

Thailand situation update on 20 October 2020

1. International Situation

As of 20 October 2020, there were a total of 40,678,946 confirmed cases with 72,800 patients in critical condition and 1,123,451 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 (8,456,653), India (7,597,063), Brazil (5,251,127), Russia (1,415,316), Spain (1,015,795), Argentina (1,002,662), Colombia (965,883), France (910,277), Peru (870,876), and Mexico (854,926). The 53rd is the People's Republic of China (91,007 cases, as well as 5,257 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 19 October 2020 showed that 7,554,893 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 3,274 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	7,554,893	3,274
• Airport screening* (48,057 flights)	4,653,514	3,254
• Seaports**	179,793	2
• Ground ports***	2,392,232	18
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	329,354	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 20 October 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 2,274 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 471,297 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	898,707
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who met the PUI criteria 	471,297
<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)	471,297
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected from ports of entry 	3,274
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (146,742 cases in private hospitals, and 321,193 cases in public hospitals) 	467,935
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,700
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,491
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing Treatment 	150
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths 	59
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,700
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transmission 	2,450
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Cases 	1,250
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	753

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). 2,091 cases are male, and 1,609 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.3:1). In terms of nationality, 3,248 cases are Thai, 443 cases are foreigners, and data is not available for the remaining 9 cases.

218 cases were reported with underlying diseases and 3,482 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, 753 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

- Thailand Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health revealed that “Team Thailand” synergized from all sectors have closely cooperated on COVID-19 vaccine research and development and have sent the letter of intent to join the COVAX facility and have reached the agreement in joining the bilateral cooperation with the vaccine manufacturers on the 3rd phase trial in humans in Asia and Europe. The goal of these efforts is that Thailand will be able to provide COVID-19 vaccine to Thai people the same time as other vaccine manufacturing countries. The domestic vaccine R & D has entered the three production technologies as follows:
 1. mRNA vaccine developed by the Center of Excellence in Vaccine Research and Development, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University.
 2. DNA vaccine by Bionet-Asia Co., Ltd.
 3. Plant based technology vaccine by Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University and Baiya Phytopharm Co., Ltd. now preparing for the 1st phase clinical trial (in humans).
- On October 20, 2020, the Governor of Tak province chaired the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee meeting at Thai-Myanmar Border Meeting Room No.2, Baan Wang-Takian, Tha-Sai-Luat sub-district, Mae Sot district, Tak province. Participating committee members comprised representatives from Tak Provincial Public Health Office, Provincial Govern Office, Military Special Unit 4th Infantry Regiment (Mae Sot district), Tak Immigration Office, Tak Provincial Police, Tak Customs, Mae Sot hospital, Tak Highway District 2, Tak Chamber of Commerce, Tak Provincial Industry Council and Transport business.
- The Governor of Tak province stated about the Covid-19 outbreak in Mae Sot district and the management of goods exchange areas between Thai and Myanmar trucks at the Mae Sot-Myawaddy border checkpoint. The Tak Provincial Public Health has implemented a 7-day proactive contact and risk group screening plan in cross-border areas and communities.

- Currently, almost 5,000 samples have been collected and all were found negative. At the moment, there are only 5 people with COVID - 19, no more cases. Tak Provincial Governor added that the active surveillance and detection must be closely implemented to ensure confidence. As the province has issued orders on the disease prevention and control measures, the people's way of living will be impacted. Based on the investigation and proactive surveillance on the number of patients in Myawaddy, Myanmar. In case the situation improves the public health and social measures will be relaxed. Recently, the Office of Disease Prevention and Control Region 2, Phitsanulok province and Mae Sot Provincial Public Health Office have collected samples of employees at convenience stores and the risk place in Mae Sot district.

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.