

Thailand situation update on 25 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 25 March 2020, there were a total of 428,193 confirmed cases, with 13,129 patients in critical condition and 19,100 COVID-19 deaths across more than 191 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 81,658 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 410 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 30 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 69,176 confirmed cases in Italy, 54,941 confirmed cases in the United States, 42,058 confirmed cases in Spain, 33,952 confirmed cases in Germany, 27,017 confirmed cases in Iran, 22,304 confirmed cases in France, 10,171 confirmed cases in Switzerland, 9,137 confirmed cases in South Korea and 8,077 confirmed cases in England.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 24 March 2020 showed that among 35,044 flights, there were a total of 4,242,079 passengers screened. Among those, 374 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 126,513 people from 1,101 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 24 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,650,670 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 24 March 2020. Between 30 January to 25 March 2020, a total of 126,338 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 374 people.

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

On 25 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 995 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 14,022 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)	14,022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	374
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals 	13,558

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)	14,022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	5,985
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	6,473
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	1,564
Confirmed cases	934
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	88
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	842
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	4
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	7

In Thailand, there have been 934 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 88 patients have recovered and returned home, four patients have died, and four are in critical condition. Of the 13,088 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 7,803 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 5,285 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 6 months to 83 years old). 512 cases are male, and 303 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.7:1) and gender data is not available for 119 cases. In terms of nationality, 688 are Thai, 28 cases are Chinese, four are Danish, three are Japanese, five are British, three are Italian, three are American, three are Canadian, two are Singaporean, one is French Guianese, two are Belgian, seven are French, two are Pakistani, one is Burmese, one is Malaysian, three are Swiss, one is a New Zealander, two are Swedish, four are German, one is Finnish, one is Filipino and data are not available for 169.

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), psoriasis (1 case), asthma (2 cases), and allergy (4 case). There were 917 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

- Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha has declared a nationwide state of emergency aimed at elevating the Centre for the Administration of Spread of the COVID-19 Virus to function as the Centre for the Resolution of the Emergency Situation and is prepared to impose more legal and stringent measures to effectively control the spread of disease. The state of emergency is effective from 26 March to 30 April 2020.
- Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam has declared initial restrictions after the Prime Minister's announcement regarding a nationwide state of emergency. The initial restrictions included prohibiting foreign travelers from entering the Kingdom of Thailand except for Thai citizens, shippers as appropriate, diplomats or representatives of international bodies who have to work in Thailand. As of now, people can leave their houses as usual. People over 70 years old, those with existing illness such as diabetes, allergies or respiratory problems, and children under 5 years of age are strongly recommended to stay home at all times unless they have to seek medical treatment or if there are necessary errands. People are suggested to refrain from traveling to other provinces. Moreover, the Deputy Prime Minister also addressed that this emergency decree is not a lockdown of Thailand as airports are still open for Thai citizens who want to return home.
- The Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health announced to search for people who have traveled to various locations in Bangkok and other provinces such as Ubon Ratchathani, Khon Kaen, Songkhla, Nakhon Ratchasima, Nonthaburi, Surin, Phrae, Rayong and Chiang Rai, 10 provinces in total. There are 40 areas at-risk of COVID-19 infection. People should immediately report to the officers and follow the guidelines which include self-quarantine, reporting symptoms, self-observation, seeking medical care and notifying public health officials.
- The Fine Arts Department issued an announcement regarding the temporary closure of the National Museum, historical parks, archaeological sites that have an entrance fee, the National Library and the National Archives. These places will be closed between 25 March 2020 to 25 April 2020
- Thai Airways International Plc (THAI) is to temporarily suspend all international flights after several countries have announced lockdowns to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and there are less passengers which has led to more expenses. However, the airways still provides the transport of goods in some routes and will operate charter flights if there are stranded passengers or if they are requested by related government agencies. Further announcements will be made when there are any changes.
- Disinfection chambers were installed in Phetchabun province to spray clothes and people to prevent COVID-19. This disinfection chamber was invented by Phetchabun Municipality, Thai Thong Dee Shop and TOT Public Company Limited to prevent the spread of the virus when people visit crowded places which are risk areas for getting infection. The chamber has been modified from TOT's public telephone booths which are no longer in use and they were installed at various places across Phetchabun city.
- Airlines in Thailand have temporarily halted their flights due to the COVID-19 epidemic including Thai Airways, Thai Smile, Nok Air, Thai Lion Air, Air Asia, VietJet Air and Bangkok Airways.

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.