

Thailand situation update on 29 October 2020

1. International Situation

As of 29 October 2020, there were a total of 44,813,744 confirmed cases with 81,261 patients in critical condition and 1,179,974 COVID-19 deaths across more than 215 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 (9,121,800), India (8,041,051), Brazil (5,469,755), Russia (1,581,693), France (1,235,132), Spain (1,194,681), Argentina (1,130,533), Colombia (1,041,935), England (942,275), and Mexico (906,863), and. The 55th is the People's Republic of China (91,272 cases, as well as 5,311 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 28 October 2020 showed that 7,599,797 people had passed through the international ports of entry. Of those, 3,403 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	7,599,797	3,403
• Airport screening* (48,759 flights)	4,667,865	3,383
• Seaports**	181,629	2
• Ground ports***	2,408,280	18
• Renewing passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road****	342,023	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 29 October 2020 at 12.00, Thailand announced that 1,736 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 487,757 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	915,167
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who met the PUI criteria 	487,757
<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)	487,757
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected from ports of entry 	3,403
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (149,589 cases in private hospitals, and 334,677 cases in public hospitals) 	484,266
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	3,763
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	3,570
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing Treatment 	134
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths 	59
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,763
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transmission 	2,451
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Cases 	1,312
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated Quarantine Places* 	815

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). 2,122 cases are male, and 1,641 cases are female (the ratio of male to female is 1.29:1). In terms of nationality, 3,296 cases are Thai, 458 cases are foreigners, and data is not available for the remaining 9 cases.

221 cases were reported with underlying diseases and 3,542 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, 815 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

- Prachuap-Khiri-Khan provincial office revealed that the Provincial Security Office, Provincial Governing Office, Provincial Public Health Office and related agencies have been maintaining strict COVID-19 surveillance and preventive measures along the Thai-Myanmar border. The three defense belts include all district and sub-district border areas and the inner areas on Petchkasem Road. In the border areas, barbed wire and bamboo fences have been used to block a total of 61 natural crossing points and 24 paths. New smuggling paths will be searched continuously.
- The Office of Prime Minister announced that the Cabinet has approved in principle the guideline for Special Tourist Visa (STV) by issuing an announcement that foreigners with the specified qualifications are eligible to apply for STV at the designated immigration offices within 30 days after the date of announcement in the Royal Gazette onward until 30 september 2021. The foreigners who meet the specified qualifications are as follows:
 1. Those who want to visit Thailand travelling by cruising and racing sailboats (yachts) including vehicle controllers, vehicle personnel or passengers;
 2. Arrive from COVID-19 low-risk or moderate-risk countries according to the medical and public health classification of the countries for relaxation of non-Thai citizens entering Thailand as specified by the Ministry of Public Health;
 3. Agree to follow the government COVID-19 preventive measures including the self quarantine inside the cruise for not less than 14 days;
 4. Carry along the documents for travelling by cruising and and racing sailboats (yachts).
- In Tak province, Commander of Naresuan Force, the Special Task Force, 4th Infantry Regiment (Chor. Kor. Ror. 4) revealed that for the situation of COVID - 19 control, military personnel have tightened border control measures both in Mae-Hong-Son province and Tak province. The Naresuan Force is in charge of the 987 kilometer long border and has 225 operation bases. It has set up 21 operation teams, with approximately 10 officers each, to provide additional duties to monitor the border crossing points especially in the area of the 2nd Friendship Bridge and the compilation cargo transportation channels. In addition, civil affairs volunteers (Or Sor Kor Ror) are organized to help in the smuggling surveillance as well.

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.