

Thailand situation update on 17 March 2021

1. International Situation

	Total Number	Daily Increase	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Confirmed cases	121,323,087	499,058	
Deaths	2,683,457		2.21%

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

Situation	Total Number*
Total number of new cases	248
• Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	6
• Cases found outside quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	0
• Cases infected in Thailand (Local transmission)	79
• Cases found from active case finding	163
Total number of confirmed cases	27,402
• Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	2,316
• Cases found outside quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	626
• Cases infected in Thailand (Local transmission)	9,150
• Cases found from active case finding	15,310
Total number of confirmed cases	27,402
• Total recovered and discharged from hospitals - Newly recovered and discharged from hospitals	26,339 (96.12%) 40
• Undergoing treatment	975 (3.56%)
• Deaths - New deaths	88 (0.32%) 1

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

Type of Screened People and PUI	Total Number
Total number	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ports of entry (Airports, ground ports, and seaports) 	8,014,926
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People renewing their passports at the Immigration Bureau, Chaeng Watthana 	486,140
Total number of laboratory tests	1,640,924
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who met the PUI criteria 	1,213,514
<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	1,213,514
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from ports of entry 	4,662
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (287,251 cases in private hospitals, and 921,513 cases in public hospitals) 	1,208,764
<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 Metropolis authorities approved the usage of COVID-19 vaccine in all vulnerable groups and prepared 6,000 doses of said vaccine for distribution, starting today (March 17, 2021) at 9:00 am with an aim to vaccinate 500 - 600 people in the day. With this, the authorities also ask for both the high-risk and low-risk groups to cooperate in quarantining and refrain from travelling for 14 days. Once the quarantine schedule has ended and the quarantined person does not have any sickness, they will be invited to get the vaccine at the hospital or the mobile vaccination service unit. In this regard, market owners, entrepreneurs, traders of every marketplace must comply with disease control and prevention measures such as setting a single entrance-exit to the market and screen everyone before entering the market.

- The Department of Disease Control explained about disease control guideline after the discovered infection in Bang Khae market that the current disease control will follow the model used for Pathum Thani which included the screening for infected person, providing vaccine for merchants and labour in said market before market opening as well as issuing market entry certificate by the district office. For the screening, if the person was found to be infected with the virus, they will be brought into the treatment and isolated from the high-risk contact person. The market will be cleaned, and there will be proactive searching in the community behind the Bang Khae market, and the community opposite to the market for 1 week, after that, there will be the random check once a month by taking the blood samples from the contact person living in the same house with the patient and the follow up foreign migrants within the area.
- The Prime Minister's Office revealed the case of Thai students who are unable to return to foreign countries to study especially to China that the issue was discussed and followed up the progress. This includes preparing a vaccination for Thai students who study in China which have expectedly 1,000. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Ministry of Public Health were urged to coordinate and prepare the vaccinations for students in order for students to return to study as soon as possible.
- The National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) revealed the results of the poll on "water splashing on Songkran day... Are you afraid of COVID-19?" The poll was conducted on March 15-16 interviewing 1,315 people. The poll showed that 43.73% of respondents said water splashing should be prohibited nationwide during Songkran; 20.45% said it should be allowed only in areas that are not hit by the second outbreak of Covid-19; 17.87% said water splashing should be allowed in all areas with "new normal" measures in place; 10.80% said it should be allowed nationwide; and, 7.15% believed that it should be allowed only in areas with no new Covid-19 infections in the previous 14 days. For public concern if water splashing were allowed on Songkran 2021, the poll showed that 38.02 percent are somewhat worried because traveling from many other areas is uncontrollable, virus may be contaminated with water, and some groups of people still neglect to protect themselves. Even though Thailand has rolled out COVID-19 vaccination now, it is still not 100% safe and water splashing may cause the third wave of the COVID-19 outbreaks. 26.54% are very concerned because when people go back to their hometown and gather together, they will neglect keeping distance. Elderly people are at high risk of infection and the epidemic situation of COVID-19 is still not trustworthy
- The Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) said that 2 main issues were discussed at the CCSA's subcommittee meeting and will be proposed in a CCSA meeting on 19 March 2021 as follows: 1. Songkran activities organisation is requested to refrain from water splashing and powdering in all areas. However, other traditional and religious activities are allowed such as Song Nam Phra, Rot Nam Dam Hua and pay respect to the Buddhist monks and receive blessings from them. In addition, travelling is also allowed without joining groups. 2. The CCSA's

subcommittee agreed to have relaxation in Samut Sakhon as orange zone instead of red zone from 17 March 2021 onward.

- In Nakhon Pathom, Phaithaya Kindergarten and Chaipattana Foundation found that parents of students are infected with COVID-19. It has been performed as follows: 1. Close the school for 5 days from 17-21 March 2021. 2. The high risk contacts are requested to receive a COVID-19 testing at Nakhon Pathom Hospital. 3. Students whose parents are infected with COVID-19 and have a negative test result need to be quarantined and observe their symptoms for 14 days. 4. There is online learning during the closure 5. Spraying the disinfectant at the area.

4. Risk Assessment of COVID-19 Situation

The global COVID-19 situation found over 121 million cumulative cases with higher daily cases which are lower than 500,000 cases per day from mid- February 2021, especially in Europe and South America. The number of daily deaths tends to decline to below 10,000 cases per day ,and more than 2.6 million total death cases. Today, 23,165 infected cases were found in the new wave outbreaks in Thailand. More than two thirds were found from proactive screening and most of which are foreign workers. The number of daily infected cases is likely to increase from the past week. Daily cases are not higher than 300 per day from Bang Khae markets' cluster and a Bang Khen detention facility for foreign migrants operated by the Immigration Bureau, and the risk at a detention center is very low in contrast with Bang Khae cluster which may continually spread to nearby central provinces. Active case finding and fast control activities are the key factors to control the outbreak as these were done well in Pathumthani province at the beginning of last month. Stronger surveillance activities in the group of respiratory patients and active case finding in some central provinces such as Bangkok and nearby provinces should be implemented ,while people are requested to strictly comply with the preventive measures including wearing a mask, frequently washing hands, and reducing unessential travel especially in crowded places. They are requested to scan "Thai Chana" or "Mor Chana" applications when they need to travel to other places. Anyone who visited the infected areas and developed a fever, caught, sore throat, running nose or loss of smell and taste, they are recommended to visit hospitals immediately and inform the doctors of their real travelling history as much as possible.