

Thailand situation update on 9 October 2020

1. International Situation

As of 9 October 2020, there were a total of 36,790,846 confirmed cases with 67,988 patients in critical condition and 1,067,424 COVID-19 deaths across more than 214 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 (7,833,763), India (6,906,151), Brazil (5,029,539), Russia (1,272,238), Colombia (886,179), Spain (884,381), Argentina (856,369), Peru (838,614), Mexico (804,488), and South Africa (686,891). The 47th is the People's Republic of China (90,729 cases, as well as 5,162 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 8 October 2020 showed that 7,502,746 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 3,216 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	7,502,746	3,216
• Airport screening* (47,279 flights)	4,636,014	3,196
• Seaports**	177,355	2
• Ground ports***	2,369,743	18
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	319,634	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 9 October 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 747 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 459,287 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	886,697
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who met the PUI criteria 	459,287
<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)	459,287
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected from ports of entry 	3,216
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (143,783 cases in private hospitals, and 312,200 cases in public hospitals) 	455,983
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,628
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,441
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing Treatment 	128
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths 	59
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,628
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transmission 	2,445
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Cases 	1,183
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	690

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). 2,053 cases are male, and 1,575 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.3:1). In terms of nationality, 3,199 cases are Thai, 420 cases are foreigners, and data is not available for the remaining 9 cases.

215 cases were reported with underlying diseases and 3,413 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, 690 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 Director of the Division of Communicable Diseases, Department of Disease Control, reported the current COVID-19 situation in Thailand. Most of the new cases were Thais who returned home from abroad. More than 80% did not have any symptoms and the government sector still applied quarantine measures on them for 14 days (decreasing to 10 day-quarantine is being considered due to the scientific data). The situation in border areas of the country is concerned as some neighboring countries are still exhibiting continuous increases in new cases. Although the government sectors have implemented strict control in those areas, illegal smuggling that does not pass through the official screening and quarantine mechanisms may occur. The Ministry of Public Health has requested all sectors and people to help observe the illegal smuggling including migrants. In case of suspicious illegal smuggling, the public is asked to inform concerned officers immediately. Everyone must continue to protect themselves including wearing surgical or fabric masks, washing hands and avoiding crowded places to reduce the risk of transmission.
- Acting Director-General of the Department of Disease Control established guidelines for the control of COVID-19 pandemic that focuses on prompt prevention and control, treatment and provision of information to the public. For foreign related activities, such as tourism, need to be gradually eased with the various levels of quarantine places to prevent transmission of the infection into the country. All measures are to be strengthened including multi - level surveillance and detection to effectively control the disease within 4 weeks, expansion of the rapid response teams by 3 times from the existing 1,000 teams, strengthened incident command system at all levels, effective disease control at checkpoints in border areas and promotion of public cooperation in disease prevention.
- Acting Director-General of the Department of Thai Traditional Medicine and Alternative Medicine reported the progress of research on the use of *Andrographis Paniculata* (AP). It was found that AP can not inhibit COVID-19 infection but can prevent viral replication in cells. Infected cases at Samutprakarn Hospital, Chonburi Hospital and Banglamung Hospital who received AP showed that after three days of COVID19 infection, their symptoms improved clearly. The result showed no disorder of kidney and liver function. The department will further collaborate with Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI) to study on pharmacokinetics.

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.