

Thailand Report on January 19, 2020

1. International Situation

January 5, 2020 - The People's Republic of China reported the total number of pneumonia cases under investigation for infection by novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) to be 59, including 41 confirmed cases. On January 18, 2020 China investigated new patients by random sampling to find 17 confirmed cases (12 men and 5 women; 9 cases were less than 60 years old and 8 cases were more than 60 years old) with an age range of 30-79 years old. They became ill before January 13, 2020 and were admitted to Jinyintan Hospital in Wuhan. Epidemiologic investigations are ongoing for the new patients. There have been 62 confirmed cases, two deaths, eight patients currently in critical condition, 19 discharged from the hospital, 82 close contacts being monitored and investigations completed for 644 patients.

January 18, 2020 - Hong Kong identified 81 travelers from Wuhan who met the criteria for investigation. Of those, 71 people have been discharged from the hospital, seven people still remain in the hospital, and 59 people had viral infections other than the novel coronavirus as confirmed by laboratory examination.

January 15, 2020 – Japan confirmed a pneumonia case of 2019-nCoV in a 30 year-old man. He became ill on January 3, 2020 and was admitted to the hospital on January 10, 2020, one week after returning to Japan with fever and cough symptoms. He has since improved and was discharged from the hospital. There was a reported infection among his family members but there were no reported infections among medical personnel.

January 16, 2020 – Vietnam reported two pneumonia cases suspected of infection of novel coronavirus. Currently, the patients are being observed in the hospital and close contacts are being followed-up.

January 17, 2020 - Taiwan identified four patients who met the criteria for investigation and are waiting for laboratory results.

January 16, 2020 – Singapore identified three pneumonia cases suspected with infection of the novel coronavirus. One patient was discharged from the hospital. Two patients were not infected by 2019-nCoV and one patient is waiting for laboratory results.

January 8, 2020 - The Republic of Korea found one pneumonia case suspected with infection of the novel coronavirus. Also, 29 close contacts were followed up and are waiting for laboratory results.

January 19, 2020 - The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal found one pneumonia case suspected with infection of the novel coronavirus. Also, 29 close contacts were followed up and are waiting for laboratory results.

2. International Precaution

The People's Republic of China reported the genome of Novel Coronavirus 2019 or nCoV 2019 in GenBank® on January 11, 2020. On January 14, 2020, the Wuhan City Health Committee released a Q&A about human-human transmission that stated “although there is no evidence of human-to-human, this transmission cannot be ruled out even though the infection rate is low.” Regarding the characteristics of patients (41 cases), most of them are male, adults and elderly. Most of them had a history of going to the South China Seafood Wholesale Market, and several of them have denied visiting that market. However, no incidents of community transmission have been found.

Countries and administrative regions such as the U.S., Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, South Korea, and the Philippines have taken surveillance measures by screening travelers who depart from Wuhan, China for fever and respiratory symptoms. Moreover, they have notified all passengers to take precautions and protect themselves from infection.

On January 15, 2020, the Republic of China (Taiwan) announced that Novel Coronavirus 2019 is a Communicable Disease Type 5 along with Yellow Fever, SARS, Influenza, MERS, and Marburg Virus Disease. Moreover, they have notified prevention precautions to the public.

On January 16, 2020, Japan asked for all hospitals to cooperate by sending all patient information of those who departed from Wuhan, China. Furthermore, health providers should follow the treatment guidelines and monitor close contacts.

On January 17, 2020, the U.S. began implementing fever and respiratory symptoms screening in passengers who depart from Wuhan, China in three airports including San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles.

On January 18, 2020, researcher from the Imperial College London approximates the number of people who leave China from Wuhan are around 3,300 people per day. Furthermore, the researcher estimates that they can find one nCoV case out of every 600 Wuhan people who leave the country.

3. The Disease Situation in Thailand

The Department of Disease Control has been implementing its surveillance protocol by fever screening of travelers from all direct flights from Wuhan, China to the Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Krabi airports, with the screening protocol starting at Krabi Airport started on January 17, 2020. During January 3-19, 2020, among 109 flights, 17,121 passengers and aircrew members were screened for respiratory symptoms and febrile illness. On January 19, 2020 they found four passengers who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUIs), raising the total number of PUI to 30 people. Of those, 12 sought medical services on their own and 18 PUI were detected from the airport screening. 13 PUI sought treatment at government hospitals. None of them had any severe complications. Seventeen cases recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes. A laboratory result identified the novel coronavirus 2019 in two cases. The etiologic agents for other cases were identified in the final diagnoses as Influenza A virus (6 cases), Influenza B virus (4 case), Influenza C virus (1 case), Adenovirus (1 case), Coronavirus OC43 (1 case) and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (1 case). There are 14 cases in which laboratory results are pending.

4. Thailand Precaution

The Department of Disease Control (DDC), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Thailand has scaled up the Emergency Operations Center to Level 2 to closely monitor the ongoing situation both at the national and international levels. The MOPH has also strengthened the surveillance system by screening travelers from Wuhan for viral pneumonia by strictly thermal scanning passengers for detecting fever and respiratory symptoms at Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Krabi, and Phuket international airports. Moreover, surveillance and preparedness to respond to emerging infectious diseases have been enhanced in the government and private hospitals, and areas of tourist attractions. There is integration and ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and Sport, the Royal Thai Police, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation. Furthermore, the English situation reports and related information sheets were disseminated through the DDC Viral pneumonia 2019 website (<https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/eng/index.html>)

5. Risk Communication to the Public

- The novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) can be prevented using the principles for respiratory disease prevention, i.e. washing hands, wearing masks and avoiding contact with patients who have a respiratory disease.
- People can still travel to China, however, it is recommended to avoid visiting crowded places and making contact with patients who have respiratory symptoms. If this is unavoidable, people should wear a mask.
- If anyone has symptoms including coughing, sneezing, panting or runny nose within 14 days after departing from Wuhan, China, please seek medical care at the hospital immediately and inform the doctor regarding the history of recent travel to China
- It is recommended to avoid visiting markets selling carcasses or live animals. If touching or handling live animals, people should wear gloves.
- Regularly wash hands with water and soap or use alcohol gel. It is also recommended to avoid using your hands to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Do not use or share personal stuff with others (i.e. handkerchief, glasses, and towels) since pathogens causing respiratory disease can be transmitted to other people through secretions.
- It is recommended to avoid eating uncooked food.