

Thailand situation update on 13 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 **13 February 2020**, there were a total of 60,393 confirmed cases of the **disease referred to as COVID-19**, 1,370 associated deaths and 8,043 cases in critical condition around the world. The People's Republic of China reported 59,822 cases across 31 cities, 8,204 cases in critical condition, and 1,367 deaths within the country.

Situation in China	Total Number of Confirmed Cases	Total Number of Cases in Critical Condition	Total Number of Deaths
13 February 2020	59,822	8,204	1,370
12 February 2020	44,685	8,204	1,115

The latest death, the third case outside the People's Republic of China was a Japanese patient. The total number of cases in critical condition outside the People's Republic of China was 19 across seven countries/Administrative Region e.g. Japan (4), Singapore (8), Hong Kong (2), Thailand (1), France (1), Italy (2) and The United Arab Emirates (1).

571 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 13 February 2020 at 6 p.m., 52 additional cases were reported e.g. Japan (44), Singapore (3), Malaysia (1), Vietnam (1), Hong Kong (1), The United Kingdom (1) and The United States (1)

Table 1: International Cases Confirmed for Infection by coronavirus disease starting in 2019 (COVID19) on 13 February 2020

No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases
1	The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	51
2	Philippines	3
3	Japan	247*
4	Singapore	50
5	South Korea	28
6	The Republic of China (Taiwan)	18
7	Malaysia	19

No.	Country/Administrative Region	Confirmed cases
8	Australia	15
9	Germany	16
10	Vietnam	16
11	The United States	14
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	9
17	India	3
18	Italy	3
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 12 February 2020, the People's Republic of China changed the measures of diagnosis for COVID-19 patients by accounting for chest x-ray results, with DNA test kit results of the viral cause of COVID-19, symptom assessments of patients who met the criteria (clinically diagnosed) and consideration of the suspected cases who were screened by symptom assessment among patients who already met the criteria. Therefore, there have been 14,840 additional confirmed cases through the consideration of symptoms among

suspected cases. Some of the associated deaths who had symptoms met the criteria and had abnormal chest x-ray results but were not confirmed for COVID-19 via genetic laboratory examination. Enhancing the diagnosis of the confirmed cases in China is good for treating patients who were diagnosed as confirmed cases. On 11 February 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated the name of disease is “COVID-19” deriving from “Coronavirus disease that was discovered in 2019.”

From passenger screening 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 13 February 2020, there were 44 additional confirmed cases. The total number of patients with COVID-19 on the cruise ship is 218. The Westerdam cruise ship that had a plan to dock at Thailand on 13 February 2020 was not allowed to proceed as planned because it was not on the normal sea lanes but was allowed to dock at Cambodia. On the cruise ship, there were 20 passengers with symptoms and must be tested for the virus causing COVID-19 infection by laboratory examination. The Seabourn Ovation and Quantum of the Seas cruise ship docked at Phuket Province on 13 February 2020. The Celebrity Constellation cruise ship that will dock at Phuket Province on 14 February 2020 and the Star Clipper cruise ship that will dock at Phuket Province on 15 February 2020 are allowed to dock because the cruise ships follow normal sea lanes to pass Thailand. The passengers are not from the high-risk areas and medical practitioners on the cruise ship confirmed that the passengers do not have symptoms.

2. International Precaution

Common Measurement

The World Health Organization (WHO) conducted an Emergency Committee meeting and officially announced COVID-19 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.

Flight cancellations in many airlines are in effect until 19 February 2020. The U.S has canceled flights to Hong Kong since 5 February 2020, The Republic of China (Taiwan) canceled flights from China except for Beijing, Shanghai, and Chentu until 29 February 2020

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.

Specific Measurement in countries

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).

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.

On 12 February 2020, North Korea stopped flights and trains in border countries and announced the quarantine measure for Chinese travelers to be 30 days.

Vietnam closed Son Loi City, north of Hanoi to quarantine and stop the transmission after finding six cases in that community. (Son Loi is a first city outside China that has been closed)

On 13 February 2020, the EU planned a border country surveillance and risk analysis in response to finding confirmed cases in European countries.

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 until 13 February 2020 showed 799 flights and 64,357 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 at Suvarnabhumi Airport has also been applied among arrival travelers from all countries for both arrival and departure flights. From 29 January to 13 February 2020, an accumulated number of screening people was 1,425,705 and found 11 of those people met a case definition criteria of PUI. There were 44,200 people screened at five seaports. Since February 1, 2020, there were 387,148 people that were screened at 34 ground ports. A total of 27,092 people renewing their passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road were also screened from 30 January to 13 February 2020.

Among 138 Thai people traveling back from Wuhan, China since 4 February 2020, there were four 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. All four PUI were in good health conditions on 13 February 2020. One person got sick during the quarantine period and the laboratory results showed positive results for the virus causing COVID-19 and the case is being treated at Chonburi Hospital. This case is still in good health. However, the virus causing COVID-19 was still detected from the laboratory testing on 12 February 2020.

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

On 13 February, 2020 at 19.00, 18 additional people met the criteria of patients under investigation. The total number of PUI decreased to 777 people because duplicated data records were removed during a process of cleaning data on the newest available online database 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)	777
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening 	54
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 388 cases, Government hospitals: 325 cases, Pending for reporting: 53 cases) 	713
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities and tour groups 	10

Situation	Total number of PUI
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	777
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under treatment (Private hospitals: 60 cases, Government hospitals: 48 cases, Bamrasnaradura Infectious Disease Institute: 9 cases) 	117
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from their illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	649
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	11
Confirmed cases	33
Recovered and discharged from hospitals	12
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.
- It is recommended to avoid eating uncooked food.