

Thailand situation update on 21 August 2020

1. International Situation

As of 21 August 2020, there were a total of 22,878,350 confirmed cases with 61,844 patients in critical condition and 797,371 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 (5,746,534), Brazil (3,505,097), India (2,910,032), Russia (946,976), South Africa (599,940), Peru (567,059), Mexico (543,806), Colombia (513,719), Spain (404,229), and Chile (391,849). The 34th is the People's Republic of China (84,917 cases, as well as 4,632 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 20 August 2020 showed that 7,227,103 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 2,729 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	7,227,103	2,729
• Airport screening* (44,277 flights)	4,563,424	2,711
• Seaports**	166,436	2
• Ground ports***	2,240,198	16
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	257,045	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 21 August 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 1,845 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 403,525PUI, 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	791,796
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who met the PUI criteria 	403,525
<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)	403,525
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected from ports of entry 	2,729
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (127,422 cases in private hospitals, and 273,286 cases in public hospitals) 	400,708
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,390
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,220
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing Treatment 	112
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths 	58
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,390
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transmission 	2,444
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Cases 	946
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	453

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). 1,899 cases are male, and 1,491 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.23:1). In terms of nationality, 3,044 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 3,182 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 Centre of COVID-19 Situation Administration under the Prime Minister has approved to extend the Emergency Decrees for a month to 30 September 2020.
- The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health assigned the village health volunteers to be role models and promoted a campaign for people to "not let your guard down" after Sukhothai province has been free of COVID-19 cases for 150 days by using an approach of active case finding.
- The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported the progress on the asymptomatic case who was detected with viral RNA fragments of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) during a medical checkup before traveling abroad for employment.
- It appears that the first laboratory test on 18 August 2020 found a low viral load of SARS-CoV-2. Upon further examination, the results of two more tests on 18 and 20 August 2020 with the same sample and a new sample, did not reveal viral RNA fragments of SARS-CoV-2. The results corresponded with the confirmed results at the Department of Medical Sciences.
- As for the serological tests, they showed immunity, which indicated her as a person who had a previous infection in the past three months, according to the latest scientific evidence. The infection may have occurred while working in the United Arab Emirates. Results of viral culture to confirm ineffective viral agents for transmission are pending. The results will be confirmed within one week. However, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) and relevant organizations have still implemented investigation and disease control measures whether or not the case can spread the disease to others. Moreover, 38 people have been identified and tracked as close contacts in the family and community, and the results indicated that SARS-CoV-2 is not present.
- The Permanent Secretary of The Ministry of Interior submitted an urgent letter to the Provincial Governors of every province regarding the two cases of Thai people returning from the United Arab Emirates. These two cases were quarantined for 14 days before returning to their homes. Then, they wanted to go abroad for work, so they visited the Chakri Naruebodindra Hospital for medical check-ups and were positive for SARS-COV-2. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior requested every province to inform their districts and local government organizations to follow up and monitor returnees who entered the community areas after

completing 14-days of quarantine. If these returnees are suspected for COVID-19 or develop a fever, it is recommended to inform the health officers in that area in order to be in accordance with the provincial disease control measures. Above all, people are encouraged to strictly comply with the "New Normal" policies.

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.