

Thailand situation update on 17 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 15 March 2020, there were a total of 170,471 confirmed cases, with 5,927 patients in critical condition and 6,526 COVID-19 deaths across more than 155 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 80,879 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 149 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 11 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 8,236 confirmed cases in South Korea, 24,747 confirmed cases in Italy, 13,938 confirmed cases in Iran, 5,423 confirmed cases in France, 7,988 confirmed cases in Spain, 5,813 confirmed cases in Germany, 840 confirmed cases in Japan, 3,802 confirmed cases in United States, 2,217 confirmed cases in Switzerland, 1,258 confirmed cases in Norway, 898 confirmed cases in Denmark, 1,135 confirmed cases in Netherlands, 1,040 confirmed cases in Sweden, and 1,391 confirmed cases in England.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 15 March 2020 showed that among 34,526 flights, there were a total of 3,871,227 passengers screened. Among those, 281 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 122,083 people from 860 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 15 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,444,654 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 15 March 2020. Between 30 January to 15 March 2020, a total of 107,503 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 283 people.

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

On 16 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 500 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 7,045 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)	7,045
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	281
<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) 	6,674

Situation	Total number of PUI
<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)	7,045
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	2,457
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	4,342
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	246
Confirmed cases	147
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	41
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	105
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	1
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	1

In Thailand, there are 147 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 41 patients have recovered and returned home. One patient has died, and one is in critical condition. Of the 6,898 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 4,678 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 2,220 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 3 to 76 years old). 87 cases were male, and 56 cases were female (ratio of male to female: 1.6:1) and gender data is not available for 4 cases. In terms of nationality, 26 cases are Chinese, 108 are Thai, one is Italian, one is British, one is Singaporean, two are Japanese, one is French Guinea, one is Danish, one is American, one is Belgian, one is French, and data is not available for one.

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 138 cases reported without any underlying disease. Six cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 89 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 51 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

- People traveling from Disease Infected Zones arriving to Thailand are required to present a health certificate showing "No laboratory evidence of COVID-19 infection in the previous 72 hours and no signs of sickness in the 14 days prior to the departure date" and need to purchase health insurance before traveling (in an amount of at least

100,000 USD that should cover all expenditures of medical treatment while traveling abroad). The travel insurance requirement does not apply to Thai citizens, who are covered under the national health insurance plan. All travelers from Disease Infected Zones have to download a tracking application on their mobile devices. Officers will check their passport numbers to see whether they are arriving from areas at risk or not. People arriving from Disease Infected Zones must implement self-quarantine and comply with the recommendations. Travelers arriving from an area with ongoing local transmission as announced by the MOPH, are recommended to implement control for observation (meaning supervision without quarantine).

- Government officers, state enterprise employee are not allowed to travel abroad expected unless travel is essential
- Thai people were asked to avoid traveling to Disease Infected Zones of the dangerous communicable disease and areas with ongoing local transmission as announced by the MOPH.
- If people who have visited places such as boxing stadiums, where confirmed cases were reported by MOPH, develop symptoms such as fever, cough, or runny nose, they must seek medical care at the public health care facility nearest to their house/residence
- The Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Executive Committee on the COVID-19 outbreak situation to mitigate the spread of the disease in Bangkok to other provinces as follows:
 - Venues where there are mass gatherings and activities including universities, international schools, cram schools and all institutions were temporarily closed for a period of 2 weeks starting on 18 March 2020, and schools have to strictly carry out disease prevention in accordance with the standards of the Ministry of Public Health.
 - The closure of places that have mass gathering activities that draw crowds and have high risk of transmission such as boxing and sport stadiums, including the horse racing track in Bangkok.
 - The closure of entertainment venues, traditional massage parlours, and movie theatres in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region will also be temporarily closed for 14 days.
 - The governor and the provincial communicable disease committee have agreed upon refraining from organizing activities that attract a large number of people such as concerts, trade shows, religious, cultural and sports activities due to the high risk of spreading disease.
 - Moreover, the cabinet has approved the measures in principle and the budget allocation for implementing disease prevention and control for mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, taking into account the benefits of the government and the people.

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.