

## Thailand situation update on 24 March 2020

### 1. International Situation

As of 24 March 2020, there were a total of 386,317 confirmed cases, with 12,086 patients in critical condition and 16,713 COVID-19 deaths across more than 193 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 81,582 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 386 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 25 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 63,927 confirmed cases in Italy, 46,168 confirmed cases in the United States, 35,212 confirmed cases in Spain, 30,081 confirmed cases in Germany, 24,811 confirmed cases in Iran, 19,856 confirmed cases in France, 9,037 confirmed cases in South Korea, 8,795 confirmed cases in Switzerland and 6,650 confirmed cases in England.

### 2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

#### 2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 23 March 2020 showed that among 34,816 flights, there were a total of 4,215,701 passengers screened. Among those, 372 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 126,334 people from 1,089 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 23 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,621,802 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 23 March 2020. Between 30 January to 24 March 2020, a total of 124,338 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 24 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,220 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 13,027 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>	13,027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3)</li> </ul>	372
<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>	12,565

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>	13,027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases)</li> </ul>	5,357
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals</li> </ul>	6,291
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home</li> </ul>	1,379
<b>Confirmed cases</b>	827
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovered and discharged from hospitals</li> </ul>	70
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergoing Treatment</li> </ul>	753
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deaths</li> </ul>	4
<b>Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)</b>	4

In Thailand, there have been 827 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 70 patients have recovered and returned home, four patients have died, and four are in critical condition. Of the 12,200 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 7,446 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 4,754 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 40 years old (ranging from 6 months to 79 years old). 450 cases are male, and 263 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 2:1) and gender data is not available for 114 cases. In terms of nationality, 26 cases are Chinese, 613 are Thai, four are Danish, three are Japanese, four are British, three are Italian, two are American, two are Canadian, one is Singaporean, one is French Guianese, one is Belgian, five are French, two are Pakistani, one is Burmese, one is Malaysian, three are Swiss, one is a New Zealander, one is Swedish and data are not available for 152.

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 (2 case). There were 815 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

- The National Housing Authority issued measures to assist those affected by COVID-19. There are measures for controlling local activities and business to prevent the spread of disease, taking care of the entire community housing system and helping people, including small businesses and community markets of the National Housing Authority by reducing rental

prices by 20 percent for 3 months starting from April to June 2020 in order to reach people and so people can buy consumer goods as usual.

- From 25 March onwards, the Department of Rail Transport issued the 2nd announcement on recommendations for preventive practices to avoid the spread of COVID-19 for passengers and agencies using rail transportation systems. All passengers are required to wear a mask or a cloth mask while using rail transportation including the State Railway of Thailand (SRT), the Airport Rail Link, the MRT Purple Line, the MRT Blue Line and Bangkok Mass Transit System (BTS).
- The Royal Thai Police has arranged body temperature checks for all police officers before entering police buildings. If they have a temperature above the limit, they will not be allowed to enter the building. Officers are instructed to take care of security and cleanliness.
- General Prayuth Chan-O-Cha, the Prime Minister of Thailand and the Minister of Defense, requested the authority of the cabinet to issue the Emergency Decree (2005) in order to control the COVID-19 outbreak. The details regarding the areas and the implementation will be determined after receiving the cabinet's resolution.
- The cabinet agreed upon the measures for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the Thai economic system both directly and indirectly proposed by the Ministry of Finance. The aforementioned measures will mitigate negative effects and take care of employees, temporary workers and freelancers who are affected by COVID-19 and not covered under the social insurance plan. In addition, entrepreneurs who are affected by COVID-19 will be supported and taken care of under this measure.

#### 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.