

## Thailand situation update on 24 September 2020

### 1. International Situation

As of 24 September 2020, there were a total of 32,119,716 confirmed cases with 62,376 patients in critical condition and 982,376 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 (7,139,553), India (5,732,518), Brazil (4,627,780), Russia (1,128,836), Colombia (784,268), Peru (782,695), Mexico (710,049), Spain (693,556), South Africa (665,188), and Argentina (664,799). The 43rd is the People's Republic of China (90,410 cases, as well as 5,050 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 23 September 2020 showed that 7,422,355 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 3,069 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
<b>Total number</b>	7,422,355	3,069
• Airport screening* (46,338 flights)	4,613,008	3,049
• Seaports**	174,095	2
• Ground ports***	2,334,343	18
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	300,909	0

Remark: Includes data starting from \*January 3<sup>rd</sup>, \*\*January 1<sup>st</sup>, \*\*\*February 1<sup>st</sup>, \*\*\*\*January 30<sup>th</sup>

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

On 24 September 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 1,649 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 444,855 PUI, as shown in Table 2.

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

Situation	Total number of PUI
<b>Total number of laboratory tests</b>	872,265
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People who met the PUI criteria</li> </ul>	444,855
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the Active Case Finding</li> </ul>	15,834
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Returnees under state quarantine</li> </ul>	81,676
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People who did not meet the PUI criteria</li> </ul>	329,900
<b>Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)</b>	444,855
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detected from ports of entry</li> </ul>	3,069
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (140,046 cases in private hospitals, and 301,652 cases in public hospitals)</li> </ul>	441,698
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao</li> </ul>	88
<b>Confirmed cases</b>	3,516
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovered and discharged from hospitals</li> </ul>	3,353
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergoing Treatment</li> </ul>	104
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deaths</li> </ul>	59
<b>Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases</b>	3,516
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Transmission</li> </ul>	2,445
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imported Cases</li> </ul>	1,071
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designated Quarantine Places*</li> </ul>	578

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). 1,972 cases are male, and 1,544 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.28:1). In terms of nationality, 3,128 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 3,304 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, 578 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 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health held a video conference with local volunteers from Phatthalung province. This video conference informed them about the cabinet resolution to pay an additional 3 months of compensation for purchasing 7 radiation machines to all regions across the country and to allocate risk expenses for doctors and nurses (about 200 million baht) with continuing to increase local volunteer resident doctors starting from October 1, 2020. The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) also strengthened disease control measures by requesting people to wear masks to prevent COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.
- The MoPH brainstormed with diverse groups such as executives/workers from academic departments, regional health offices, and village health volunteers, to develop a work plan supporting important fiscal policies for the year 2021. This plan will have the focus: *Fly Together to the Future “New Normal Healthcare,”* which gives precedence to public health development. The Royal Initiative Project and the Royal Family Project also drive important policies for healthy Thai people and a health economy. A strong Thai economy can support a strong Thailand.
- The Department of Health Service Support received 2 patients and their accompanying persons on September 22, 2020 at the 1st Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge (Nong Khai) permanent crossing point for admission under the AHQ program on land to Bangkok-Udon Hospital.
- The Department of Disease Control closely follows the COVID-19 epidemics in neighboring countries, including assessing the risk that it may spread across borders to Thailand. Activities are taking place to prepare for such a future situation. In Thailand, the COVID-19 surveillance, prevention and control measure sectors collaborate on an ongoing basis.
- The MoPH has established a Destination Management Company Team System to support foreign tourists transferring from Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang Airport to the ASQ.
- The Center of COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) resolved to approve the extension of the use of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations, B.E. 2548. It will be extended from September 30, 2020 to October 31, 2020, since the decree is an important part of public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 inside Thailand. It is also an important mechanism for border control staff, who have to strictly control the border and the crossing in accordance with policies and the severe situation of the COVID-19 in neighboring countries.

- The MoPH recommends that business and store operators register their businesses with the online platform "Thai Chana". People are required to check-in and check-out when using their services and this public health tool may prevent a second wave of COVID-19. The government has used "Thai Chana" as a tool to prevent and reduce the risk of the disease transmission since May 2020, which followed the relaxation of other measures. All shops/ establishments are required to comply with the other main preventive measures, such as face mask wearing, hand washing, and ensuring cleanliness and social distancing. People are allowed to assess the performance of the entrepreneurs or establishment. This information will be forwarded to the respective province/district for planning, assessment, and formation of constructive advice for stores. The store staff can record the online results and use them for convenient analysis and reporting. In addition, registration with the platform is very useful for disease investigation and contact tracing. If someone is infected in the facility, they can verify the group of high risk contacts from the check-in and check-out information. This will narrow down the target group allowing for rapid investigation.
- Entrepreneurs and shop owners are requested to register for self assessment on [www.ไทยชนะ.com](http://www.ไทยชนะ.com), to assess 22 types of activities, to confirm the implementation and upkeep of disease prevention measures, and to identify business crowding to receive a QR code for their shop. If you have any questions about the registration, you can contact the hotline: 1119.
- Citizens must scan the QR code when entering and exiting the place. Citizens also assess the disease control standards of the establishment when exiting the place. User information will be used if a COVID-19 case may have been in contact with that place. They will be investigated and followed-up with case investigation and contact tracing procedures. If they use [www.ไทยชนะ.com](http://www.ไทยชนะ.com), we will inform them through the application and if they scan the QR code by their mobile camera, we will send them a notification via SMS.

#### 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



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by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

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.