

Thailand situation update on 24 October 2020

1. International Situation

As of 24 October 2020, there were a total of 42,548,025 confirmed cases with 76,617 patients in critical condition and 1,150,140 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 (8,747,864), India (7,814,682), Brazil (5,355,650), Russia (1,497,167), Spain (1,110,372), Argentina (1,069,368), France (1,041,075), Colombia (998,942), Peru (883,116), and Mexico (880,775). The 54th is the People's Republic of China (91,106 cases, as well as 5,285 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 October 2020 showed that 7,577,353 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 3,332 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	7,577,353	3,332
• Airport screening* (48,385 flights)	4,660,829	3,312
• Seaports**	180,664	2
• Ground ports***	2,399,393	18
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	336,467	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 24 October 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 1,802 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 479,406 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	906,816
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who met the PUI criteria 	479,406
<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)	479,406
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected from ports of entry 	3,332
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (147,950 cases in private hospitals, and 328,036 cases in public hospitals) 	475,986
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,731
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,529
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing Treatment 	143
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths 	59
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,731
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transmission 	2,451
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Cases 	1,280
- Designated Quarantine Places*	783

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). 2,107 cases are male, and 1,624 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.3:1). In terms of nationality, 3,271 cases are Thai, 451 cases are foreigners, and data is not available for the remaining 9 cases.

219 cases were reported with underlying diseases and 3,512 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, 783 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 Governor of Tak Province chaired the discussion among the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee, Thai-Myanmar Border Command Center Committee and the Emergency Disaster Prevention and Control Committee to consider the relaxation of the COVID-19 control measures in Mae-Sot district in accordance with the Tak province Order. The situation assessment results confirmed that the COVID-19 has now been under control. The active surveillance has not found additional infected cases and proactive randomized samples in approximately 10,177 risk persons are all negative. Therefore, the resolution of the meeting is to relax the control measures. The educational institutions, a cargo bridge and cargo checkpoint are to be re-opened from October 26 onward. The community lockdown measure is to end on October 27. Other businesses such as restaurants, public service places can be opened as usual with strict public health measures.
- The Prime Minister has ordered the Ministry of Public Health and relevant agencies to foster the COVID-19 vaccine research, development and production in 3 ways so that Thailand will be able to procure the vaccine as soon as possible as follows:
 1. Allocated 400 million Baht for the **Clinical Trial (in humans) phase 1** and seek cooperation or develop vaccine production scale capacity for a prototype vaccine for trial in humans within the first quarter of 2021.
 2. Allocated 600 million Baht for vaccine **research cooperation and technology transfer** of vaccine production from abroad. On 15 October 2020, the MOPH had sent the letter of intent to cooperate with the University of Oxford in collaboration with Astra Seneca Limited by using Siam Bioscience Co.,Ltd. as one of Astra Seneca Company Limited's production bases to produce the vaccine. The cooperation agreement will be signed within 31 October 2020 to produce 26 million doses of vaccine for 20% of the Thai population. All sectors have now accelerated negotiations on important issues in order that production technology transfer to Siam Bioscience Co.,Ltd. will be achieved within November 2020.
 3. For **procurement of the vaccine from oversea manufacturer** by advance ordering through COVAX Facility and bilateral agreement, the Ministry of Public Health has sent the letter of intent in joining the COVAX Facility on 9 July 2020 and has assigned the National Vaccine Institute (NVI) together with the Department of Disease Control (DDC), the Global Health Division, Office of Permanent Secretary and other involved organizations to be the responsible group in procurement and managing the imported vaccine.

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.