

Thailand situation update on 24 February 2020

1. International Situation

On 24 February 2020, there were a total of 79,702 confirmed cases, 11,567 patients were in critical condition and 2,626 deaths from COVID-19 around the world in 34 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China and on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. There have been 77,429 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China (including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Macao Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China), 146 confirmed cases in Japan, 833 confirmed cases in South Korea and 89 confirmed cases in Singapore.

Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 23 February 2020

- Singapore advised travelers to avoid travel to Daegu and Cheongdo in South Korea
- Pakistan closed the ground port bordering with Iran
- Japan - Prime Minister Shinzo Abe emphasized the urgency for the development of a "primary policy" to decrease the spread of the virus and consider using the drug, Favipiravir, for treating patients
- The United States raised the warning for travelers who travel to Japan to Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution (out of four advisory levels)
- Turkey announced the closure of highways, railways, and areas bordering Iran and canceled all flights from Iran

International Issues in Foreign Countries on 24 February 2020

- Asiana Airline and South Korean Airline Flights were canceled to Daegu until 9 March and 28 March 2020, respectively. A government application, website, and software were established for monitoring and reporting people and patients.
- Italy canceled all outdoor activities in Lombardy and closed many buildings such as museums, pubs, cinemas, and cathedrals. Some hotels and military bases in Milan were designated as quarantine places. Classes in schools (primary through university level) were canceled for one week.
- In Afghanistan, travel to Iran via air and ground ports were restricted for a week.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-2019

The accumulated data from 3 January to 23 February 2020, showed that among 10,692 flights, there were a total of 2,401,016 passengers screened. Among those, 70 people met the case definition criteria of PUI. For the screening protocol outside the airports, 95,734 people from 431 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 23 February 2020.

There were 590,822 people that were screened at ground ports from 1 to 23 February 2020. A total of 54,307 people renewing their passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road were also screened from 30 January to 24 February 2020.

2.2 Situation of Patients with Suspected Symptoms of COVID-19 in Thailand.

On 24 February, 2020 at 18.00, 127 additional people met the criteria for patients under investigation raising the total to 1,580 PUI as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 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)	1,580
Detected from the airport screening (<u>Suvarnabhumi</u> : 44, Don Mueang: 18, Phuket: 6, Chiang Mai: 1, U-Tapao: 1)	70
Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 811 cases, Government hospitals: 685 cases)	1,496
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities and tour groups 	14
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	1,580
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under ongoing treatment (Private hospitals: 179 cases, Government hospitals: 241 cases) 	420
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from their illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	1,158
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	2
Confirmed cases	35
Recovered and discharged from hospitals	21
Being treatment	14
Severe cases	2

Deaths	0
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3. Thailand Precautions

On 24 February 2020, the Ministry of Education issued a letter circulated to government agencies and schools nationwide. If teachers or education personnel travel from at-risk countries/regions including the People's Republic of China, Japan, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Taiwan, Singapore were requested to stop working, and take a leave of absence to self-quarantine and practice social distancing for 14 days according to the protective measures against COVID-19.

4. Risk Communication to the Public

- The novel coronavirus disease (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 travelling to China and countries with local transmission, 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 and affected areas, please seek medical care at the hospital immediately and inform the doctor regarding the history of recent travel to China or affected areas.

- 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.