

Thailand situation update on 19 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 19 March 2020, there were a total of 220,846 confirmed cases, with 6,827 patients in critical condition and 8,988 COVID-19 deaths across more than 173 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 80,928 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 193 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 17 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 8,565 confirmed cases in South Korea, 35,713 confirmed cases in Italy, 17,361 confirmed cases in Iran, 9,134 confirmed cases in France, 14,769 confirmed cases in Spain, 9,464 confirmed cases in the United States, 3,115 confirmed cases in Switzerland, 1,609 confirmed cases in Norway, 923 confirmed cases in Japan, 1,132 confirmed cases in Denmark, 2,051 confirmed cases in Netherlands, 1,301 confirmed cases in Sweden, 2,626 confirmed cases in England, and 12,824 confirmed cases in Germany,

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 18 March 2020 showed that among 34,612 flights, there were a total of 4,104,248 passengers screened. Among those, 323 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 123,210 people from 950 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 18 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,502,748 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 18 March 2020. Between 30 January to 19 March 2020, a total of 114,687 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 325 people.

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

On 19 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 572 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 8,729 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)	8,729
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	323
<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) 	8,316

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)	8,729
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	3,325
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	4,725
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	679
Confirmed cases	272
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	43
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	228
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	1
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	3

In Thailand, there are 272 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 43 patients have recovered and returned home. One patient has died, and one is in critical condition. Of the 8,457 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 5,348 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 3,109 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 3 to 79 years old). 177 cases were male, and 90 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, 227 are Thai, two are Italian, one is British, one is Singaporean, three are Japanese, one is French Guinea, three are Danish, two are American, one is Belgian, one is French, one is Canadian, one is Pakistani and data are not available for two.

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 (263 cases reported without any underlying disease. 15 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 157 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 100 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

- With the approval of the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee, the government has authorized governors to consider temporarily closing places that are at risk of spreading COVID-19 such as pubs, restaurants, entertainment spots, boxing stadiums, etc. until the situation returns to normal.

- The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Bureau of the Royal Thai Police, stated measures to shut down entertainment venues in the Bangkok area for 14 days (until 31 March 2020). Currently, there are strict inspections and the entertainment attractions have cooperated accordingly. There have been no violations of the measures.
- The Transport Co., Ltd announced that passengers who buy tickets in advance during Songkran festival between April 1 - 30, 2020, can refund without a 10% deduction fee and can postpone the ticket from April 2020 to July 2020 and will not be deducted. The passengers can contact all the ticket booths of The Transport Co., Ltd in the country starting from March 25, 2020. Tickets can be rescheduled within 90 days of the original date and ticket, payment slip needed to be presented to the ticket sales staff prior 1 day before traveling date.

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.