

Thailand situation update on 19 August 2020

1. International Situation

As of 19 August 2020, there were a total of 22,325,128 confirmed cases with 62,063 patients in critical condition and 784,748 COVID-19 deaths across more than 213 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 (5,656,204), Brazil (3,411,872), India (2,768,670), Russia (937,321), South Africa (592,144), Peru (549,321), Mexico (531,239), Colombia (489,122), Chile (388,855), and Spain (384,270). The 34th is the People's Republic of China (84,888 cases, as well as 4,587 and 46 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 as of 18 August 2020 showed that 7,214,632 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 2,696 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI), as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Screening passengers at ports of entry

Ports of Entry	Total number of screened people	Total number of PUI
Total number	7,214,632	2,696
• Airport screening* (44,162 flights)	4,560,222	2,678
• Seaports**	165,937	2
• Ground ports***	2,234,081	16
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	254,392	0

Remark: Includes data starting from *January 3rd, **January 1st, ***February 1st, ****January 30th

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

On 19 August 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 2,118 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 399,394 PUI, as shown in Table 2.

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

Table 2: Results of screening implementation to detect patients with suspected symptoms of COVID-19

Situation	Total number of PUI
Total number of laboratory tests	783,679
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who met the PUI criteria 	399,394
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the Active Case Finding 	9,775
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returnees under state quarantine 	69,581
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who did not meet the PUI criteria 	308,915
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	399,394
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected from ports of entry 	2,696
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (126,069 cases in private hospitals, and 270,541 cases in public hospitals) 	396,610
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,382
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,218
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing Treatment 	106
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths 	58
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,382
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transmission 	2,444
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Cases 	938
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	445

Notice: *Quarantine measures for travelers from abroad have been in effect since 3 April 2020

The median age of the confirmed cases is 36 years old (ranging from 1 month to 97 years old). 1,892 cases are male, and 1,490 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.23:1). In terms of nationality, 3,036 cases are Thai, 337 cases are foreigners, and data is not available for the remaining 9 cases.

208 cases were reported with underlying diseases and 3,174 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 Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Education have set “1+5” main measures to prevent the COVID-19 outbreak in education institutes by arranging space between each table. Maintaining the main measures including temperature screening, self-observation, taking history before entering school, and wearing a face mask/cloth mask at all times while at school. Students and staff should frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer, maintain clean classrooms, stuff, and surfaces that are frequently touched, and decrease congestion and group gathering activities.
- The Nakhonphanom Provincial Chief Medical Officer presided over the meeting to prepare the medical team and nurses for the festival “Nakhon Phanom Illuminated Boat Procession 2020,” which will be held from 25 September- 4 October 2020 in the area of the Nakhonphanom Provincial Hall. The Nakhonphanom Provincial Chief Medical Officer determined strict disease control measures and will provide 33 screening points, 1 universal mask-wearing, preparing hand/feet washing points with alcohol gel and disinfectant, request people to register through “Thaichana” platform when entering/leaving the areas and keeping the appropriate distance between people. In addition, the province also will provide staff to check whether people and the operators of the festival comply with the disease control measures. If anyone fails to comply with the measures, they will be punished as appropriate.
- The doctors of the Loei Provincial Public Health Office, staff and the Loei Provincial Communicable Disease Committee joined the opening ceremony of “The Training to prepare to cope with a 2nd COVID-19 Outbreak” at city hall by video conference system, presided over by the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Defense for central organization. The training used a video conference system with small groups. The period of training was two days (17 – 18 August 2020).
- The Governor of Udon Thani province reported the results of the necropsy of a migrant worker, who was an unknown cause of death in Nong Han District. The results revealed an undetected genetic material of the COVID-19. This case had been recently reported in the news and made a concern of communities about the COVID-19 death. The laboratory-confirmed by the Regional Medical Sciences Center 8 Udonthani, discovered that the genetic material of the COVID-19 was not found in the body of this migrant worker.
- The Department of Disease Control led by the Director-General of the Department of Disease Control stated about the progress of further investigation of the Malaysian who had COVID-19 after returning from Thailand. The investigation team of the Department of Disease Control together with the Health Bureau of Bangkok staff

visited the area to investigate and search for people who may have had contact with the Malaysian. There were 10 samples collected and sent for SARS-CoV-2 testing. The results of the COVID-19 RT-PCR tests were negative. Chiang Mai Provincial Public Health Office collected samples of the Malaysian's friend, a 36 year-old Thai woman, who met him before his return on August, 17. The results from the COVID-19 RT-PCR test showed negative for COVID-19 as well.

Therefore, 14 days prior to the report of the confirmed case, there were no close contacts infected with the virus. At present, there is no evidence that this Malaysian man had been infected after returning from Thailand as mentioned in the news. However, the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health will coordinate with Malaysia to request details of the diagnosis, additional examination or investigation results as well as other detailed information.

4. Risk Communication to the Public

- In case of traveling to areas and across areas by public transport, the public transport operator must prepare the system and comply with the disease control measures, i.e. cleaning the vehicle, screening passengers, encouraging passengers to wear a mask, limiting bus services during certain periods, arranging distance between seats, and limiting the number of passengers. Customers must wear a mask at all times while traveling, refrain from talking and eating on public transport, and register each time they enter/leave the service area.

- For other business places/enterprises, operators are recommended to keep the areas clean, encourage people to wear a mask, limit the number of customers in accordance with the COVID-19 control measures.

- For people visiting crowded places or closed areas such as meeting rooms, department stores, and movie theatres, they are recommended to wear a mask, keep a distance of at least 1-2 meters from other people, and limit contact with other people to be only for a short period of time.

-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.