

Thailand situation update on 24 March 2021

1. International Situation

	Total Number	Daily Increase	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Confirmed cases	124,859,833	521,143	
Deaths	2,747,609		2.20%

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

Situation	Total Number*
Total number of new cases	69
• Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	8
• Cases found outside quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	0
• Cases found in Thailand through the public health service system (Local transmission)	17
• Cases found from active case finding	44
Total number of confirmed cases	28,346
• Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	2,383
• Cases found outside quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	627
• Cases found in Thailand through the public health service system (Local transmission)	9,490
• Cases found from active case finding	15,846
Total number of confirmed cases	28,346
• Total recovered and discharged from hospitals	26,873 (94.80%)
- Newly recovered and discharged from hospitals	107
• Undergoing treatment	1,381 (4.87%)
• Deaths	92 (0.33%)
- New deaths	0

Screening and PUI	Total Number
Total number of People Screened	
• Ports of entry (Airports, ground ports, and seaports)	8,066,849
• People renewing their passports at the Immigration Bureau, Chaeng Watthana	494,932
Total number of laboratory tests	1,670,805
• People who met the PUI criteria	1,243,395
• From active case finding	15,834
• Returnees in quarantine facilities/centers	81,676
• People who did not meet the PUI criteria	329,900
Total number of people who met the criteria of PUI	1,243,395
• Detected from ports of entry	4,732
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (290,802 cases in private hospitals, and 947,773 cases in public hospitals)	1,238,575
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Remark: *PUI (Patients Under Investigation)

3. Thailand Implementations

- The Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee has made a resolution to approve the surveillance, prevention and control measures of COVID-19 during Songkran Festival (between April 10, 2021 to April 15, 2021). The measures during the Songkran Festival are as follows:
 - 1) Traditional Songkran activities such as religious ceremonies and paying respects to one's elders can proceed as normal. Any activity with more than 300 persons needs to first gain permission from the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration district office.
 - 2) Organizers of any other activities during Songkran, such as a banquet with more than 100 attendees, must submit an event plan and disease control measures to the district office in charge of the service area before organizing the event.
 - 3) The organizer must also strictly refrain from activities that involve large groups of people and people coming from various areas. Dining and drinking beverages should also be avoided

- The National Institute of Metrology, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (Thailand), sent a calibrator team for calibration of a non-contact infrared thermometer in Pathum Thani province to support proactive measures for screening COVID-19 risk groups. This activity is under the project for calibration of a non-contact infrared thermometer for hospitals and public service units. Healthcare establishments and public service units that have an interest to join a free program and use a calibrated non-contact infrared thermometer, contact the National Institute of Metrology Tel. 0-2577-5100 ext 2309.
- The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health, and the commander of the Immigration Bureau visited 100 non-symptomatic COVID-19 detainees who were referred to a temporary field hospital, under the Immigration Office, Bangkok. The field hospital preparation conforms to the standards of disease prevention and control. The detainees will stay at the field hospital for 14 days under the supervision of doctors, nurses, and staff from the police hospital to ensure safety and that COVID-19 does not spread. Other detainees live in separate areas to prevent spread of infection and for their symptoms to be monitored. 400 policemen assigned to detention centers have been vaccinated. In addition, to prevent infection in the state quarantine facilities, immigration is delaying the delivery of detainees to the central areas, is coordinating with the Provincial Public Health Office, and is arranging separate rooms for detainees. Separate rooms are for the newly admitted detainees to observe their symptoms for 15 days, while the detainee who has not been diagnosed with infection should be tested again in 7 days.

4. Risk Assessment of COVID-19 Situation

Worldwide, there are reports that SARS-CoV-2 has been mutating into many variants. Three of the new variants of SARS-CoV-2 that are a cause for spread and need to be prioritized include the B.1.1.7 or the UK variant, B.1.351 or the South Africa variant and P.1 or the Brazil variant. On 24 March 2021, there were 118 countries that reported cases with the UK variant, 67 countries with the South Africa variant and 33 countries with the Brazil variant. In addition, there have been 21, 13, and 2 countries that have had severe outbreaks of these variants respectively. Thailand found that new variants were found in a group of travelers from abroad from countries including the UK and Tanzania. There is no report of spread within communities. However, the best ways to prevent the spread of both new COVID-19 variants and the wild-type virus in Thailand is compliance with preventive measures, especially wearing masks, frequently washing hands, reducing unnecessary travel, avoiding crowded places, scanning the Thai Chana or Mor Chana applications, monitoring the situation closely and observing symptoms for 14 days after visiting a market that reported the infection. If people have a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, anosmia or loss of taste, they need to see a doctor immediately and reveal travel history as much as possible to the disease control officer.