

Thailand situation update on 29 February 2020

1. International Situation

On 29 February 2020, there were a total of 85,473 confirmed cases, 7,818 patients were in critical condition (decreased from yesterday) and there were 2,924 deaths from COVID-19 around the world in 58 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China and on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. There have been 79,360 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), 3,150 confirmed cases in South Korea, 98 confirmed cases in Singapore, 889 confirmed cases in Italy, 39 confirmed cases in Taiwan and 388 confirmed cases in Iran.

Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 29 February 2020

- The World Health Organization scaled up the risk of COVID-19 to the highest level. Currently, the rapid spread of the virus does not meet the criteria of a pandemic. A continuing increase of the number of infected patients were reported in many countries across the world.
- In South Korea, a total of 3,150 cases have been reported. 90 percent live in Daegu city. Moreover, a confirmed case who recovered and was discharged from the hospital last week, was found to have another positive test for the coronavirus.
- The U.S. reported four confirmed cases, but did not specify the source of the infection.
- Japan canceled the Cherry Blossom - Sakura Festival in Tokyo and Osaka that planned to open in April this year.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 28 February 2020, showed that among 17,652 flights, there were a total of 2,865,593 passengers screened. Among those, 90 people met the case definition criteria of PUI. For the screening protocol outside the airports, 99,650 people from 500 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 28 February 2020. There were two PUI among that group. There were 644,212 people screened at ground ports from 1 to 28 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 29 February 2020 at 18.00, the Office of Disease Prevention and Control (ODPC) 1-12, Thailand announced 155 additional people met the criteria for patients under investigation, raising the total to 2,953 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)	2,953
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 60, Don Mueang: 21, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 1) 	90
<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: 1,456 cases, Government hospitals: 1,380 cases) 	2,836
<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)	2,953
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under ongoing treatment (Private hospitals: 589 cases, Government hospitals: 616 cases) 	1,205
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from their illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	1,719
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	29
Confirmed cases	42
Recovered and discharged from hospitals	29
Being treatment	13
Severe cases	2
Deaths	0

3. Thailand Precautions

The Ministry of Public Health has issued the 3rd announcement regarding the name and main symptoms of the dangerous diseases. COVID-19 was designated as a dangerous infectious disease according to the Communicable Disease Act, 2015 and it was published in the Government Gazette, which will provide benefits for surveillance, prevention and control of dangerous communicable diseases. This will take effect on 1 March 2020

The Ministry of Public Health has collaborated with representatives from 11 agencies for developing a vaccine against COVID-19 and other researches including Mahidol University, Chulalongkorn University, National Research Council of Thailand, BioNet-Asia Co., Ltd., Office of the Permanent Secretary (MOPH,Thailand), Department of Medical Services, Department of Disease Control, Department of Medical Sciences, Food and Drug Administration, The Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) and the National Vaccine Institute.

The Ministry of Education has issued an announcement instructing that their personnel are not allowed to travel to countries at-risk without permission, any violations shall be regarded as cause for disciplinary action. Schools were requested to consider suspending or canceling any mass gathering activities. The Office of the Basic Education Commission has announced its closure for 14 days, after finding that students returning from countries at-risk of COVID-19 were in fur schools; Ubon Ratchathani Kindergarten, Chonburi Kindergarten, Chiang Mai Kindergarten and Anurajaprasit School, Nonthaburi province.

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.
- Travellers who departed from China (including Macau and Hong Kong) and countries with ongoing local transmission (e.g. Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Italy and Iran) are recommended to implement self-quarantine and check their body temperature for 14 days. It is also recommended to avoid visiting public or crowded places, not share personal stuff with others and not keep at least 1 meter away when making contact with others. In addition, if anyone has symptoms including coughing, sneezing, sore throat, panting and runny nose, please wear a mask and seek medical care at the hospital immediately and inform the doctor regarding the travel history.
- 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.