

Thailand situation update on 5 February 2020

1. International Situation

On **31 December 2019**, there were 27 patients confirmed with pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) in the People's Republic of China. On **5 February 2020**, there were a total of 24,541 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) and 492 associated deaths around the world. The People's Republic of China reported 24,324 cases across 31 cities, 3,219 cases in critical condition, and 490 deaths within the country.

Situation in China	Total Number of Confirmed Cases	Total Number of Cases in Critical Condition	Total Number of Deaths
5 February 2020	24,324	3,219	490
4 February 2020	20,485	2,788	427
3 February 2020	17,205	2,296	361

There have been two deaths outside of The People's Republic of China. The first case was a patient in the Philippines and the other one was in The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, as reported on 4 February 2020.

217 confirmed cases were reported in 25 countries outside of the People's Republic of China and two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China. Belgium is the latest country to confirm pneumonia cases of 2019-nCoV and the details are shown in the attached table. On 5 February 2020 at 6 p.m. 22 additional cases were reported e.g. Singapore (6), Hong Kong (4), Japan (4), South Korea (3), Philippines (1), Canada (1), Australia (1) and Belgium (1).

Table 1: International Cases Confirmed for Infection by Novel Coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) on 5 February 2020

No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases	No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases
1	Spain	1	3	The Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	10
2	The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of	21	4	The Republic of China (Taiwan)	11

No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases
5	Japan	19*
6	South Korea	18
7	Singapore	24
8	Vietnam	10
9	Nepal	1
10	Malaysia	10
11	The United States	11
12	Australia	13
13	France	6
14	Canada	5
15	Germany	10

No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases
16	Sri Lanka	1
17	Cambodia	1
18	The United Arab Emirates	5
19	Finland	1
20	Philippines	3
21	India	3
22	Italy	2
23	The United Kingdom	2
24	Russia	2
25	Sweden	1
26	Belgium	1

Reference: Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health Hong Kong
*not including 5 cases without symptoms

2. International Precaution

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted an Emergency Committee meeting and officially announced 2019-nCoV to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) after the dramatic spread in many countries, for protection and to stop further outbound spread. The virus has become a burden on many public health systems. Meanwhile, WHO did not declare any restrictions on trade or travel to China.

There have been temporary flight cancellations until early February to stop visiting big cities such as Shanghai and Beijing. The airlines that canceled their flights include British Airways, KLM, Lufthansa, Finnair, EL Al, Scandinavian Airlines, Swiss Airlines, Austrian Airlines, American Airlines, Air Canada, Eva Air, Air Seoul, Indonesia's Lion Air, and Air India.

Some countries announced the closure of areas bordering China, including Russia who announced the closure of the China-Russia border checkpoint. Hong Kong announced temporary suspension of boat trips and around 80% of high-speed trains between Hong Kong and China.

The Philippines and Czech Republic have restrained visa approval for Chinese tourists.

Many countries evacuated citizens from Wuhan to their home countries and have begun investigating their symptoms for 14 days including the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, France, Japan, South Korea, Morocco, Germany, Kazakhstan, Canada, Russia, and the Netherlands, as Indonesia and Myanmar are planning to evacuate their citizens from Wuhan City. During the quarantine, Japan found nine suspected cases who have symptoms that met the criteria for patients under investigation.

The U.S. has scaled up the situation to be an Immediate Health Risk and the Emergency Response System has been set up to develop disease management and diagnosis guidelines to detect the virus. The Republic of China (Taiwan) announced that 2019-nCoV is a Communicable Disease Type 5 along with Yellow Fever, SARS, Influenza, MERS, and Marburg Virus Disease. Moreover, they have notified prevention precautions to the public. On 22 January 2020, they scaled up the warning level to Level 3 and implemented screening protocol at airports and harbors. Hong Kong announced the 2019-nCoV to be the highest level of public health emergency.

