

Thailand situation update on 20 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 20 May 2020, there were a total of 5,002,247 confirmed cases with 45,368 patients in critical condition and 325,172 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 (1,570,583), Russia (308,705), Spain (278,803), Brazil (271,885), England (248,818), Italy (226,699), France (180,809), Germany (177,827), Turkey (151,615), and Iran (124,603). The 13th is the People's Republic of China (84,066 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 19 May 2020 showed that among 38,942 flights, there were a total of 4,435,143 passengers screened. Among those, 1,178 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 145,286 people from 2,464 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 19 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,931,980 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 19 May 2020. Between 30 January to 20 May 2020, a total of 179,551 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 1,180 people.

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

On 20 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 6,085 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 134,956 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	134,956
• Detected from the airport screening	1,178
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	133,688
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	3,034
• Recovered and discharged from hospitals	2,898
• Undergoing Treatment	80
• Deaths	56
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,034
• Local Transmission	2,481
• Imported Cases	553
- Designated Quarantine Places*	101

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

In Thailand, there have been 3,034 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,898 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 20 May 2020, one additional case was reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas remained at 101 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, one case from Russia, and one case from Bahrain. 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, 18 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). 1,651 cases are male, and 1,383 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.19:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,700 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 (29 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 2,895 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, 1,188 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 Minister of Education announced to reduce the time and workdays of government officers by allowing the directors of each section to assign tasks to their staff to work from home and support them to use internet systems such as video conferences. Opening communication tools allows the workers to be contacted when necessary and every section will manage their employees to come to work at their office so that 50% of the total number of their staff are present.
- The Faculty of Science Chulalongkorn University, the working group of the project to support in-depth research on COVID-19 and Thailand Science Research and Innovation revealed that last week many countries including the United States, England, Italy and Spain reported about the danger of the disease found in children. According to the report from the Hospital Pediatrics Journal, there was a 6 month old child in California who developed symptoms including a high fever (above 38 Celsius), loss of appetite, conjunctivitis and a swollen hand (no signs of coughing or runny nose). These symptoms are quite similar to Kawasaki Disease, which is often found in children, leading to complications such as aneurysm, myocarditis, valvular heart disease, and arrhythmia. These kinds of complications can result in death. However, after thorough diagnosis, the 6 month old child was positive for SARS-CoV-2 but did not develop the normal COVID-19 symptoms. Moreover, the Lancet Journal revealed that 8 children aged 4-14 years old in London, England had a hyper-inflammatory shock-like Kawasaki syndrome - high fever for 4-5 days, severe diarrhea, conjunctivitis, and rash. Half of them (4 of 8 children) had a history of COVID-19. This research found similarities between COVID-19 and Kawasaki syndrome. Further research is ongoing.

- The Thai Chamber of Commerce is preparing to launch an application "Helping Laid-off Labor" next week, which will provide a way for companies that lack staff to work to accept laid-off workers from other companies.
- The government has established the official line "Thai Chana" as a communication channel for the public to be informed about government information about the control of the spread of COVID-19. Rumors have been shared through social media mentioning that the application is just fake news. Most recently, the Prime Minister's office posted a statement via Facebook Thai Khu Fa confirming that Thai Chana Line is an official account of the government.
- The Secretary-General of the Thai Industrial Standards Institute (TISI) revealed that an executive meeting has assigned TISI to accelerate the standardization of Thai Industrial Products in relation to the new lifestyle or the New Normal as proposed by TISI. There are 27 standards for items including face masks, face shields, safety glasses for medical use, surgical gowns, negative pressure cabinets, respirators, UV sterilizer etc.

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.