

Thailand situation update on 23 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 23 May 2020, there were a total of 5,320,865 confirmed cases with 45,522 patients in critical condition and 340,261 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 (1,645,535), Russia (335,882), Brazil (332,382), Spain (281,904), England (254,195), Italy (228,658), France (182,219), Germany (179,713), Turkey (154,500), and Iran (131,652). The 13th is the People's Republic of China (84,082 cases, as well as 1,066 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 22 May 2020 showed that among 39,132 flights, there were a total of 4,438,634 passengers screened. Among those, 1,209 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 145,895 people from 2,517 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 22 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,944,777 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 22 May 2020. Between 30 January to 22 May 2020, a total of 181,703 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 1,211 people.

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

On 23 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 3,35 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 150,455 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	150,455
• Detected from the airport screening	1,209
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	149,156
• 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	3,040
• Recovered and discharged from hospitals	2,921
• Undergoing Treatment	65
• Deaths	56
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,040
• Local Transmission	2,443
• Imported Cases	597
- Designated Quarantine Places*	104

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

In Thailand, there have been 3,040 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,921 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 23 May 2020, two additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas increased to 104 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, three cases from Egypt, two cases from England, two cases from Kazakhstan, two cases from India, one case from the Netherlands, one case from Japan, one case from Russia, one case from Bahrain, and one case from Philippines. 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, 19 cases in 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 42 years old (ranging from 1 month to 97 years old). 1,654 cases are male, and 1,386 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.19:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,704 cases are Thai, 56 are Burmese, 34 are Chinese, 29 are French, 24 are British, 20 cases are Stateless Rohingya, 12 are Russian, 13 are American, 11 are Japanese, nine are Indian, nine are German, eight are Canadian, eight are Italian, 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 (28 cases), hypotension (1 case), allergies (20 cases), diabetes (11 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 2,900 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). 1,588 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 and executives of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation had a site visit to the National Primate Research Center of Thailand-Chulalongkorn University, Kaeng Khoi District, Saraburi Province. There, they monitored the progress of the collaborative mRNA vaccine research between the Chulalongkorn University Vaccine Center, The National Institute of Vaccines, and the Department of Medical Sciences. The mRNA vaccine research is supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, and has so far shown positive results after testing the vaccine in rats. Currently, the mRNA vaccine is being tested in monkeys. These monkeys will be injected three times, with the first injection on May 23 at 07:39 am. The second injection will occur after four weeks, and the third injection will occur after an additional eight weeks. The second injection test has the potential to build immunization capacity, thereby making a positive impact on COVID-19 prevention. It is estimated that researchers can begin testing the mRNA vaccine in humans within the next few months, likely August. Testing in humans has three phases and must take into consideration the following four issues: toxicity, body safety, immunity stimulation, and vaccine efficiency.
- The Governor of Trat Province has issued a circular notice requesting to publicize guidelines and announcements of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand (CBCT), effective starting on 24 May 2020. These documents focus on highlighting strict measures, such as limitation of the number of participants and the distance between seats. People need to maintain a physical distance of at least 1.5 - 2 meters, wear a face mask, and register before attending a CBCT ceremony. If anyone is found to have illness or to have COVID-19 after attending religious activities, then they must notify the religious institute that the person participated in, in order to monitor and track those who were sitting nearby.

- The Nakorn Nayok Governor made an announcement about new measures to control COVID-19 transmission as outlined in the Communicable Diseases Act, section 22 and 35 (3). The following measures are effective starting 23 May, 2020:
 1. People departing and entering the province must present themselves to the Subdistrict headman, the Head of Village, and the Chair of Village Committee. At the municipality level, these people are requested to present themselves immediately to the communicable disease control officer in their area.
 2. The communicable disease control officers are requested to assess the readiness of implementing a self quarantine at home by using a form determined by the provincial disease control committee. If the standard for implementing a self quarantine at home is not met, then it is recommended that people quarantine at places determined by the government.

These measures do not apply to groups of people attending meetings or seminars in hotels.

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.