

Thailand situation update on 11 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 11 March 2020, there were a total of 119,395 confirmed cases, with 5,747 patients in critical condition and 4,300 COVID-19 deaths, across more than 111 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong and Macau), and on cruise ships. There have been a total of 80,788 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 121 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 10 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 7,755 confirmed cases in South Korea, 10,149 confirmed cases in Italy, 8,042 confirmed cases in Iran, 1,784 confirmed cases in France, 1,565 confirmed cases in Germany, 587 confirmed cases in Japan, 166 confirmed cases in Singapore, and 48 confirmed cases in Taiwan.

Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 11 March 2020

- The United States – the Governor of New York announced that although New York City will not be under quarantine, there will be a 1.6 km “containment zone,” meaning that all institutions and public gatherings within this zone will be shutdown for a public cleaning to take place.
The White House had a meeting with big technology companies to coordinate and discuss how to control the rapid spread of COVID-19.
Google recommends that all of its employees in North America work from home until 10 April 2020. Google also provided economic reassurance to its employees all over the world by clarifying an amended sick leave policy: their employees can take paid sick leave if they begin to present with symptoms similar to COVID-19, or if they have to miss work because they were quarantined.
- Australia – A health package valued at 1.6 billion USD was released, in hopes of establishing clinics that offer facilities for free, allowing people to consult with a medical practitioner via video call. Additionally, Australia prohibited traveling to Italy to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Japan – Japan's government approved a draft of the “State of Emergency” measures that allow the administrative officers to determine a curfew after verifying the impact before announcing the state of emergency. The government increased production capacity of masks and decided the penalty in case people hoard hygienic masks or raise the price of masks, will be jail up to 5 years or a penalty maximum of 3 million yen or 29,000 dollars for the shops that raise the price of hygienic masks. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan commanded to double the production capacity or up to 600 million per month.
- South Korea - President Moon Jae-in advised citizens to buy 2 hygienic masks per person per week at drugstores, Agricultural Cooperatives or the post office. Previously, people could buy 5 hygienic masks per person.
- Taiwan – Taiwan is the first country to cease the export of hygienic masks because they need to use a lot of hygienic masks in their territory. Taipei's government commanded to double the production capacity. Currently, Taiwan can produce 10 million masks per day, up from 4 million per day in January. Moreover, adults who have health insurance cards can buy 3 masks per week and the children can buy 4 masks per week.
- Indonesia – Policeman arrested people suspected of hoarding hygienic masks in northern Jakarta and closed the factory that produced low standard hygienic masks. President Joko Widodo reiterated to punish the shops that raise the price of hygienic masks.

- India - The Minister of Health and Family Welfare announced to limit the export of N95 masks, Paracetamol, antipyretic and 25 other medicines, including Vitamin B1 and B12.
- Singapore – Since 11 March, 2020, all senior-centric activities run by government agencies in Singapore due to evidence of COVID-19 being transmitted between senior citizens participating in social activities, have been suspended for 14 days, and are expected to resume starting 24 March, 2020.
- Philippines - Jesus Durante, the chief of the Presidential Security Group, announced a new measure: the “No-touch” policy; anyone who is expected to come into contact with President Rodrigo Duterte must be screened.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 11 March 2020 showed that among 34,216 flights, there were a total of 3,580,930 passengers screened. Among those, 217 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 115,934 people from 743 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 11 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,219,478 people screened at ground ports from 1 February to 11 March 2020. Between 30 January to 11 March 2020, a total of 98,278 people who were renewing their passports were screened at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road. The total number of PUI from all ports is 219 people.

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

On 11 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 384 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 5,232 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)	5,232
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	217
<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: 2,196 cases, Government hospitals: 2,221 cases) 	4,962
<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)	5,232
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	1,367

Situation	Total number of PUI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	3,785
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	80
Confirmed cases	59
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	35
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being Treatment 	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	1
Severe cases	1

In Thailand, there are 59 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 35 patients have recovered and returned home. One patient has died, and one is in critical condition. Of the 5,173 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 3,490 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for remaining 1,683 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 40 years old (ranging from 3 to 74 years old). 35 cases were male, and 24 cases were female (ratio of male to female: 1.45:1). In terms of nationality, 26 cases are Chinese, 30 are Thai, one is Italian, one is British and one Singaporeans.

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 osteoporosis (1 case). There were 51 cases reported without any underlying disease. Four cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 36 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 18 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as close contacts, and one case was found within the group of Thai workers returning from Wuhan.

3. Thailand Precautions

- Thai MOPH warned Thai people to avoid traveling to Spain, which is now considered as another country with ongoing local transmission.
- The Thai Prime Minister approved to cancel Visas on Arrival for 18 countries, and free visas for four countries. If travelers want to visit Thailand, they must contact the embassy and they have to obtain medical certification confirming a negative test result for the COVID-19 virus which is valid for 3 days before departure. The Prime Minister also cancelled the State Quarantine and changed it by using the home/residence quarantine measures strictly controlled by the Disease Control Officer in local government. If people who need to undergo quarantine do not follow the instructions, they will receive punishment under the law of the Communicable Diseases Act B.E. 2558.
- The Digital Economy and Society (DES) worked with the office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) asking 5 mobile network operators to develop disease surveillance application for COVID-19. This application will be used for inbound arrivals and this AOT Airport application will be launched on 12 March 2020. The NSTDA is responsible for conducting the application assured that this does not track all passengers.

- Thai Airasia (Flights code FD) temporarily cancelled their flights between Bangkok and Kunming, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong Administrative Region and Macau Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China to assist in control measures for COVID-19.
- Thailand and China are together sharing information regarding COVID-19 prevention. China is ready to support Thailand and provide equipment and surgical masks to Thailand to cope with the situation.
- Krungthai Bank closed its foreign money exchange to scale up the control measures and keep their customers safe from the disease and mitigate risk of infection of employees.
- Songkhla province cancelled the annual Songkran Festival and Midnight Songkran event that was to occur on 12-13 April 2020. And people in the area have agreed upon this cancellation.
- M.R. Chatumongkol Sonakul, the Minister of Labour announced that unregistered Thai workers who do not report themselves may be listed to be banned from working abroad. The government has strictly screened Thai workers returning from South Korea at the airports.

4. Risk Communication to the Public

- The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) can be prevented using basic respiratory disease prevention measures: washing hands, wearing masks, and avoiding contact with patients who have respiratory disease.
- People should avoid traveling to China and countries within the Disease Infected Zones, or Ongoing Local Transmission Areas. Avoid visiting crowded places and avoid being in contact with people who have respiratory symptoms. For uncontrollable scenarios, it is highly recommended that a mask is worn to protect yourself and others.
- Travelers flying from Italy, Iran, the Republic of Korea, and China (including Macau and Hong Kong), are required to self-quarantine at designated areas or at their own residence. Travelers from areas with Ongoing Local Transmission (Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Germany, France) are recommended to implement self-monitoring at residences and check their body temperature for 14 days.
- Avoid visiting public or crowded places. Maintain at least 1 meter of distance between yourself and another person when interacting 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.
- 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. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands.
- 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.
- Avoid eating raw food.