

Thailand situation update on 13 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 13 March 2020, there were a total of 135,803 confirmed cases, with 5,759 patients in critical condition and 4,990 COVID-19 deaths, across more than 123 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 80,814 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 132 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 10 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 7,979 confirmed cases in South Korea, 15,113 confirmed cases in Italy, 10,075 confirmed cases in Iran, 2,876 confirmed cases in France, 3,779 confirmed cases in Spain, 2,750 confirmed cases in Germany, 692 confirmed cases in Japan, 187 confirmed cases in Singapore, and 50 confirmed cases in Taiwan.

Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 13 March 2020

- England - HRH Prince Charles the Prince of Wales, is greeting people by the "wai" gesture, the Thai style of paying respects, in his highness's work instead of shaking hands during the coronavirus disease outbreak. Moreover, negotiations regarding relationships with Europe were canceled if they have more than 100 people in attendance.
- Spain - The government ordered the closure of the North Eastern region of the country - Catalonia to be quarantine areas.
- Philippines - The Chancellor commanded to close Manila and stopped inbound and outbound transportation from main cities (ground, sea, air transportation) for quarantine. The effective date is to be determined.
- Singapore - Singapore Airlines and Silk Airlines have canceled flights to many cities in India from 13 March until 26 April 2020.
- Vietnam - Authorities in Ho Chi Minh City have denied permission for a Bahamian cruise ship to dock at a port in the city for fear of COVID-19.
- Indonesia - Indonesia's President has supported that drinking an herbal mixture of red ginger, lemongrass, turmeric and curcuma, a type of tumeric native to Southeast Asia, three times a day, can ward against the coronavirus.
- Australia - The government announced prohibition of mass gatherings of more than 500 people to prevent spreading the disease.
- The Walt Disney Company - Disney is proceeding with the closure of Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure Park and in Paris France, beginning the morning of March 14 through the end of the month.
- Myanmar - Myanmar canceled the Thingyan (Songkran) Festival and public events due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The United States - The New York authorities banned mass gathering of more than 500 people to prevent spreading the disease.
- Nepal - Nepal will ban foreigners from climbing Mount Everest and all mountains in the country this year in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Moreover, Nepalese authorities said the ban on visa-on-arrival for tourists would last until the end of April and extend to all nationalities.

- Malaysia - Malaysia's health officials have been working to conduct mass COVID-19 screenings at Sri Petaling Masjid (Mosque) since 28 February 2020, the government announced plans to stop public events including Educational and sport events.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 13 March 2020 showed that among 34,399 flights, there were a total of 3,787,108 passengers screened. Among those, 247 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 118,654 people from 786 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 13 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,360,331 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 13 March 2020. Between 30 January to 13 March 2020, a total of 104,784 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 currently 249 people.

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

On 13 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 217 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 5,713 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)	5,713
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	247
<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) 	5,413
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	51

Situation	Total number of PUI
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	5,713
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	1,699
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	3,954
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	60
Confirmed cases	75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	35
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being Treatment 	39
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	1
Severe cases (including in being treatment)	1

In Thailand, there are 75 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 5,638 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 3,897 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for remaining 1,741 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 35 years old (ranging from 3 to 74 years old). 43 cases were male, and 32 cases were female (ratio of male to female: 1.3:1). In terms of nationality, 26 cases are Chinese, 46 are Thai, one is Italian, one is British and one is Singaporean.

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 66 cases reported without any underlying disease. Four cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 37 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 33 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

- The Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health issued an announcement regarding procedures, guidelines and preventive measures against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) for government offices, private workplace and enterprises to mitigate risk of infection, as well as emphasized the campaign to take care and practice personal hygiene habits.
- The Scholastic Assessment Tests (SAT) were cancelled in some test centers on 14 March 2020 to prevent spread of COVID-19. Therefore, the Association of the Council of University

Presidents of Thailand informed the Thai University Central Admission System (TCAS) to conduct SAT.

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 (see the updated list at <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/eng/index.php>) 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.