

Thailand situation update on 26 February 2020

1. International Situation

On 26 February 2020, there were a total of 81,229 confirmed cases, 8,851 patients were in critical condition and there were 2,769 deaths from COVID-19 around the world in 40 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China and on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. There have been 78,168 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China (including the Hong Kong and the Macao Special Administrative Regions of People's Republic of China), 172 confirmed cases in Japan, 1,261 confirmed cases in South Korea and 91 confirmed cases in Singapore.

Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 25 February 2020

- The director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States, announced to prepare social measures for the spread of infection in schools and companies i.e. closing the school, canceling meetings and working from home, regarding the COVID-19 epidemic.

Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 26 February 2020

- **Japan**, The Prime Minister of Japan announced that Japan will strictly implement prevention measures in sports and cultural events that occur in the next two weeks. The Tokyo International Olympic Committee is likely to postpone. Moreover, the first COVID-19 death case in Hakodate was reported. Primary and secondary schools were temporarily closed.
- **Australia** was investigating and reporting on the situation. The COVID-19 medical recommendations and Public Health Emergency Incident Action Plan have been provided to the public via website.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-2019

The accumulated data from 3 January to 25 February 2020, showed that among 13,424 flights, there were a total of 2,776,929 passengers screened. Among those, 74 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 two PUI among that group. There were 614,526 people screened at ground ports from 1 to 25 February 2020. A total of 61,095 people renewing their passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road were also screened from 30 January to 26 February 2020.

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

On 26 February 2020 at 18.00, 225 additional people met the criteria for patients under investigation, and 14 additional people (data on 24 February 2020) and 27 additional people (data on 25 February 2020) from the Urban Institute for Disease Prevention and Control met the PUI criteria, raising the total to 2,064 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)	2,064
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 48, Don Mueang: 18, Phuket: 6, Chiang Mai: 1, U-Tapao: 1) 	74
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 1,059 cases, Government hospitals: 912 cases) 	1,971
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities and tour groups 	17
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	2,064
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under ongoing treatment (Private hospitals: 333 cases, Government hospitals: 379 cases) 	712
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from their illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	1,342
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	10
Confirmed cases	40
Recovered and discharged from hospitals	27
Being treatment	13
Severe cases	2
Deaths	0

3. Thailand Precautions

On 26 February 2020, both public and private agencies made announcements on emphasizing and following preventive measures against COVID-19 recommended by the Department of Disease Control as follows:

- TMB and Thanachart Bank announced on 26 February that it would close a branch for disinfection after an employee's relative tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. The said employee was requested to stop working and be in self-quarantine for 14 days according to DDC measures.
- Mahidol University made its official statement on safety and precaution measures regarding COVID-19 due to an employee returning from an at-risk country and developing suspicious symptoms
- After new confirmed cases from at-risk countries were reported, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force released an urgent official letter notifying all Royal Thai Airforce personnel in all departments to strictly adopt good personal hygiene practices while on-duty such as wearing surgical masks and frequently washing hands. All Royal Thai Airforce personnel were also prohibited from traveling to high-risk countries.

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. handkerchiefs, glasses, and towels) since pathogens causing respiratory disease can be transmitted to other people through secretions.

- It is recommended to avoid eating uncooked food.