

Thailand situation update on 28 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 28 March 2020, there were a total of 602,184 confirmed cases, with 23,569 patients in critical condition and 27,468 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 104,256 confirmed cases in the United States, 86,498 confirmed cases in Italy, 81,947 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China (in the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 519 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 34 confirmed cases in Macau), 65,719 confirmed cases in Spain, 53,340 confirmed cases in Germany, 32,332 confirmed cases in Iran, 32,964 confirmed cases in France, 14,543 confirmed cases in England, 13,138 confirmed cases in Switzerland, and 9,478 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 27 March 2020 showed that among 35,475 flights, there were a total of 4,314,427 passengers screened. Among those, 391 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 129,055 people from 1,147 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 27 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,724,551 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 27 March 2020. Between 30 January to 28 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 393 people.

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

On 27 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 667 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 17,140 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)	17,140
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	391
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2

Situation	Total number of PUI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 2,196 cases, Government hospitals: 2,221 cases) 	16,659
<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)	17,140
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	7,614
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	7,326
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	2,200
Confirmed cases	1,246
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	111
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,128
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	6
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	19

In Thailand, there have been 1,245 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 111 patients have recovered and returned home, six patients have died, and four are in critical condition. Of the remaining 15,895 PUI, 9,222 cases returned negative laboratory results, and results are pending for 6,673 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 6 months to 84 years old). 676 cases are male, and 430 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.57:1) and gender data is not available for 139 cases.

In terms of nationality, 984 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, none are French, two are Pakistani, one is Burmese, one is Malaysian, three are Swiss, one is a New Zealander, three are Swedish, four are German, one is Finnish, one is Filipino, one is Indian, one is Spanish, one is Ukrainian, and data are not available for 167.

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 1,127 cases reported without any underlying disease. 19 cases were detected

from the screening protocol at airports, 76h cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 460 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 Prime Minister has earmarked a 1,500-million-baht budget to the Ministry of Public Health for the procurement of medicine, medical supplies, and necessary medical equipment to treat COVID-19 patients. The Government Pharmaceutical Organization is responsible for state-to-state procurement. The COVID-19 Medical Supplies Distribution Center which comprises of the Government Pharmaceutical Organization, Food and Drug Administration and related agencies will distribute medicine and medical supplies to every government hospital including hospitals under the Ministry of Public Health, the Thai Red Cross University Hospital, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, the police, the military, and private hospitals that treat COVID-19 patients. The Ministry of Commerce is allocating 1.5 million hygienic masks per day, in order to be sufficient for health care workers who might have come into contact with COVID-19 patients.
- After three doctors were infected with SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) causing 21 personnel to be placed under quarantine, Bannangsta Hospital (Yala province) announced that it is a high-risk area and will be open for emergency patients only, and has transferred in-patients to nearby hospitals, except for patients who are already infected with COVID-19 and are still being treated.
- The Superintendent of the Krabi Police Station instructed 7 police officers to self-quarantine for self-monitoring and avoid contact with other people for 14 days, after they caught a patient who escaped from a hospital two days ago. The police have to report their symptoms daily and they are not considered on leave. People who seek service from government agencies will be required to pass through a scanner and can only enter/exit through one designated door. Face masks provided for those who do not wear one, and alcohol gel is also provided for people.
- The director of Thailand Institute of Justice proposed consideration for some prisoners to be released early or temporarily released by using Electronic Monitoring (EM) bracelets as a tool to monitor their movement. This is for the efficiency of the administration including safety and health of both the prisons and society. It would also solve prison congestion, where it is not possible to comply with social distancing.
- Chulalongkorn Hospital announced that the N95 masks will soon **run out of** stock and they just have enough left for two weeks because of the COVID-19 epidemic. They tried to procure more but there is still not enough, so they asked for the cooperation from their staff to limit using the masks and inform the measures to control their requisition. They established a committee to consider requisitioning the PPE of all agencies which mainly focuses on the safety of their staff.
- After the government announced the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situation, B.E. 2548, they announced a measure to hand out 5,000 Baht per month to the people affected by the COVID-19 epidemic for three months. People can register via www.เราไม่ทิ้งกัน.com from 28 March 2020 at 6 p.m. onwards and do not need to go to bank.

- The Governor of the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA) and Bangkok Expressway and the Metro Public Company Limited requested the collaboration from the MRT passengers who travel across the province to fill out the prepared health information document at the destination station located outside Bangkok and bring the said document with them throughout the trip since the government officer may ask the passengers to present the aforementioned document in accordance with the measures on rail transport management under the declaration on the state of emergency to control the spread of COVID-19.

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.