

Thailand situation update on 18 May 2021

1. International Situation

	Total Number	Daily Increase	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Confirmed cases	164,304,101	564,377	
Deaths	3,405,658		2.07%

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

Situation	Total Number*
Total number of new cases	2,473
• Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	23
• Cases found in Prisons	680
• Cases infected in Thailand (Local transmission)	1,423
• Cases found from active case finding	347
Total number of confirmed cases	113,555
• Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported)	3,495
• Cases infected in Thailand (Local transmission)	98,632
• Cases found in Prisons	11,428
Total number of confirmed cases	113,555
• Total recovered and discharged from hospitals	69,918 (61.57%)
- Newly recovered and discharged from hospitals	2,718
• Undergoing treatment	42,988 (37.86%)
• Deaths	649 (0.57%)
- New deaths	35

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) 	8,449,858
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People renewing their passports at the Immigration Bureau, Chaeng Watthana 	553,511
Total number of laboratory tests	2,251,673
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who met the PUI criteria 	1,824,184
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Returnees in quarantine facilities/centers 	81,755
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who did not meet the PUI criteria 	345,734
Total number of people who met the criteria of PUI	1,824,184
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from ports of entry 	5,377
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (402,598 cases in private hospitals, and 1,416,121 cases in public hospitals) 	1,818,719
<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)

Characteristics of Deaths (614 deaths)	Wave: 1 Jan - 14 Dec 2020 (60 deaths)	Wave: 15 Dec 2020 - 31 Mar 2021 (34 deaths)	Wave: 1 April 2021 - now (555 deaths)
Case Fatality Rate (CFR) in each age group			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-39 years old 	0.20%	0.02%	0.12%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40-59 years old 	2.10%	0.02%	0.80%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60+ years old 	6.50%	2.60%	4.78%
Percentage of COVID-19 deaths of patients with underlying diseases including obesity, elderly patients, and pregnant patients			
	64%	100%	91%
Average number of days between the onset of symptoms and the date of receiving treatment (Minimum-Maximum)			
	3.5 (0-19)	1.2 (0-8)	2.4 (0-14)

3. Thailand's Implementation

- The Ministry of Public Health has revealed its integrated bed management system for COVID-19 patients in Bangkok. The three places for isolation are Budsarakam Hospital in the Northern Zone, the Nimibutr National Stadium Referral Center in the Central Zone and Bang Khun Thian Geriatric Hospital in the Southern Zone. All data is linked through the Co Link system, which receives the infected person's data from the combined laboratory system (Co Lab), the case-finding system (Co Finding), as well as the combined bed management system (Co Ward). In addition, all of the patient information is separated by the color grading levels (green/yellow/red) and sent to the treatment system according to symptoms.
- The Ministry of Public Health has a policy to manage migrant workers with COVID-19 who are classified in the green category. They will be taken for treatment at the field hospital in Samut Sakhon Province. The Nimibutr National Stadium Referral Center, The Princess Mother National Institute on Drug Abuse Treatment, and Budsarakam Hospital will receive migrant workers who are infected in the yellow category. As for the infected prisoners, there are prison volunteers who classify the infected people. The Medical Correctional Institution is well-equipped to take care of the infected people from the prisons in the green and yellow categories. Favipiravir is administered for groups who are asymptomatic but who have risk factors such as the elderly or those with underlying diseases and those who already have disease onset. Regarding bed preparation for those with severe illness, Mongkutwattana Hospital has 48 beds for patients in the red category and 150 beds for patients in the dark yellow category with access to the high-flow oxygen machines, and is expected to receive patients on May 18, 2021.
- The Ministry of Public Health, Department of Disease Control collaborated with the Department of Health (Bangkok Metropolitan Administration) to implement three public health measures including: 1) Active case finding in the outbreak areas and following up with the close contacts; 2) Mandating personal measures to require people to wear masks, maintain social distance, and close risk places; and 3) Measures for organizations, (companies and workplaces). Moreover, they are supporting COVID-19 vaccination to cover epidemic areas by providing vaccines to the risk groups as soon as possible. The target will cover 70% of the population or about 5 million people within two months, starting in June.

4. Risk Assessment of COVID-19 Situation

The global COVID-19 Situation as of 18 May, 2021, shows that there have been 164,243,435 total confirmed cases (21,085 cases per million population), and 3,406,601 deaths (437 cases per million population) or 2.07% of the infected cases. COVID-19 cases remain stable, while deaths continue to fall, especially, in countries with high COVID-19 vaccine coverage such as Israel, the United States, and the United Kingdom. This has proved that the vaccines help prevent severe illness and death. In Thailand, the daily deaths remain relatively stable, at approximately 20-30 deaths per day, most of the fatalities being those who are over 60 years old and those with chronic underlying diseases. Moreover, the number of patients in the 39-49 year old age group has increased as the majority of confirmed cases are in this age group. Therefore, providing COVID-19 vaccines is another measure that should be taken for the working-age group, especially for the people with risky occupations that regularly contact a lot of people or those who work in crowded places. In addition, vaccines are needed for people with chronic diseases and the elderly to quickly provide immune protection. Measures include communication to the public to enhance disease prevention efforts, always wearing a surgical or fabric mask while outside the home, working from home as much as possible, reducing unnecessary travel especially in risky areas that have a lot of people, refraining from talking and eating in groups, and hurrying to receive the vaccine when it is made available to your target group.