

Thailand situation update on 27 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 27 May 2020, there were a total of 5,701,257 confirmed cases with 53,124 patients in critical condition and 352,573 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 (1,725,275), Brazil (394,507), Russia (370,680), Spain (283,339), England (265,227), Italy (230,555), France (182,722), Germany (181,288), Turkey (158,762), and India (151,876). The 14th is the People's Republic of China (84,104 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 26 May 2020 showed that among 39,348 flights, there were a total of 4,442,140 passengers screened. Among those, 1,269 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 146,803 people from 2,586 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 26 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,962,138 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 26 May 2020. Between 30 January to 27 May 2020, a total of 184,863 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 1,271 people.

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

On 27 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 8,084 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 176,045 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	176,045
• Detected from the airport screening	1,269
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	174,686
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	3,054
• Recovered and discharged from hospitals	2,945
• Undergoing Treatment	52
• Deaths	57
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,054
• Local Transmission	2,444
• Imported Cases	610
- Designated Quarantine Places*	117

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

In Thailand, there have been 3,054 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,945 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 27 May 2020, nine additional cases were reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas increased to 117 cases. There are 62 cases among Thai people returning from Indonesia, 10 cases from Pakistan, seven cases from America, six cases from Saudi Arabia, 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, one case from Philippines, and one case from Qatar. 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, 22 cases in Songkhla, 18 cases in Satun, 3 cases in Krabi, 24 cases in Chonburi, 18 cases in Bangkok, and four 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). 1,665 cases are male, and 1,389 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.19:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,717 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 2,914 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 Thai government has announced to extend the Emergency Decree. The Communicable Disease Act mainly considers the public health aspects, and alone can not solve all of the problems. The government therefore needs to maintain a state of emergency during the coronavirus outbreak as a tool for supervision and controlling the situation. There is a need for work to be integrated, unified, and fast. The measures may affect some people, but the measures will be gradually relaxed in order to decrease the impact on public lives.
- Dr. Anupong Sujariyakul, Senior Expert in Preventive Medicine, Department of Disease Control reported on the results of the survey of the public’s behavior before the relaxation of COVID-19 control measures Phase 1 (23-30 April 2020) and after the relaxation (8-14 May 2020). The level of implementing self-protection decreased from 77.6% to 72.5%. The self protection behaviors which had a decreasing trend were wearing a mask when going outside the residence, washing hands with soap or alcohol gel, eating cooked food, using a serving spoon and not touching the face. In contrast, the behavior of implementing social distancing had an increasing trend from 60.7% to 65.3%
- The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health assigned the health inspectors of the Ministry of Public Health, and the Provincial Chief Medical Officers to explore the hospitals and sites that have construction projects. The sites should be aligned with the pattern of the New Normal, which is to be the model for other agencies. Managers have to check the cleanliness of accommodations, toilets, equipment, and shared items. They must provide a station for handwashing with soap or alcohol gel, keep distance between the people and arrange screening measures to check fever before work. Workers and family members should observe their symptoms regularly, wash hands frequently, avoid eating in group parties, or socializing in groups. People should eat fully cooked food, use a personal or separate spoon, wear a cloth mask, and refrain from touching their face.
- On 26 May 2020, the Thai Government Gazette published ministerial regulations, exemptions of annual fees for factory owners B.E.2563 (2020) by virtue of Section 6 Paragraph 1 of Factory Act B.E. 2535 (1992) that was amended by Factory Act (No.2) B.E. 2562 (2019) and Section 43 Paragraph 2 of the Factory Act B.E. 2535 (1992) that was amended by Factory Act (No.3) B.E. 2562 (2019). The Minister of Industry

released the ministerial regulations as follows: 1) This ministerial regulation will be enforced 15 days after the announcement date in the Thai Government Gazette 2) The exemption of annual fees for factory owners type 2 and 3 (all sizes) for one year is to be enforced from 21 May 2020.

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.