

## Thailand situation update on 14 March 2020

### 1. International Situation

As of 14 March 2020, there were a total of 146,280 confirmed cases, with 6,082 patients in critical condition and 5,441 COVID-19 deaths, across more than 144 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong and Macau), one city state and on cruise ships. There have been a total of 80,824 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 138 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 10 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 8,086 confirmed cases in South Korea, 17,660 confirmed cases in Italy, 11,364 confirmed cases in Iran, 3,661 confirmed cases in France, 5,232 confirmed cases in Spain, 3,675 confirmed cases in Germany, 738 confirmed cases in Japan, 200 confirmed cases in Singapore, and 53 confirmed cases in Taiwan.

### Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 14 March 2020

- World Health Organization - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General stated that Europe is the center of the COVID-19 epidemic of the world, now that they have more cases in the daily report than the People's Republic of China.
- The United States - The President announced a state of emergency and approved a budget of about 50 billion dollars to help states and counties open emergency medical centers to manage the epidemic. They requested hospitals all over the country to start emergency planning and to coordinate with the government to manage the epidemic. About 500,000 COVID-19 test-kits will be sent all over the country in next week. Moreover, the U.S. government is working with Google to create a system to check whether people were infected by COVID-19.
- The People's Republic of China - China's medical practitioner team and 31 tons of medical supplies arrived in Italy for COVID-19 epidemic management.
- India - The Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi, Republic of India stated the COVID-19 situation on 10 March 2020 that people who traveled from the People's Republic of China, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Thailand, Singapore, Iran, Malaysia, France, Germany and Spain were quarantined to observe their symptoms for 14 days since entering and requested employers to command their employees to work from home. Moreover, they canceled some country's visas.
- Denmark - The Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Minister of Justice of Denmark commanded to close the country for one month and temporarily prohibit foreign travelers from 14 March 2020 until 13 April 2020 except in necessary cases on a case by case basis.
- Philippines - Philippines announced a curfew to prohibit people from leaving Manila since 15 March 2020 to prevent the COVID-19 epidemic.
- Apple - Apple closed all retail shops outside the People's Republic of China for two weeks until 27 March 2020
- Indonesia - Indonesia commanded to close schools and teach by video conference for at least two weeks starting 16 March 2020.

- New Zealand - The Prime Minister commanded people who come to the country from midnight Sunday onward, must be quarantined for 14 days.
- Norway - Norway announced to close the country to control the COVID-19 situation for two weeks, closing schools and ceasing outdoor activities and public meetings. The restaurants, gyms, barber shops and others that can not separate their customers by more than one meter must be closed. Moreover, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH or FHI) anticipates the COVID-19 epidemic will start in May until summer. The FHI director requests the FHI plan to take care of the patients following the protocol strictly.
- Italy - Italy announced to close the country and cease public activities. They commanded to prohibit travelers from the People's Republic of China, South Korea and Iran from entering their country. Hungarians entering must be quarantined for two weeks.
- Switzerland - Ticino's government announced to close all schools on 16 March 2020 after Vaud state and Fribourg state announced to close all schools last Friday to control the COVID-19 epidemic. They are enforced until April.
- Czech Republic - The government announced a state of emergency; Restaurants, coffee shops, banquet halls and shopping malls will be allowed to open between 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Slovakia - Slovakia announced a state of emergency all over the country enforced at 7 a.m. local time on 12 March 2020 to manage some measures to decrease the impact of COVID-19.
- Lithuania - Vilnius city announced the measures to cease school activities, close entertainment spots, cease theatre activities and sport club activities.

## 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
<b>Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)</b>	5,713
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3)</li> </ul>	247
<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: 2,196 cases, Government hospitals: 2,221 cases)</li> </ul>	5,413
<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>	5,713
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases)</li> </ul>	1,699
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals</li> </ul>	3,954
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home</li> </ul>	60
<b>Confirmed cases</b>	75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovered and discharged from hospitals</li> </ul>	35
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergoing Treatment</li> </ul>	39
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Death</li> </ul>	1
<b>Severe cases (including in being treatment)</b>	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 government announced to scale down the Songkran festival in 2020 as the outbreak of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) requires daily risk assessment. All people were asked to be careful while playing with water during the Songkran Water Festival. At the same time, the government is waiting to see the outbreak situation as Songkran Day nears. As of now, there are no measures to completely halt the event.
- The Deputy Minister of Public Health cooperated with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society to create an application to track travelers from **Disease Infected Zones** of the Coronavirus **Disease** 2019 (**COVID-19**) outbreak during the quarantine period at home/accommodation for 14 days. There is also cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce to allocate 1 million masks per day.
- The government has instructed government agencies to avoid or postpone organizing mass gatherings activities. Therefore, the Department Religious Affairs has suspended Dharma practice activities between March to April and canceled projects to promote monks and Buddhists to conduct religious activities in India and Nepal.
- Ramkhamhaeng Hospital has offered a drive-thru service for COVID-19 testing for people who are suspected to have COVID-19, so that they will take proper care in preventing transmission of the disease.

### 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

# The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

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.