

## Thailand situation update on 23 March 2020

### 1. International Situation

As of 23 March 2020, there were a total of 343,414 confirmed cases, with 10,596 patients in critical condition and 14,776 COVID-19 deaths across more than 189 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 81,471 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 356 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 22 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 59,138 confirmed cases in Italy, 35,070 confirmed cases in the United States, 29,909 confirmed cases in Spain, 26,159 confirmed cases in Germany, 21,638 confirmed cases in Iran, 16,018 confirmed cases in France, 8,961 confirmed cases in South Korea, 7,776 confirmed cases in Switzerland and 5,683 confirmed cases in England.

### 2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

#### 2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 22 March 2020 showed that among 34,714 flights, there were a total of 4,196,480 passengers screened. Among those, 369 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 125,710 people from 1,058 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 22 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,611,898 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 22 March 2020. Between 30 January to 23 March 2020, a total of 120,965 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 355 people.

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

On 23 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 882 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 11,807 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
<b>Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)</b>	11,807
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3)</li> </ul>	369
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detected from seaports</li> </ul>	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 2,196 cases, Government hospitals: 2,221 cases)</li> </ul>	11,348

Situation	Total number of PUI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao</li> </ul>	88
<b>Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)</b>	11,807
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases)</li> </ul>	4,630
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals</li> </ul>	6,093
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home</li> </ul>	1,084
<b>Confirmed cases</b>	721
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovered and discharged from hospitals</li> </ul>	57
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergoing Treatment</li> </ul>	663
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deaths</li> </ul>	1
<b>Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)</b>	7

In Thailand, there have been 721 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 57 patients have recovered and returned home. One patient has died, and one is in critical condition. Of the 11,086 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 6,961 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 4,125 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 38 years old (ranging from 6 months to 79 years old). 399 cases are male, and 217 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.8:1) and gender data is not available for 105 cases. In terms of nationality, 26 cases are Chinese, 548 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, three are Swiss and data are not available for 117.

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), dyslipidemia (1 case), and allergy (1 case). There were 711 cases reported without any underlying disease. 17 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 400 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 304 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

- Khon Kaen province announced the temporary closure of areas at-risk from March 23 to April 12 according to the resolution of the Communicable Disease Committee of Khon Kaen Province. The closure of areas include boxing stadiums, fitness centers, sports fields,

shopping malls (except supermarket zones), spas, and massage parlours, same as the measures in Bangkok.

- Chiang Mai province has issued an announcement of the temporary closure of 28 establishments from this evening (March 23) until April 13 including shopping malls (except supermarket zones), convenience stores, and markets (except for food and essential items). In addition, Nakorping Hospital requested cooperation from the public to stop visiting patients from 23 March onwards. The patients' relatives can visit patients via mobile phone or other channels to ensure the safety of patients and reduce the chance of spreading the virus.
- The Minister of Interior has instructed all governors to search and screen travelers who have returned from risky areas (countries at risk, including The Bangkok Metropolitan Area) since March 6, 2020 in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into villages and communities. The community leaders, subdistrict headmen and village headmen are also required to verify the list of all workers from Bangkok and its surrounding provinces and foreign passengers who have returned to their hometowns (since March 6). The checklist and system for reporting workers must be set and they have to be quarantined for 14 days.
- The Thammasat University Hospital and the four hospitals network together established a 308-bed field hospital located in Thammasat University, Rangsit to support COVID-19 patients.
- The Department of Land Transport has announced the suspension of road tests for regular driver licenses due to the COVID-19 epidemic, which will be in effect from March 24 to April 12, covering the five Transport Offices in the central area of Bangkok and five Transport Offices in other provinces namely Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Nakhon Pathom, Samut Prakan and Samut Sakhon. In other provinces, the governors shall have power to announce if there are any cancellations. The Department of Land Transport has prepared an online system for the extension of licenses for current license holders.

#### 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. If the visits are necessary, 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.