

Thailand situation update on 15 March 2021

1. International Situation

| | Total Number | Daily Increase | Case Fatality Rate (CFR) |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Confirmed cases | 120,452,648 | 363,930 | |
| Deaths | 2,666,125 | | 2.22% |

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

| Situation | Total Number* |
|--|-----------------|
| Total number of new cases | 78 |
| • Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported) | 4 |
| • Cases found outside quarantine facilities/centers (Imported) | 0 |
| • Cases infected in Thailand (Local transmission) | 15 |
| • Cases found from active case finding | 59 |
| Total number of confirmed cases | 27,005 |
| • Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported) | 2,305 |
| • Cases found outside quarantine facilities/centers (Imported) | 2,931 |
| • Cases infected in Thailand (Local transmission) | 24,074 |
| • Cases found from active case finding | 15,024 |
| Total number of confirmed cases | 27,005 |
| • Total recovered and discharged from hospitals | 26,123 (97.14%) |
| - Newly recovered and discharged from hospitals | 80 |
| • Undergoing treatment | 684 (2.86%) |
| • Deaths | 87 (0.32%) |
| - New deaths | 1 |

| Type of Screened People and PUI | Total Number |
|--|--------------|
| Total number | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ports of entry (Airports, ground ports, and seaports) | 8,000,092 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People renewing their passports at the Immigration Bureau, Chaeng Watthana | 482,791 |
| Total number of laboratory tests | 1,624,595 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who met the PUI criteria | 1,197,185 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From active case finding | 15,834 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returnees in quarantine facilities/centers | 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 PUI | 1,197,185 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from ports of entry | 4,617 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (282,097 cases in private hospitals, and 877,986 cases in public hospitals) | 1,192,480 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao | 88 |

Remark: *PUI (Patients Under Investigation)

3. Thailand Implementations

- Bangkok The COVID-19 active case finding free service at park area of the Mall Bang Khae was provided for people in 6 at-risk markets in Bang Khae and nearby areas, namely Sirisethanon Market (Saeng Fah Kao), Bang Khae Shopping Center Market, Kitti Market, Phasom Market, Bang Khae New Market and Wonder Market. As many people had come, the active screening service by the Royal Biosafety sample collection vehicle had been extended until March 26, 2021. In addition, the Institute of Urban Disease Prevention and Control (IUDC) had also joined and thus increased the sample swab collection service up to 1,000 at-risk people per day. People who visited or were involved with the at-risk markets from 20 February to 13 March 2021 were requested to register for the BKK COVID-19 screening system. Personal ID cards and smartphones will help speed up the registration process. The queuing card system starts from 07:30 a.m. The service period will be divided according to the queuing card numbers and the examination starts from 09:00 a.m. onwards. Regarding the area cleaning on 16 March 2021, Bang Khae District Office will provide cleaning services for all 6 markets from 09:00 a.m. onwards. The dry cleaning will be done in the morning and water and disinfectant flushing will be

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

applied in the afternoon. In addition, all 6 markets will be closed for 3 days from 16 to 18 March 2021. After that there will be re-evaluation based on the active case screening of risk groups. If a large number of infected people are found, the market closure dates will be re-considered for extension.

- The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health said that on 20 March 2021 there will be another eight hundred thousand doses of Sinovac vaccine arriving in the country. Whereas the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) had been authorized to order an additional five million doses of the vaccine to cover the target population which was planned to arrive in April and May 2021. The effort was done so that Thailand would have the vaccines for the immunization service before the domestic production of the AstraZeneca vaccine which had been planned to start in June 2021. For the progress on the registration of the COVID-19 vaccine of Johnson & Johnson company, it was expected to be completed by March 2021. However, the Bharat vaccine of India had not made progress due to incomplete documentation.
- The Secretary-General of the National Security Council (NSC), Chair of the Operation Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (OCCSA), stated that the new cluster in Bang Khae area was only confined in the Bang Khae market and was not likely to spread out. As had been identified that the most of the fresh market clusters were among migrant workers who had insufficient awareness of the disease prevention. Therefore surveillance in fresh markets must be strengthened. However, he confirmed that there was no need to prohibit the worker movement as was done at the shrimp market in Samut Sakhon province. The measures will be the same model as Pornpat market, Pathum Thani province with a confidence that the Ministry of Public Health can control the situation with the cooperation of the people surrounding the area. However, on Wednesday 17 March 2021, there will be the Ad Hoc Committee meeting to consider the relaxing of COVID-19 prevention and control measures during the Songkran festival. The committee will determine and propose the measures to the CCSA for consideration on 19 March 2021.
- Prachuap Khiri Khan Hospital prepared to provide treatment and care for COVID-19 patients. The protocol would be that patients with mild symptoms were treated in the Cohort ward, a shared room that can accommodate 18 beds. Standard medical services and digital technology would be used to provide treatment care to the patients. There would be a closed-circuit to monitor the patient's symptoms and to communicate between healthcare providers and patients to reduce direct contact with the patients. Patients with severe illnesses would be treated in negative pressure rooms.
- Prachuap Khiri Khan province had arrested thirty-three Myanmar migrant workers for illegal border crossing into Thailand at the natural path near Dan Sing Khon Border Checkpoint. There were 4 migrants who were tested positive for COVID-19, and 200 involved officers and people were regarded as high risk contacts. The COVID-19 testing results were awaiting. The Mueang District has tightened its measures after there were a group of people smuggled goods from the Myanmar border. Moreover, there had also been smuggling of migrant workers.

4. Risk Assessment of COVID-19 Situation

The global COVID-19 pandemic situation has shown more than 120 million of cumulative confirmed cases. The daily confirmed cases have been slightly increase since mid-February 2021 but has still been below 500,000 cases per day. The number of deaths tends to decrease to below 10,000 deaths per day while the total deaths have been more than 2.6 million. In Thailand, there has been 22,768 confirmed cases in the new wave outbreaks. Two third of the cases were detected from active case finding and most were migrant workers. Currently, the number of daily confirmed cases has been decreasing to below 100 cases per day. Current COVID-19 clusters have been found in Bang Khae Market of which almost half of the Myanmar migrant workers. This indicates that crowded places like markets, where there are many migrant workers with the behavior of yelling or talking without wearing masks are still the risk of disease spreading as the previous clusters. Even though the COVID-19 vaccination has started, the overall disease prevention and control measures must be maintained for a long time. Therefore, people are requested for collaboration on disease prevention and control. They are advised to wear masks, wash hands frequently, avoid unnecessary travel especially to risk crowded places and scan “ ThaiChana” application or use “ MorChana application when traveling to places. In case of developing symptoms including coughing, sore throat, runny nose or loss of smell and taste, people are recommended to visit hospitals immediately and inform the doctors of their travelling history as much as possible.