

Thailand situation update on 20 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 20 March 2020, there were a total of 247,595 confirmed cases, with 7,404 patients in critical condition and 10,064 COVID-19 deaths across more than 179 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 80,967 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 256 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 17 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 8,652 confirmed cases in South Korea, 41,035 confirmed cases in Italy, 18,407 confirmed cases in Iran, 10,995 confirmed cases in France, 18,077 confirmed cases in Spain, 14,366 confirmed cases in the United States, 4,222 confirmed cases in Switzerland, 1,794 confirmed cases in Norway, 963 confirmed cases in Japan, 1,226 confirmed cases in Denmark, 2,460 confirmed cases in the Netherlands, 1,452 confirmed cases in Sweden, 3,269 confirmed cases in England, and 16,046 confirmed cases in Germany.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 19 March 2020 showed that among 34,627 flights, there were a total of 4,141,563 passengers screened. Among those, 333 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 124,272 people from 981 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 19 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,533,086 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 19 March 2020. Between 30 January to 20 March 2020, a total of 116,702 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 335 people.

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

On 20 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 941 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 9,670 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)	9,670
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	333
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

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) 	9,247
<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)	9,670
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	3,731
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	5,120
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	817
Confirmed cases	322
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	44
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	277
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	1
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	3

In Thailand, there are 322 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 44 patients have recovered and returned home. One patient has died, and one is in critical condition. Of the 9,348 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 5,843 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 3,505 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 6 months to 79 years old). 209 cases were male, and 108 cases were female (ratio of male to female:1.9:1) and gender data is not available for 5 cases. In terms of nationality, 26 cases are Chinese, 275 are Thai, two are Italian, one is British, one is Singaporean, three are Japanese, one is French Guinea, three are Danish, one is American, one is Belgian, one is French, one is Canadian, one is Pakistani, one is Burmese and data are not available for three.

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 313 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

- The Ministry of Transport has consulted with the Ministry of Public Health in specifying that passengers from all countries traveling to Thailand need to be free from COVID-19. The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has issued a new announcement mentioning that both Thai and foreign passengers traveling from 1) China, Macau Special Administrative Region, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, 2) The Republic of Italy, 3) The Islamic Republic of Iran and 4) The Republic of Korea, need to undergo a medical examination and must present medical certification (describing "No evidence of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) infection") in the previous 72 hours, health insurance in the amount of \$100,000 USD or about 3 million baht/person to be able to issue a boarding pass and board the aircraft to Thailand. The said announcement will come into effect on 22 March 2020.
- Thai Lion Air announced to temporarily suspend both domestic and international flights from 25 March to 30 April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.