

Thailand situation update on 6 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 6 March 2020, there were a total of 98,783 confirmed cases, 6,238 patients were in critical condition and there were 3,390 deaths from COVID-19 around the world in 90 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China and on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. There have been 80,559 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China (including the Hong Kong (105 cases) and the Macao (10 cases) Special Administrative Regions of People's Republic of China), 6,593 confirmed cases in South Korea, 3,858 confirmed cases in Italy, 3,513 confirmed cases in Iran, 364 confirmed cases in Japan, 555 confirmed cases in Germany, 423 confirmed cases in France, 117 confirmed cases in Singapore and 44 confirmed cases in Taiwan.

Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 6 March 2020

- The People's Republic of China - The Faculty of Chinese Medicine at Capital Medical University confirmed that COVID-19 has Central Nervous System effects after one of the severe cases did not respond to treatment and experienced decreased consciousness. They conducted gene sequencing on samples of his cerebrospinal fluid and confirmed the presence of the coronavirus, diagnosing the COVID-19 patient with encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. After the treatment of viral encephalitis, the patient's neurological symptoms gradually disappeared. China's National Health Commission, earlier this week, unveiled the latest version of the national diagnosis and treatment plan for COVID-19, which mentioned that the disease could cause congestion, edema and neuronal degeneration in brain tissues.
- Japan - Japan distributed surgical masks to people via post mail as supply is scarce. They fully requested that only sick people wear masks. Health counseling via telephone was implemented to provide information.
- Singapore - Research found that SARS-CoV-2 can spread by contact with significant environmental contamination by patients with SARS-CoV-2 through respiratory droplets and fecal shedding, which suggests the environment is a potential medium of transmission and supports the need for strict adherence to environmental and hand hygiene.
- The French Republic - the Amaury Sport Organisation officially postponed the "Paris Marathon" originally scheduled for 5 April 2020.
- Great Britain - Work at home was implemented at HSBC after an employee was confirmed with COVID-19.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) - WHO senior officials said that COVID-19 is currently not in a Pandemic Phase. Moreover, the "Be Ready for COVID-19" campaign has launched to raise awareness, educate and clarify information to make people understand the disease correctly.
- United Arab Emirates - UAE asked for the cooperation from people to avoid traveling abroad during the crisis situation. Schools have closed for 4 weeks and quarantine measures (14 days) are in place for their students who return from abroad. Travelers from Thailand, Lebanon, Italy, and China are screened at the Dubai airports before entry to the country, and passengers who transit must pass the exit screening.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 5 March 2020, showed that among 25,065 flights, there were a total of 3,401,351 passengers screened. Among those, 143 people met the case definition criteria of PUI. For the screening protocol outside the airports, 107,887 people from 598 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 5 March 2020. There were 762,457 people screened at ground ports from 1 February to 5 March 2020. A total of 87,189 people renewing their passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road were also screened from 30 January to 6 March 2020. The total number of PUI from all ports is 175 people.

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

On 6 March 2020 at 18.00, Thailand announced that 211 additional people met the criteria for patients under investigation, raising the total to 4,234 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)	4,234
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 126, Don Mueang: 36, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	173
<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: 2,028 cases, Government hospitals: 1,980 cases) 	4,008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	51
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	4,234
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 947 cases, Government hospitals: 779 cases) 	1,726
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	2,443

Situation	Total number of PUI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	65
Confirmed cases	48
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment 	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Death 	1
Severe case	1

There are 48 confirmed cases with the virus causing COVID-19. Among the confirmed cases, 31 cases recovered and returned home and there has been one death. Laboratory results of the other 4,186 PUI showed 2,411 negative results to the virus causing COVID-19 and results are pending for 1,775 PUI. The median age of the confirmed cases is 35 years old (ranging from 3 to 74 years old). Twenty seven cases were male and 21 cases were female (ratio of male to female: 1.3:1). There were 26 Chinese cases, 20 Thai cases, one Italian case and one British case. Underlying diseases were found in some of those cases including hypertension (4 cases), hypertension with cardiovascular disease (1 case), stroke (1 case), hepatitis B viral infection (1 case), and hearing loss and osteoporosis (1 case). There were 40 cases reported without any underlying disease. Four cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 28 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 15 cases were tracked from case investigation and defined as close contacts, and one case was detected from the group of Thai people who returned from Wuhan.

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Permanent Secretary for the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration has instructed agencies and government agencies under the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) to regularly clean and look after environmental health in the workplace and areas under their responsibility. District office was required to notify schools in the area to clean and look after environmental health. There have been public relations efforts promoting public workplaces and religious ritual places in the area to jointly clean up and maintain good environmental sanitation continuously until the outbreak situation of COVID-19 improves.
- The Royal Thai Navy spokesman has reported the Royal Thai Navy's readiness for the government's policy of Thai workers returning from South Korea. Initially, Sattahip Naval Base, Dongtan Bay (Building 3-8) were prepared, which will accommodate about 200 people and additional information is needed to consider expanding the area to another naval base.
- The Ministry of Public Health has collaborated with the Ministry of Interior for the compulsory quarantine of Thai workers returning from South Korea under the government controlled areas through the mechanism of the Thailand's provincial committee on

communicable diseases of which the provincial governor is the chair. In addition, the governor has the power to announce the canceling of mass gathering events which have a potential risk for disease transmission. The governor shall have the power to prescribe persons at risk of COVID-19 to get tested and treated as outlined by the National Communicable Disease Committee

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 traveling 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.
- Travelers who departed from **China (including Macau and Hong Kong), Republic of Korean, Italy, and Iran** are required for self-quarantine at designated areas or at residences. For travelers from countries with ongoing local transmission (e.g., Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, etc) are recommended to implement self-monitoring at residences 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 keep at least 1 meter away when making contact with others. In addition, if anyone has symptoms including coughing, sneezing, sore throat, shortness of breath and runny nose, please wear a mask and seek medical care at the hospital immediately and inform the doctor regarding your 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.