

Thailand situation update on 27 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 27 March 2020, there were a total of 540,832 confirmed cases, with 19,883 patients in critical condition and 24,293 COVID-19 deaths across more than 196 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong and Macau), and on cruise ships. There have been 85,612 confirmed cases in the United States, 81,891 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China (in the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 518 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 33 confirmed cases in Macau), 80,589 confirmed cases in Italy, 57,786 confirmed cases in Spain, 47,278 confirmed cases in Germany, 32,332 confirmed cases in Iran, 29,155 confirmed cases in France, 11,811 confirmed cases in Switzerland, 11,658 confirmed cases in England and 9,332 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 26 March 2020 showed that among 35,452 flights, there were a total of 4,292,267 passengers screened. Among those, 389 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 128,768 people from 1,132 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 26 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,704,190 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 26 March 2020. Between 30 January to 27 March 2020, a total of 133,812 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 386 people.

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

On 27 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,181 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 16,473 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)	16,473
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	389
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals 	15,994

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

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)	16,473
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	7,353
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	6,997
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	2,123
Confirmed cases	1,136
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,031
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	5
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	14

In Thailand, there have been 1,136 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 100 patients have recovered and returned home, four patients have died, and four are in critical condition. Of the 15,337 PUI cases, laboratory results revealed that 8,618 cases returned negative for the COVID-19 virus, and results are pending for the remaining 6,719 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 6 months to 84 years old). 625 cases are male, and 378 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.65:1) and gender data is not available for 133 cases.

In terms of nationality, 887 are Thai, 28 cases are Chinese, five are Danish, three are Japanese, six are British, six 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, one is Indian and data are not available for 163.

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 cases). There were 1,118 cases reported without any underlying disease. 19 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 699 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 418 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 March 23, Mr. Raphi Phongbuphakit, Governor of Chachoengsao issued announcement No. 16/2563 regarding the closure of places to control the COVID-19 outbreak. All playgrounds in Chachoengsao province will be temporarily closed from March 26 to April 8, and convenience stores and retail stores will be temporarily closed from 11.00 PM to 05.00 AM from 27 March until 8 April.
- On March 26, the Commission on Prices of Goods and Services issued announcement No. 12 B.E. 2020 prohibiting the export of fresh laid eggs outside the Kingdom of Thailand in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet. This is to prevent inadequate supply of consumer goods and to provide a sufficient amount of freshly laid eggs for domestic consumption and so consumers can buy them at a fair price.
- The Commander in Chief of the Royal Thai Army General Apirat Kongsompong ordered the Director of Personnel Lieutenant General Ayuth Sriwiset to set up an investigation committee for the cluster of cases at a large boxing match on March 6 at the Lumpinee Boxing Stadium. This committee is being established to consider the punishment of the widely criticized event as a source of the COVID-19 epidemic and as a super spreading event in Thailand.
- The Director-General of the Department of Labor Protection and Welfare explained that if any establishment allows employees to work, they must pay their wages, and if there is a change in employment conditions, such as reducing working hours, reducing wages, it can be done but must also obtain the employee's consent. The payment of wages must not be less than the minimum wage. The employer shall give written notice to the employee and the Labour Inspector not less than 3 working days prior to the date of suspension of business in accordance with the Labour Protection Act 1998 (B.E. 2541), Section 75.

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.



The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

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- 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.