

Thailand situation update on 18 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 18 March 2020, there were a total of 200,099 confirmed cases, with 6,425 patients in critical condition and 8,010 COVID-19 deaths across more than 164 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 80,894 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 181 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 15 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 8,413 confirmed cases in South Korea, 31,506 confirmed cases in Italy, 16,169 confirmed cases in Iran, 7,730 confirmed cases in France, 11,826 confirmed cases in Spain, 6,524 confirmed cases in the United States, 2,742 confirmed cases in Switzerland, 1,486 confirmed cases in Norway, 882 confirmed cases in Japan, 1,044 confirmed cases in Denmark, 1,705 confirmed cases in Netherlands, 1,196 confirmed cases in Sweden, and 1,950 confirmed cases in England. and 9,877 confirmed cases in Germany,

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 17 March 2020 showed that among 34,578 flights, there were a total of 4,066,233 passengers screened. Among those, 303 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 122,665 people from 914 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 17 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,483,349 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 17 March 2020. Between 30 January to 18 March 2020, a total of 112,411 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 305 people.

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

On 18 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 611 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 8,157 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)	8,157
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	303
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2

Situation	Total number of PUI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 2,196 cases, Government hospitals: 2,221 cases) 	7,764
<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)	8,157
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	3,051
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	4,585
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	521
Confirmed cases	212
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	42
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	169
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	1
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	3

In Thailand, there are 212 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 42 patients have recovered and returned home. One patient has died, and one is in critical condition. Of the 7,945 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 5,052 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 2,893 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 3 to 79 years old). 137 cases were male, and 70 cases were female (ratio of male to female: 2:1) and gender data is not available for 5 cases. In terms of nationality, 26 cases are Chinese, 169 are Thai, two are Italian, one is British, one is Singaporean, three are Japanese, one is French Guinea, three is Danish, one is American, one is Belgian, one is French, one is Canadian, one is Pakistani 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 203 cases reported without any underlying disease. 8 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 108 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 60 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 Ministry of Public Health is cooperating with a private company to develop the 'COVID Tracker by MOPH' application. The application is a real-time display of patients' locations so that people know where the situation of the outbreak has occurred. It can be downloaded starting tomorrow (March 19, 2020).
- The Director-General of the Department of Corrections, issued an order suspending all visits to prisons for 14 days from 18-31 March 2020 in order to prevent possible spread of COVID-19 in prisons, which contains more than 300,000 prisoners around the country. The department assured that measures to prevent this epidemic are strictly taken and comply with the recommendations of the Ministry of Public Health.
- There are 40 facilities in the laboratory network that have the passed proficiency testing of the Department of Medical Science, Ministry of Public Health and can perform the SARS-CoV-2 testing.
- Thai researchers from Siriraj Hospital, in collaboration with the Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology (VISTEC) and PTT Public Company Limited partnership have jointly developed high quality rapid test kits for COVID-19, which will deliver results in 30 to 45 minutes. This is a low-cost test kit and convenient access to lab testing

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.