

Thailand situation update on 22 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 22 March 2020, there were a total of 308,615 confirmed cases, with 9,943 patients in critical condition and 13,071 COVID-19 deaths across more than 185 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 81,347 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 274 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 19 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 53,578 confirmed cases in Italy, 26,900 confirmed cases in the United States, 25,496 confirmed cases in Spain, 22,364 confirmed cases in Germany, 20,610 confirmed cases in Iran, 14,459 confirmed cases in France, 8,897 confirmed cases in South Korea, 6,863 confirmed cases in Switzerland and 5,018 confirmed cases in England.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 21 March 2020 showed that among 34,696 flights, there were a total of 4,173,802 passengers screened. Among those, 353 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 125,277 people from 1,040 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 21 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,588,720 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 21 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 22 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 582 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 10,925 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)	10,925
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	353
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals 	10,482

Situation	Total number of PUI
(Private hospitals: 2,196 cases, Government hospitals: 2,221 cases)	
<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)	10,925
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	4,353
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	5,614
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	958
Confirmed cases	599
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	52
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	546
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	1
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	7

In Thailand, there have been 599 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 52 patients have recovered and returned home. One patient has died, and one is in critical condition. Of the 10,326 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 6,440 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 3,886 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 40 years old (ranging from 6 months to 79 years old). 370 cases are male, and 182 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 2:1) and gender data is not available for 47 cases. In terms of nationality, 26 cases are Chinese, 494 are Thai, four are Danish, three are Japanese, three are British, three are Italian, two are American, two are Canadian, one is Singaporean, one is French Guianese, one is Belgian, two are French, one is Pakistani, one is Burmese, one is Malaysian, two are Swiss and data are not available for 52.

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 590 cases reported without any underlying disease. 17 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 353 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 229 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

- On 22 March 2020, the Ministry of Public Health announced to add the following countries to the list of ongoing local transmission areas: 1) Austria 2) Belgium 3) Malaysia 4) Canada 5) Portugal 6) Brazil 7) Czech Republic 8) Israel 9) Australia 10) England 11) Ireland 12) Pakistan 13) Finland 14) Turkey 15) Greece 16) Chile 17) Luxembourg 18) Poland 19) Ecuador 20) Switzerland 21) France 22) Spain 23) Norway 24) Denmark 25) Netherlands 26) Sweden 27) Germany 28) Japan. For more information, please access via this link: <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/index.php>
- The National Communicable Disease Committee sent out an urgent letter dated on 21 March 2020 to every provincial governor, requesting cooperation in developing an action plan for detection, surveillance and disease prevention at the district and village levels after the **temporary** closure of Bangkok and its surrounding areas. Due to the rapid increase in the number of patients resulting outside of Bangkok, sometimes the result of asymptomatic people returning to their hometowns, all provinces were asked to proceed as follows:
- Set up volunteer teams for COVID-19 at the district and village level, to conduct detection and surveillance.
- Create a database of travelers returning from Bangkok and its surrounding areas to their hometowns from 22 March 2020 onwards
- Provide knowledge and understanding for travelers returning from Bangkok and its surrounding areas
- Notify travelers returning from Bangkok and its surrounding areas to strictly follow the instructions.
- The Office of the National Communicable Disease Committee requested for cooperation from the Director of Suvarnabhumi Airport and Don Mueang Airport, the Governor of State Railway of Thailand, and the Director-General of the Department of Land Transport to screen passengers departing from Bangkok and its surrounding provinces and to clean the stations, and clean vehicles before and after traveling, focusing on frequently touched areas.

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.

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

- 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.