

Thailand situation update on 20 August 2020

1. International Situation

As of 20 August 2020, there were a total of 22,599,285 confirmed cases with 61,729 patients in critical condition and 791,323 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 (5,701,162), Brazil (3,460,413), India (2,841,400), Russia (942,106), South Africa (596,060), Peru (558,420), Mexico (537,031), Colombia (502,178), Chile (390,037), and Spain (387,985). The 34th is the People's Republic of China (84,895 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 19 August 2020 showed that 7,220,907 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 2,708 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	7,220,907	2,708
• Airport screening* (44,218 flights)	4,561,907	2,690
• Seaports**	166,117	2
• Ground ports***	2,237,129	16
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	255,754	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 20 August 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 2,286 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 401,680 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	789,951
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who met the PUI criteria 	401,680
<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)	401,680
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected from ports of entry 	2,708
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (126,728 cases in private hospitals, and 272,156 cases in public hospitals) 	398,884
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,389
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,219
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing Treatment 	112
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths 	58
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,389
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transmission 	2,444
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Cases 	945
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	452

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). 1,898 cases are male, and 1,491 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.23:1). In terms of nationality, 3,043 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 3,181 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 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister, Ministry of Public Health pushed the policy to provide three doctors per family are a general practitioner, public health doctor, and a family medicine doctor to provide knowledge for health promotion, access the public health service system, reduce the need to travel to the hospital and decrease crowding in big hospitals. To support the important policies of the Ministry of Public Health and to promote people’s health, the primary health care system will be integrated with the New Normal.
- The Ministry of Public Health and the Sports Authority of Thailand have prescribed public health practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by limiting the number for stadium attendance according to the conditions. The current COVID-19 situation in Thailand is in the green level, no local transmission. However, there are infected cases who return from abroad. Outdoor sports fields can allow less than 25 percent attendance according to the stadium capacities and 15 percent for indoor sport fields. If the situation improves, considered to be white level when a vaccine is available, no local infections in the country but may still have cases who return from overseas, a higher number of stadium attendance will be considered.
- The Department of Medical Sciences (DMSC) announced that there are 219 laboratories in the network that passed the standards for testing of SARS-COV-2. 82 laboratory centers are located in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region (36 public centers and 46 private centers) and 137 laboratory centers are located in provincial areas (113 public centers and 24 private centers). In addition, DMSC arranged and disseminated the guidelines on laboratory testing management including reporting the results of SARS-COV-2 by using one laboratory system through the DMSC Website at <https://www3.dmhc.moph.go.th/post-view/862>
- The Department of Health Service Support by the Division of Medical Engineering together with the Health Service Support Centre 5 will provide consulting, ventilation air conditioning systems in dental rooms for supporting patients confirmed with COVID-19 to Damnoen Saduak Hospital Ratchaburi. This is to prepare if there are reports of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the area.

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.