

Thailand situation update on 23 September 2020

1. International Situation

As of 23 September 2020, there were a total of 31,816,647 confirmed cases with 62,047 patients in critical condition and 976,021 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 (7,098,291), India (5,650,540), Brazil (4,595,335), Russia (1,122,241), Colombia (777,537), Peru (776,546), Mexico (705,263), Spain (682,267), South Africa (663,282), and Argentina (652,174). The 43rd is the People's Republic of China (90,400 cases, as well as 5,047 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 22 September 2020 showed that 7,415,165 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 3,058 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	7,415,165	3,058
• Airport screening* (46,274 flights)	4,611,177	3,038
• Seaports**	173,855	2
• Ground ports***	2,332,485	18
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	297,648	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 23 September 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 1,451 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 443,206 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	870,616
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who met the PUI criteria 	443,206
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the Active Case Finding 	15,834
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returnees under state quarantine 	81,676
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who did not meet the PUI criteria 	329,900
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	443,206
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected from ports of entry 	3,058
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (139,571 cases in private hospitals, and 300,489 cases in public hospitals) 	440,060
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,514
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,353
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing Treatment 	102
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths 	59
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,514
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transmission 	2,445
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Cases 	1,069
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	576

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). 1,971 cases are male, and 1,543 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.28:1). In terms of nationality, 3,126 cases are Thai, 379 cases are foreigners, and data is not available for the remaining 9 cases.

212 cases were reported with underlying diseases and 3,302 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, 576 cases were positive from the state quarantine supported by the government. A total of 55 confirmed cases were found from the active case finding measures.

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has requested involved organizations to initiate the 'Special Tourist VISA' travel policy to stimulate the travel and tourism components of the economy. Thailand is determined to open the country to travelers on October 1, 2020 through operating 2 phases:
 - **Phase 1:** Open for travelers and travelers are quarantined in Alternative State Quarantine (ASQ) in Bangkok for 14 days before travel to Phuket Province/Samui island.
 - **Phase 2:** Open for travelers directly flying to Phuket Province/Samui island.
- Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration CCSA assigned to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports precipitate public relations with people in the area to understand the measures of Special Tourist VISA to stimulate the tourism economy of the country about tourists who come in must strictly follow the disease control measures.
- Thailand's cabinet approved the ministerial regulation draft, which added COVID-19 as a prohibited disease under Section 12 (4) and Section 44 (2) of the Immigration Act, B.E. 2522. This amendment was added to prevent the introduction of new cases and was proposed by the Ministry of Interior. Foreigners with the disease are prohibited from entering Thailand in order to prevent and control the spread of the COVID-19, which is still globally spreading.
- Thailand's cabinet approved 204 million baht of central budget to prevent, prepare, and respond to a potential second wave of COVID-19. This allocation was proposed by the Ministry of Public Health to control the spread of disease, as this will reduce the risk of transmission in Thailand and mitigate COVID-19's impacts on health. Prevention, preparedness, and response activities will help take care of the Thai people and travelers returning from abroad.

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.