China's prevention measures

- 1) Closing cities to reduce the spread of novel coronavirus and stopping public transportation services such as buses, underground trains, ships, trains and airplanes in 15 cities including Wuhan, Huanggang, Chibi, Èzhōu, Zhījiāng, Xianjiang, Xiantao, Enshi, Huangni, Xianning, Guangzhou, Lixuan, Tianjin, and Xiaogan.
- 2) Beijing cancelled Chinese New Year festivities.
- 3) China's government allowed employees to work from home to reduce going out to public areas.
- 4) The establishment of a 1,000-bed hospital to support 2019-nCoV patients, built in 10 days.
- 5) On January 27th, Tibet scaled up the emergency situation to Level 2 and closed some sightseeing places for disease prevention and control in China.
- 6) The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation donated 5 million dollars to China for diagnosis, treatment, and vaccine development.
- 7) The Chinese government mobilized approximately 6,000 health authority personnel for outbreak control and treating patients in Hubei Province.
- 8) On 5 February, 2020, the Chinese government has halted travel to three more cities including Hangzhou, Taizhou and Zhejiang after the report of 829 confirmed 2019-nCoV cases in Zhejiang. Zhejiang has the highest number of cases outside the central province of Hubei and is under intense preventive measures against the novel coronavirus.

3. The Disease Situation in Thailand

3.1 Surveillance protocol among passengers at airports

From 3-23 January 2020, the Department of Disease Control has been implementing its surveillance protocol by fever screening of travelers from all direct flights from Wuhan, China to the Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Krabi airports. On 24 January, the screening protocol began to be implemented at Chiang Rai Airport. Among a total of 481 flights travelling from China, there were 39,318 passengers and air crew members that were screened for the disease.

3.2 Situation of patients with suspected symptoms of novel coronavirus 2019 in Thailand.

The first case in Thailand was confirmed on **13 January 2020** and was an imported case. On 5 February, 46 additional people met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI), raising the total number of PUI to 595 people as shown in Table 2

Table 2: Results of screening implementation to detect patients with suspected symptoms of novel coronavirus 2019

Situation	Total number of PUI
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	595
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening 	49
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 300 cases, Government hospitals: 210 cases, Bamrasnaradura Infectious Disease Institute: 26 cases) 	536
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities and tour groups 	10
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	595
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under treatment (Government hospitals: 183 cases, Bamrasnaradura Infectious Disease Institute: 23 cases, Private hospitals: 142 cases) 	348
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes 	202
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation in isolation room 	45
Confirmed cases	25
Recovered and discharged from hospitals	9
Deaths	0
Severe cases	0

4. Thailand Precautions

On 22 January 2020, The Department of Disease Control (DDC), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Thailand scaled up the Emergency Operations Center to Level 3 to closely monitor the ongoing situation both at the national and international levels. The MOPH has also strengthened the surveillance system by screening travelers from Wuhan for viral pneumonia by strictly thermal scanning passengers for detecting fever and respiratory symptoms at Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Krabi, and Phuket international airports. Moreover, surveillance and preparedness to respond to emerging infectious diseases have been enhanced in the government and private hospitals, and areas of tourist attractions. There is ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and Sport, the Royal Thai Police, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Interior, and security agencies. The MOPH also coordinates with WHO and ASEAN member states to exchange information and measures. Thailand has shared experiences in surveillance to neighboring countries to demonstrate how Thailand can efficiently implement prevention and control of emerging communicable diseases with the highest standards.

On 23 January 2020, The Travel Alert for the coronavirus outbreak was raised to Level 3. The MOPH recommends that travelers avoid all non-essential travel to outbreak areas. Furthermore, the English situation reports and related information sheets were disseminated through the DDC Viral Pneumonia 2019 website (<https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/intro.php>).

On 3 February, 2020 a meeting of the National Committee for Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness, Prevention and Response was convened by the Thai Prime Minister. He has instructed all relevant agencies and all provinces to take all comprehensive measures to prevent 2019-nCoV in every part of the country. All provinces in Thailand were requested to regularly report the results of their work.

5. Risk Communication to the Public

- The novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) can be prevented using the principles for respiratory disease prevention, i.e. washing hands, wearing masks and avoiding contact with patients who have a respiratory disease.
- People should avoid travel to China, and it is recommended to avoid visiting crowded places and making contact with patients who have respiratory symptoms. If this is unavoidable, people should wear a mask.
- If anyone has symptoms including coughing, sneezing, panting or runny nose within 14 days after departing from Wuhan, China, please seek medical care at the hospital immediately and inform the doctor regarding the history of recent travel to China.
- It is recommended to avoid visiting markets selling carcasses or live animals. If touching or handling live animals, people should wear gloves.
- Regularly wash hands with water and soap or use alcohol gel. It is also recommended to avoid using your hands to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Do not use or share personal stuff with others (i.e. handkerchief, glasses, and towels) since pathogens causing respiratory disease can be transmitted to other people through secretions.
- It is recommended to avoid eating uncooked food