

Thailand situation update on 12 February 2020

1. International Situation

On **31 December 2019**, there were 27 patients confirmed with pneumonia caused by the **novel coronavirus 2019** in the People's Republic of China. On **12 February 2020**, there were a total of 45,204 confirmed cases of the **disease referred to as COVID-19**, 1,117 associated deaths and 8,216 cases in critical condition around the world. The People's Republic of China reported 44,685 cases across 31 cities, 8,204 cases in critical condition, and 1,115 deaths within the country.

Situation in China	Total Number of Confirmed Cases	Total Number of Cases in Critical Condition	Total Number of Deaths
12 February 2020	44,685	8,204	1,115
11 February 2020	42,670	7,333	1,016

The total number of cases in critical condition outside the People's Republic of China was 12 across five countries e.g. Singapore (7), Thailand (1), France (1), Italy (2) and The United Arab Emirates (1).

519 confirmed cases were reported in 25 countries outside of the People's Republic of China and in two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China. The details are shown in Table 1. On 12 February 2020 at 6 p.m., 47 additional cases were reported e.g. Singapore (2), Hong Kong (1), Japan (42) and Germany (2)

Table 1: International Cases Confirmed for Infection by coronavirus disease starting in 2019 (COVID19) on 12 February 2020

No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases	No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases
1	The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	50	6	The Republic of China (Taiwan)	18
2	Philippines	3	7	Malaysia	18
3	Japan	203*	8	Australia	15
4	Singapore	47	9	Germany	16
5	South Korea	28	10	Vietnam	15

No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases
11	The United States	13
12	France	11
13	The Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	10
14	Canada	7
15	The United Arab Emirates	8
16	The United Kingdom	8
17	India	3
18	Italy	3

No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases
19	Russia	2
20	Spain	2
21	Sri Lanka	1
22	Cambodia	1
23	Finland	1
24	Nepal	1
25	Sweden	1
26	Belgium	1

Reference: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

*Includes the patients who were quarantined on a cruise ship

On 11 February 2020, World Health Organization stated the name of disease is "COVID-19" (pronounced: C-O-V-I-D-one-nine) deriving from "Coronavirus disease that was discovered in 2019."

From screening passengers on the Japanese cruise ship, Diamond Princess, 10 people tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. 3,700 passengers and crew members are temporarily quarantined off the port of Yokohama for 14 days beginning on 3 February 2020. A Hong Kong tourist was infected and previously aboard the cruise ship. On 11 February 2020, there were 39 additional confirmed cases. The total number of patients with COVID-19 on the cruise ship is 175. The Westerdam cruise ship that had a plan to dock at Thailand on 13 February 2020 is not allowed to proceed as planned.

A British prisoner believed to have COVID-19 was sent from Thailand to England. The prisoner had a medical checkup, tuberculosis test and sputum test before extradition. The prisoner was negative for respiratory system infections and has no symptoms. Thailand has already coordinated to inform England of the medical checkup results. Thus, the news about this infected foreigner prisoner in a Thailand prison is untrue.

2. International Precaution

China is still closing cities to reduce the spread of novel coronavirus and stopping public transportation services such as buses, underground trains, ships, trains and airplanes in 17 cities including Wuhan, Huanggang, Chibi, Èzhōu, Zhījiāng, Xinjiang, Xiantao, Enshi, Huangni, Xianning, Guangzhou, Lixuan, Tianjin, Jingzhou, Taizhou, Hangzhou and Xiaogan. The Wuhan government has temporarily converted the Hongsan Gym, International Convention Center, and Wuhan Cultural Center into a 3,400-bed hospital overnight to support the dramatic increase of patients. Temporary screening stations were established in many areas for vehicles departing from Hubei. There have been temporary flight cancellations through early February to stop visiting mainland China. Moreover, China released the COVID-19 prevention measures for travelers who are staying in China in six languages including English, Russian, French, German, Japanese, and Korean.

On 11 February 2020, The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China asked the cooperation from their people to remain in their households as long as the COVID-19 outbreak lasts to prevent contact with the disease.

Singapore is implementing temperature screening at work places and cleaning frequently touched areas. The Department of Land Transport has provided hygienic masks to 1) people who have symptoms, do not have masks, and who visit their doctors, and 2) taxi drivers, rental car drivers. Moreover, screening stations were established and provide daily stickers to make sure people have been screened.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) has required that people report disease events. If people violate this policy, they will be fined NTD 150,000 (about 150,000 baht).

WHO has reported an updated estimate of the incubation period of the virus from 14 days to 10 days (2-10 days). The basic reproduction number (R_0) was estimated at 1.5-3.5 with a fatality rate of infected cases less than 3% (27 January 2020). The World Health Organization appealed to donors for 675 million USD to support the novel coronavirus plan globally for the next three months.

WHO has planned screening systems and a laboratory surge capacity in 13 countries in Africa.

There have been temporary flight cancellations until early February to stop visits to 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. Malaysia followed on 9 February 2020 with restrictions for people from some areas including Zhījiāng, Jiāngzhu, Wuhan, and Hubei.

The Philippines have postponed the ASEAN Para Games (APG) from 20-28 March 2020 to May or June 2020.

On 9 February 2020, Qatar and Kuwait recommended their citizens to avoid visiting Singapore if possible.

3. The Disease Situation in Thailand

3.1 Surveillance protocol for COVID-2019

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. The screening protocol has expanded to cover all arrival and departure flights at Suvarnabhumi airport since January 29, 2020. An accumulated number till February 12, 2020 showed 766 flights and 61,655 passengers and air crew members were screened for the disease. For the screening protocol outside the airports, there were 2,601 people from 186 ships arriving from affected areas that were screened at five sea ports (Bangkok, Laem Chabang, Chiang Saen, Phuket and Samui) from January 1 to February 10, 2020.

The screening implementation has been also provided among arrival travelers from all countries including of 44,148 people from 206 ships at five sea ports. None of them met the case definition of PUI. Since February 1, 2020, there were 323,543 people that were screened at 34 ground ports. A total of 19,046 people renewing their passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road were also screened from January 30 to February 7, 2020.

Among 138 Thai people traveling back from Wuhan, China since February 4, 2020, there were 4 PUI and all of them were referred for treatment at Queen Sirikit Naval Hospital. The laboratory testing of all PUI showed negative results for the virus causing COVID-19. Therefore, they were returned to a guest area of Sattahip Naval Base on 12 February 2020 without any symptoms of fever or coughing, but they still remain to be continually monitored following the surveillance protocol. However, there is one confirmed case of COVID-19 being treated at Chonburi Hospital, and they are in good health conditions.

3.2 Situation of patients with suspected symptoms of COVID-19 in Thailand.

On 12 February, 2020 at 19.00, 24 additional people met the criteria of patients under investigation, raising the total number of PUI to 823 people 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 people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	823
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening 	53
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 348 cases, Government hospitals: 359 cases, Pending for reporting: 53 cases) 	760
<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)	823
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under treatment (Private hospitals: 75 cases, Government hospitals: 65 cases, Bamrasnaradura Infectious Disease Institute: 10 cases) 	150
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from their illnesses and returned to their homes 	396
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress of tracking status 	270
Confirmed cases	33
Recovered and discharged from hospitals	11
Severe cases	1
Deaths	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 COVID-19 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 COVID-19 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.



Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia Situation

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

- It is recommended to avoid eating uncooked food.