

Thailand situation update on 15 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 15 March 2020, there were a total of 157,411 confirmed cases, with 5,649 patients in critical condition and 5,845 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 80,849 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 142 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 10 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 8,162 confirmed cases in South Korea, 21,157 confirmed cases in Italy, 12,729 confirmed cases in Iran, 4,499 confirmed cases in France, 6,391 confirmed cases in Spain, 4,649 confirmed cases in Germany, 825 confirmed cases in Japan, 212 confirmed cases in Singapore, and 59 confirmed cases in Taiwan.

Notable Issues in Foreign Countries on 15 March 2020

- Malaysia - The Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has issued an urgent advisory to all 132 Thai Muslims who were present at a recent religious gathering at Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur to get themselves tested for Covid-19 as soon as possible.
- The United States - New Jersey announced a citywide curfew in Hoboken and closed all restaurants and entertainment spots (Bars)
- Spain - Spain's government is attempting to control the epidemic by announcing a state of emergency announcement on 16 March 2020. People cannot leave their homes except for work, buying food or emergency cases.
- France - France announced emergency measures to control the COVID-19 epidemic and commanded to close restaurants, cafes, theatres and other shops. Drugstores, gas stations, grocery shops and transportation services still remain open

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 14 March 2020 showed that among 34,475 flights, there were a total of 3,834,817 passengers screened. Among those, 274 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 121,973 people from 850 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 14 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,433,209 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 14 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 276 people.

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

On 15 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 369 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 6,545 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)	6,545
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	274
<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) 	6,181
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	6,545
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	2,233
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	4,080
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	232
Confirmed cases	114
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	37
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	76
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	1
Severe cases (including in being treatment)	1

In Thailand, there are 114 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 37 patients have recovered and returned home. One patient has died, and one is in critical condition. Of the 6,431 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 4,042 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 2,389 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 35 years old (ranging from 3 to 74 years old). 62 cases were male, and 48 cases were female (ratio of male to female: 1.2:1). In terms of nationality, 26 cases are Chinese, 78 are Thai, one is Italian, one is British, one is Singaporean, two are Japanese, one is French Guinea.

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),

osteoporosis (1 case), and Dyslipidemia (1 case). There were 105 cases reported without any underlying disease. Five cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 65 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 43 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 Permanent Secretary of the MOPH, Sukhum Kanchanaphimai stated that there will be a meeting among technical experts, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister for Public Health, and executives of the Ministry of Public Health to jointly consult on measures for COVID-19. All hospitals are required to abide by the legislation in reporting cases of COVID-19 within 3 hours and receiving patients to be treated in hospital. People who meet the patient under investigation (PUI) criteria can get free lab testing for COVID-19 and the public was asked to avoid unnecessary travel. The designated disease control officers, according to the Communicable Diseases Act, B.E. 2558 include executives, Ministry of Public Health officers, government officers under the Ministry of Interior; provincial governors, district officers, subdistrict headmen, village headmen, subdistrict medical practitioners, assistant subdistrict headmen, assistant village headmen etc. and also government officers under provincial administrative organizations, municipal administration organizations, subdistrict administrative organizations (Chief Executives of the PAO, mayors, chief executives of the SAO etc.) for surveillance integration in every area.
- Rama 9 Hospital has increased the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting to every hour, at all points of the hospital, especially frequently touched surfaces such as escalators, push-buttons, elevators, and door knobs will be disinfected. The hospital also provided alcohol gel, recommendations on how to wash hands properly and recommendations for COVID-19 prevention to the entire hospital.
- The Media Professional Organization made an announcement on the COVID-19 outbreak situation. The organization has requested all mass media to adhere to ethical principles by reporting information in accordance with “a crisis communication guide for mass media.” The government and related agencies were also asked to pay special attention to crisis communication. Information needs to be accurate, clear, trustworthy without misunderstanding or confusion and provide assertive communication. All news agency executives were urged to focus on the well-being of the editorial staff.
- The NIDA Poll, the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) released a public survey concerning the "COVID-19" outbreak situation in Thailand. The results of the survey showed that a majority of people are very concerned and frightened. They give importance to wearing a mask everywhere when they go outside. They feel that the government should have to solve the problem by not allowing foreigners from the high-risk countries to enter the country.
- Departments under the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration arranged cleaning activities. Bangkok Noi District Office will screen students who will participate in the selection test for the Thai representative to join the 14th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO). Hand sanitizer has been arranged for students and at the Bangkhae District Office. Officers have cleaned areas of the One Stop Service (OSS) at U Amulet Plaza. Furthermore, there has been a registration and issuing of identification cards of non-Thai citizens which has been open since 10 January 2020 and will continue until 31 March 2020.

- Sripatum University, Bang Khen has announced **measures** for **prevention** of **COVID-19** by shutting down for a period of 6 days from March 15 - 20, 2020 for cleaning and sanitizing both inside and outside the building, as well as various devices in accordance with the disease prevention and control standards of the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health. The university has realized the importance of safety for university students and Sripatum University, Bang Khen personnel. During this time, personnel have to work from home after a suspected case was reported.
- The Explosive Ordnance Disposal determined measures and ordered that all police and staff who made a study visit abroad should implement self-quarantine for 14 days. If they develop symptoms, it is recommended to inform their supervisor immediately and they should coordinate with the responsible company to spray disinfectant and clean the working areas and the residences of those who get the infection.
- King Power Mahanakorn informed that there was staff suspected for COVID-19, therefore, the company announced to close the King Power Mahanakorn Building immediately and kept the building clean by spraying the disinfectant in accordance to the MoPH standards. The staff members who were close contacts and shared areas or equipment with the said suspected patient were allowed to take a leave of absence for 14 days for self monitoring. Regarding the customers who bought the advance tickets for visiting the Mahanakorn Skywalk, they can postpone the date of visit or request for a 100% refund by submitting their detailed information to the email: contact.kpmn@kingpower.com. For customers who reserved a seat at the Mahanakorn Sky Bar restaurant, the officer will contact the customer for detailed information. For further information, please call 0-2677-8721
- The Vice Spokesperson of The Prime Minister's Office stated that the COVID-19 Administrative Center chaired by General Prayut, Chan-o-Cha, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence agreed upon the amended measures for travelers departing from the risk countries. The aforementioned amended measure allows the travelers who departed from the risk countries and who pass the screening process without a fever to implement 14 days of self monitoring at their home. The medical staff will follow up with them everyday until the termination of the 14 days monitoring period.

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

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by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

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.