
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	118
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	56
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,031
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,479
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Cases 	552
- Designated Quarantine Places*	100

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

In Thailand, there have been 3,028 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,857 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 17 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, 10 cases from Pakistan, nine cases from America, five cases from the United of Arab Emirates, four cases from Malaysia, two cases from England, two cases from Kazakhstan, two cases from Egypt, 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, 16 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). 1,649 cases are male, and 1,382 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.19:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,697 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 2,893 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). 1,585 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 1,186 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 Bank of Thailand (BOT) revealed that the COVID-19 epidemic has greatly affected the economic and financial systems. To counteract these effects, two important measures have been implemented.
 1. Relief measures for helping minor debtors (credit card loan, cash loans, home loans and motorcycles and car hire purchase). This measure has been in effect since April, with interest reduction, suspending principle, principal reduction, and interest reduction for a period of 3-6 months.
 2. Soft loan measures with the objective of enhancing liquidity for SME entrepreneurs to buy necessary materials, with a credit line not exceeding 500 million baht.
- The Thai Industrial Standards Institute ordered all supermarkets to stop selling face shields immediately after it was found that a manufacturer accidentally used the Thai Industrial Standards (685–2540), which are meant to control toy products, not face shield products. Manufacturers or sellers of the face shield will be punished in accordance with the Industrial Product Acts (1968). Manufacturers who use the Thai Industrial Standards without permission will be punished for either up to 1 year in prison or fined up to 1 million Baht or both. Sellers who use the Thai Industrial Standards without permission will be punished for either up to 6 months in prison, or fined up to 500,000 Baht or both.
- Dental clinics, beauty clinics (except facial clinics), and other treatment clinics are ready to reopen. These clinics will implement measures of physical distancing and intensive prevention for disease infection.
- Seacon Square Department Store, Srinakarin, Bangkok developed an innovative tool in elevators that allow customers to use a foot pedal to press and choose their floor, with the aim of further preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19.

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.