

Thailand situation update on 28 February 2020

1. International Situation

On 28 February 2020, there were a total of 83,727 confirmed cases, 8,091 patients were in critical condition and there were 2,859 deaths from COVID-19 around the world in 54 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China and on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. There have been 78,935 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), 226 confirmed cases in Japan, 2,337 confirmed cases in South Korea, 96 confirmed cases in Singapore, 655 confirmed cases in Italy and 245 confirmed cases in Iran.

Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 28 February 2020

- The World Health Organization announced that COVID-19 has the potential to spread to more countries as sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America reported their first cases within 48 hours of each other.
- Saudi Arabia prohibited pilgrims visiting the holy sites of Mecca and Medina
- The Hong Kong Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China has searched for the virus that causes COVID-19 in patient's pets, and identified a dog without symptoms was positive for the virus. The dog is now quarantined for 2 weeks. The World Health Organization website states that currently, there is no evidence that companion animals/pets can be infected with the new coronavirus.
- Netherlands found the first confirmed case in Tilburg (southern Netherlands) in a person who traveled to northern Italy, where many people were confirmed for infection. Netherlands' prime minister stated that people should strictly follow the recommendations to prevent the spread of disease and there will be follow-up of close contact.
- Japan's prime minister announced to close all public schools for at least one month because of the COVID-19 epidemic to keep children healthy and safe. Hokkaido's provincial governor has declared a state of emergency because there were infected people in Hokkaido, Osaka and Ichikawa (Chiba).
- The Islamic Republic of Iran announced to cancel religious ceremonies in big cities on Friday. Four senior government officers were infected by COVID-19 e.g. the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Health and Medical Education, a member of Parliament, Head of Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee and Vice President.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 27 February 2020, showed that among 16,214 flights, there were a total of 2,860,096 passengers screened. Among those, 84 people met the case definition criteria of PUI. For the screening protocol outside the airports, 98,127 people from 482 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 27 February 2020. There were two PUI among that group. There were 633,612 people screened at ground ports from 1 to 27 February

2020. A total of 67,922 people renewing their passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road were also screened from 30 January to 28 February 2020.

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

On 28 February 2020 at 18.00, Thailand announced 361 additional people met the criteria for patients under investigation, raising the total to 2,798 PUIs 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)	2,798
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 56, Don Mueang: 19, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 1) 	84
<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: 1,422 cases, Government hospitals: 1,265 cases) 	2,687
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	25
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	2,798
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under ongoing treatment (Private hospitals: 611 cases, Government hospitals: 658 cases) 	1,269
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from their illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	1,502
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	27
Confirmed cases	41
Recovered and discharged from hospitals	28
Being treatment	13

Situation	Total number of PUI
Severe cases	2
Deaths	0

3. Thailand Precautions

The Ministry of Public Health has issued an announcement for personnel who are under the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health pertaining to the COVID-19 outbreak. All personnel are not allowed to travel to or from areas, countries, cities or administrative districts reporting **locally**-transmitted **COVID-19** infections except if there is a need required by the government.

In case it is necessary to travel to countries with COVID-19 outbreaks, after **returning**, it is a must to cooperate by observing symptoms. Staying at home or at your accommodation for 14 days and avoiding unnecessary visits to crowded places are also recommended.

On 26 February 2020, the announcement to designate COVID-19 as a dangerous infectious disease was officially signed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health, Anutin Charvirakul. This announcement comes into effect on the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette. The MOPH has advised that people with travel history to affected areas should always notify travel history to health authorities, as concealing information has had a negative impact on the decision-making of healthcare providers and is harmful to close contacts and coworkers by putting them at risk of the virus causing COVID-19. Therefore, MOPH asked the public to engage in standard preventive actions to prevent the spread of infections.

In preparation for a surge in transmission, The Ministry of Public Health is making preparations in case the COVID-19 outbreak develops and enters to the third phrase. The MOPH is also preparing measures for not allowing personnel to travel to at-risk countries or affected areas.

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.



The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operation Center, Department of Disease Control

- 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.