

Thailand situation update on 26 September 2020

1. International Situation

As of 26 September 2020, there were a total of 32,784,889 confirmed cases with 63,904 patients in critical condition and 993,802 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 (7,244,184), India (5,908,748), Brazil (4,692,579), Russia (1,136,048), Colombia (798,317), Peru (794,584), Spain (735,198), Mexico (720,858), Argentina (691,235), and South Africa (668,529). The 44th is the People's Republic of China (90,442 cases, as well as 5,059 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 25 September 2020 showed that 7,437,689 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 3,084 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	7,437,689	3,084
• Airport screening* (46,465 flights)	4,616,316	3,064
• Seaports**	174,744	2
• Ground ports***	2,339,649	18
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	306,980	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 26 September 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 942 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 447,189 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	874,599
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who met the PUI criteria 	447,189
<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)	447,189
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from ports of entry 	3,084
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (140,583 cases in private hospitals, and 303,434 cases in public hospitals) 	444,017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,522
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,362
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	101
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	59
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,522
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	2,445
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Cases 	1,077
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	584

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). 1,978 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, 382 cases are foreigners, and data is not available for the remaining 9 cases.

212 cases were reported with underlying diseases and 3,310 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, 584 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

- On September 25, 2020, the Ministry of Public Health opened an academic conference for Thailand's Central Region Village Health Volunteers, which contains lectures and discussions on important topics. The conference included sessions on: the Delegation of Policy and Directions for Public Health Operations in 2021 and the operation of volunteers for COVID-19 surveillance, prevention and control. There was also an award and recognition session in which volunteers were given awards for outstanding achievements at the national, regional, and provincial-levels in 2019. The event had approximately 600 attendees, which included the volunteers, the board, officers from the Ministry of Public Health, and other related persons.
- The Thai Ministry of Public Health's Deputy Minister of Public Health was the chairman of a press conference on the international long-distance bicycle tour: "Tour of Thailand 2020" to win the King's Cup. The Department of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Siam Boromrajakumari is supporting the event from October 6-16, 2020. This is a model association for organizing international competitions. The president of the Bicycle Sports Association confirmed that strict preventive measures against COVID-19 infection will be implemented for both Thai and foreign athletes. Referee association staff, including the approximately 200 people involved, must also be tested for SARS-CoV-2 on October 4, 2020 at the Thamrong Inn Hotel. During the bicycle race through different provinces, officials from the Department of Disease Control will follow along the route to provide advice to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection.
- The Department of Disease Control has revealed that there are now over 32 million cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection worldwide with cases increasing daily. Thailand is ranked 135 in cases in the world. New cases of the infection in Thailand are from overseas. The Ministry of Public Health cooperates with relevant agencies to monitor the situation and to prevent groups of people entering the country, both at border checkpoints and at airports. People who are smuggled through the country illegally are a high-risk group that may bring the infection into the country. Public health agencies in the area, together with the security agencies, village headmen, village health volunteers, and migrant health volunteers, have jointly monitored the situation and incorporated disease prevention activities in border areas

and in provinces with industrial plants. These stakeholders also cooperate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to prepare and support RT-PCR and PPE kits for Myanmar.

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.