

Thailand situation update on 26 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 26 May 2020, there were a total of 5,603,558 confirmed cases with 53,166 patients in critical condition and 348,194 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 (1,706,226), Brazil (376,669), Russia (362,342), Spain (282,480), England (261,184), Italy (230,158), France (182,942), Germany (180,789), Turkey (157,814), and India (145,456). The 14th is the People's Republic of China (84,103 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 25 May 2020 showed that among 39,299 flights, there were a total of 4,441,256 passengers screened. Among those, 1,253 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 146,548 people from 2,564 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 25 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,957,776 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 25 May 2020. Between 30 January to 26 May 2020, a total of 183,903 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 1,255 people.

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

On 26 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 7,641 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 167,961 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	167,961
• Detected from the airport screening	1,253
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	166,618
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	3,045
• Recovered and discharged from hospitals	2,931
• Undergoing Treatment	57
• Deaths	57
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,045
• Local Transmission	2,444
• Imported Cases	601
- Designated Quarantine Places*	108

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

In Thailand, there have been 3,045 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,931 patients have recovered and returned home, and 57 patients have died.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 26 May 2020, three additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas increased to 108 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, three cases from Russia, two cases from England, two cases from Kazakhstan, two cases from India, two cases from Kuwait, one case from the Netherlands, one case from Japan, one case from Bahrain, and one case from the 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 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, 22 cases in Chonburi, 17 cases in Bangkok, and three cases 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). 1,656 cases are male, and 1,389 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.19:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,708 cases are Thai, 56 are Burmese, 35 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.

140 cases were reported with underlying diseases and 2,905 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, 1,189 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 Department of Health has established measures for opening early childhood care centers including six main measures, which are 1) temperature measurement 2) wearing masks 3) hand washing 4) physical distancing 5) cleaning and 6) reducing congestion by limiting groups to no more than six children per group and trying to prevent inter-group interactions, which is the responsibility of the teacher.

The main points of these practices include:

- 1) shared spaces must be clean
- 2) arrange physical distancing
- 3) separate personal items
- 4) isolation rooms for sick children
- 5) knowledge transfer
- 6) arranging shuttle buses

Guidance for directors/owners of early childhood care centers include:

1. Explain and provide clarity to staff and parents.
2. Supervise teachers/staff to follow the rules
3. Provide communication channels for parents
4. If those who are infected were found, directors/owners need to notify the medical services immediately.
- 5) Determine drop off/pick up points, not allow parents or unauthorized people to enter the area, and prepare equipment for hand washing. The children must change their clothes and wear a mask when entering the premises
6. Keep the area, equipment and vehicles clean
7. Prepare adequately-cooked food
8. Implement social distancing (at least 1-2 meters)

The recommendations for teachers and babysitters are as follows:

1. If teachers or babysitters get a fever, they need to take a leave of absence and seek medical advice.
2. It is recommended to clean the body before beginning work.
3. For all children’s activities, it is recommended to keep a distance of at least 1-2 meters.

The recommendations for parents when taking care of their children:

1. If the child has a fever, they need to take a leave of absence and the parents shall bring them to the hospital.
 2. Provide a healthy diet.
 3. Clean the body and wash hands after returning home.
 4. Necessary personal care products for daily life need to be stocked
 5. Refrain from visiting crowded places.
- Mr. Satit Pitutecha, Deputy Minister of Public Health, revealed in the “Exercise in New Normal” Forum, the 13th National Health Promotion and Environment Congress that the Ministry of Public Health has moved the policy on promoting exercise for the people through four main measures i.e. 1.Support to provide health knowledge to the people 2.Promoting exercise by using the community as a base for creating good health. 3.Promoting exercise by using new technology to communicate for changing people’s ideas and bringing exercise to the national stage. 4. Promoting public health personnel to be a prototype of a healthy person.
At the beginning of this year, the Department of Health, MoPH, conducted a campaign called "Steps Challenge Season 1" with 480,000 people joining to cover a total distance of 20 million kilometers. It could be the first step in the success story. However, many people feel stuck while staying at home due to the closure of the fitness centers during the COVID-19 epidemic. People may have insufficient physical activity during this time. The government is delivering relaxation measures of phase 2, therefore, some places have been re-opening for the people to use those facilities for exercise. The reopened places have to comply with control measures and the surveillance protocol strictly. Regarding the relaxing of measures, the MoPH plans to kick off “Step Challenge Season 2 to fight the 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.