

## Thailand situation update on 7 March 2020

### 1. International Situation

As of 7 March 2020, there were a total of 102,262 confirmed cases, 6,153 patients were in critical condition and there were 3,497 deaths from COVID-19 around the world in 93 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, one city state and on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. There have been 80,651 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), 6,767 confirmed cases in South Korea, 4,636 confirmed cases in Italy, 4,747 confirmed cases, 684 confirmed cases in Germany, 653 confirmed cases in France, 420 confirmed cases in Japan, 130 confirmed cases in Singapore and 45 confirmed cases in Taiwan.

### Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 7 March 2020

- The Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China - South China Morning Post reported the last confirmed COVID-19 patient was discharged from the hospital and can go back home. Thus, Macao does not currently have any COVID-19 patients currently under treatment. Macao's policy to cease the epidemic included merchandise distribution to their citizens such as releasing a measure to limit the number of masks people buy to 10 masks/person every 10 days. This also includes strict checking of hotels and casinos by health officers. Moreover, they closed casinos, bars, theatres and entertainment spots for 15 days to cease the COVID-19 epidemic.
- The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China - The Department of Health announced that passengers who travel to Hong Kong starting on 9 March 2020 must present the required health form when they arrive at the Hong Kong International Airport. This will impact arrival flights from the People's Republic of China and enhance all arrival flights that come to Hong Kong. The arriving traveler can choose to send their information and health form via electronic format on a smartphone. It includes a warning to the people to consider postponing their travel because of the COVID-19 epidemic situation.
- Kingdom of Bhutan - Bhutan announced to prohibit travelers from entering their country for two weeks after they found the first COVID-19 case. Bhutan's health officers are following about 90 close contacts of the case i.e. travelers, tour guides and drivers. All of them are under observation. Moreover, they announced that they would close many schools and postpone many international conferences for two weeks.
- The United States - The U.S. found 21 cases of COVID-19 on the Grand Princess cruise ship (19 crew members and two passengers). After embarking at the designated port, the government will screen all 3,500 passengers to classify them for quarantine and treatment respectively.
- The French Republic - France has temporarily closed kindergartens and schools for 15 days in the two most affected areas from COVID-19 in the North of Paris and in the North Eastern part of the country.

- Brazil - The World Economic Forum (WEF) has postponed a Latin American meeting that was scheduled for the end of April. Moreover, the Prime Minister of Brazil is trying to fight against the disease in hospitals and sea ports and raise awareness in the population to follow the experts' recommendations.
- Republic of Italy - Italy has set intense measures to control the outbreak and encourage the economy to decrease the negative effects of the outbreak. Schools and cinemas were temporarily closed.

## 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 7 March 2020 at 18.00, Thailand announced that 132 additional people met the criteria for patients under investigation, raising the total to 4,366 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
<b>Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)</b>	4,366
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 126, Don Mueang: 36, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3)</li> </ul>	179
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detected from seaports</li> </ul>	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 2,028 cases, Government hospitals: 1,980 cases)</li> </ul>	4,132
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao</li> </ul>	51
<b>Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)</b>	4,366

Situation	Total number of PUI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 947 cases, Government hospitals: 779 cases)</li> </ul>	1,737
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals</li> </ul>	2,587
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home</li> </ul>	42
<b>Confirmed cases</b>	50
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovered and discharged from hospitals</li> </ul>	33
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergoing treatment</li> </ul>	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deaths</li> </ul>	1
<b>Severe cases</b>	1

There are 50 confirmed cases with the virus causing COVID-19. Among the confirmed cases, 33 cases recovered and returned home and there has been one death. Laboratory results of the other 4,316 PUI showed 2,553 negative results to the virus causing COVID-19 and results are pending for 1,763 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 38 years old (ranging from 3 to 74 years old). Twenty-nine cases were male and 21 cases were female (ratio of male to female: 1.4:1). There were 26 Chinese cases, 22 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 42 cases reported without any underlying disease. Four cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 29 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 16 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 Office of the Civil Service Commission (OCSC) has announced to postpone the general examination for recruiting civil servants until the situation of COVID-19 improves. The date for the rescheduled exam will be set later.
- The government has instructed local agencies to identify the provincial measures to monitor the Thai workers returning from South Korea, which is an at-risk area for COVID-19. Currently, many provinces have designated areas and locations, which will be used for mandatory quarantine according to government orders.

#### 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 areas with ongoing local transmission (e.g., Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Germany, France, 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.