

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

Thailand situation update on 26 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 26 March 2020, there were a total of 478,331 confirmed cases, with 14,797 patients in critical condition and 21,524 COVID-19 deaths across more than 195 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 81,769 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China. In the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 453 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 31 confirmed cases in Macau. There have been 74,386 confirmed cases in Italy, 68,573 confirmed cases in the United States, 49,515 confirmed cases in Spain, 39,355 confirmed cases in Germany, 29,406 confirmed cases in Iran, 25,233 confirmed cases in France, 11,027 confirmed cases in Switzerland, 9,529 confirmed cases in England and 9,241 confirmed cases in South Korea.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 25 March 2020 showed that among 35,060 flights, there were a total of 4,262,380 passengers screened. Among those, 384 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 126,707 people from 1,128 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 25 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,676,535 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 25 March 2020. Between 30 January to 26 March 2020, a total of 132,019 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 376 people.

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

On 26 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,270 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 15,292 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) | 15,292 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) | 384 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports | 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals | 14,818 |

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| 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) | 15,292 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) | 6,618 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals | 6,799 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home | 1,875 |
| Confirmed cases | 1,045 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals | 97 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment | 944 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths | 4 |
| Severe cases (including undergoing treatment) | 12 |

In Thailand, there have been 1,045 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 97 patients have recovered and returned home, four patients have died, and four are in critical condition. Of the 14,247 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 8,406 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 5,841 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 6 months to 83 years old). 583 cases are male, and 349 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.7:1) and gender data is not available for 113 cases. In terms of nationality, 823 are Thai, 28 cases are Chinese, five are Danish, three are Japanese, five are British, three are Italian, four are American, three are Canadian, two are Singaporean, one is French Guianese, three are Belgian, eight 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 140.

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 (3 cases), and allergy (4 case). There were 1,027 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

- Today (26 March), at 3:00 am, police officers, soldiers, transportation officers and district offices have set up screening checkpoints for people, passengers, and drivers who are traveling to Bangkok in order to check and find people who may have COVID-19. Travelers will be asked about their additional travel plans to prevent the spread of the disease. The process in every checkpoint will be the same and will be deployed from today (26 March) to 30 April 2020.
- The Governor of Phuket (Mr. Pakkapong Tawipat) has signed the Phuket announcement requesting tourist cooperation to limit their movement and avoid outdoor gatherings due to the COVID-19 epidemic. Thai and foreign tourists who were living in hotels, condominiums, or other accommodations were asked for cooperation not to go outside from 17.00 until midnight starting 25 March 2020
- Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary Chatchai Promlert sent out a letter to all governors. All provinces have to issue orders to assign governing officers, police, and soldiers in the area to jointly set up checkpoints at provincial crossings. They are also arranging traffic, surveillance and observation of travelers and behaviors that are at-risk of getting infection from midnight of Thursday, March 26 onwards.
- The Khlong Saen Saep Express boats, Krobkrua Konsong (Family transportation) company stopped its operations due to the COVID-19 situation for the safety of all passengers. from March 27, 2020 onwards until the situation has returned to normal.
- Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan has presented three-fold remedy measures for farmers affected by drought and who are currently suffering from the impact of COVID-19. Measures suggested towards the government to consider 1) 6 month debt suspension for all farmers 2) faster process to pay compensation for farmers affected by drought (2,500 baht per rai, not exceeding more than 20 rai) 3) allocate SML budget for every village to develop water resources, roads, utilities only by using local labor for income distribution to the people in villages and communities.
- On March 26, 2020, Police General Chakthip Chaijinda set up an emergency situation operations center. He assigned Deputy Commissioner Police General Suwat Chaengyodsuk to be the director of the center. He was responsible for giving police officers direction when working with other agencies, receiving missions from the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters and coordinating with the operations of the main mechanisms of each area throughout the country through the Internal Security Operations Command to drive the use of police officers in the area of military administration and related operations units.
- On March 21, 2020, Sheikhul Islam Office issued an announcement regarding measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 mentioning about refraining from Muslim prayer activities so that all mosques under the Provincial Islamic Committee of Thailand will implement the preventive measures in the country.

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.

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- 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.