

Thailand situation update on 25 September 2020

1. International Situation

As of 25 September 2020, there were a total of 32,440,353 confirmed cases with 63,363 patients in critical condition and 988,175 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 (7,185,516), India (5,818,570), Brazil (4,659,909), Russia (1,136,048), Colombia (790,823), Peru (788,930), Mexico (715,457), Spain (704,209), South Africa (678,266), and Argentina (667,049). The 43rd is the People's Republic of China (90,425 cases, as well as 5,057 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 24 September 2020 showed that 7,429,792 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 3,077 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	7,429,792	3,077
• Airport screening* (46,403 flights)	4,614,804	3,057
• Seaports**	174,446	2
• Ground ports***	2,337,074	18
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	303,468	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 25 September 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 1,392 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 446,247 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
Total number of laboratory tests	873,657
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who met the PUI criteria 	446,247
<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)	446,247
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected from ports of entry 	3,077
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (140,289 cases in private hospitals, and 302,793 cases in public hospitals) 	443,082
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,519
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,360
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing Treatment 	100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths 	59
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,519
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transmission 	2,445
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Cases 	1,074
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	581

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). 1,975 cases are male, and 1,544 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.28:1). In terms of nationality, 3,131 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 3,307 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, 581 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 Department of Disease Control has established proactive surveillance guidelines for SAR-CoV-2 risk groups:
 1. Patients Under Investigation (PUI) must have samples collected and tested for confirmation of the virus at the disease control checkpoints, hospitals, and communities.
 2. Travelers who enter a state quarantine as assigned by the government are a risk group, including people who come from overseas and travel from external outbreak areas. They must have NPS samples collected and tested using RT-PCR both in state quarantine and alternative state quarantine at least twice on the third-fifth and eleventh-thirteen days since entry. People staying in alternative hospital quarantine are required to test for the virus 3 times: on the first, seventh and eleventh-thirteen days post-entry. Other methods of testing, such as detection of immunity to reduce the date of stay in long-term quarantine, will be considered. There will be a discussion with the Ministry of Defense about requirements pertaining to the detection of SARS-CoV-2 by drawing blood samples to reduce NPS testing.
- The second risk group consists of vulnerable populations such as prisoners and the elderly. Newly detained individuals in every prison in Thailand will be tested. The newly detained persons, in every immigration detained center in Thailand, must have samples collected (during days 1-3 of arrival). New elderly individuals who are starting to live in State Elderly Housing in 6 provinces such as Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima, Phuket, Songkhla and Yala, will also be tested during days 1-3 of arrival.
- The third group consists special surveillance populations that depend on specific risk factors and situations such as: 1) High risk occupations due to exposure such as massage therapists, service staff in shopping mall, drivers, and healthcare workers; 2) Risk areas such as entertainment spots, schools, and business places that must consult with the Social Development and Human Security Office.
- The Director of the Division of Communicable Diseases, Department of Disease Control revealed a COVID-19 report with information about COVID-19 cases in Thailand. The most impacted population, which comprised 50% of infections, was teenagers and working age individuals (20 – 39 years old) group, The majority of this group was asymptomatic - they did not have symptoms. This group participates in activities outside the home, so they have a

high risk of spreading the infection to others or their family members. It is requested that all people follow the self prevention measures and register every time when enter and exit the places through www.ไทยชนะ.com.

- The Department of Disease Control of the Department of Epidemiology revealed that Myanmar has more outbreaks. Thailand must continue to be vigilant due to the long borders shared with Myanmar, especially in Mon State next to Kanchanaburi. More than 100 cases were infected in Karen State which is adjacent to Mae Hong Son, Tak, Kanchanaburi, and Shan State, also adjacent to Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son. Cases were also in the Tanintharyi Region of Myanmar which is adjacent to Kanchanaburi, Ratchaburi, Petchaburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon and Ranong, where all relevant sectors, including communities located on the border, are trying to prevent illegal immigration. If the virus is detected, it will be pushed back to the country of origin and surveillance cooperation will be initiated. Disease surveillance in foreigners will also start.
- The Department of Health (DoH) suggests that retirees prepare for a New Normal and to have good hygiene practices to prevent the infection of COVID-19 by wearing face masks or medical masks, washing their hands frequently, avoiding crowded areas, and maintaining social distancing. Furthermore, the DoH also suggests retirees to prepare for becoming elderly citizens by suggesting that they should take good care of their health by eating healthy food, avoiding high amounts of sugar and salt, drinking milk daily, doing exercises or outdoor activities for at least 30 minutes per day or more than 5 days per week, and also focussing on good mental health.

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.



The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

- 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.