

Thailand situation update on 29 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 29 March 2020, there were a total of 668,705 confirmed cases, with 25,377 patients in critical condition and 31,065 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 123,781 confirmed cases in the United States, 92,472 confirmed cases in Italy, 82,055 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China (in the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 582 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 34 confirmed cases in Macau), 73,235 confirmed cases in Spain, 58,247 confirmed cases in Germany, 37,575 confirmed cases in France, 35,408 confirmed cases in Iran, 17,089 confirmed cases in England, 14,352 confirmed cases in Switzerland, and 10,836 confirmed cases in Belgium.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 28 March 2020 showed that among 35,708 flights, there were a total of 4,333,359 passengers screened. Among those, 406 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 129,292 people from 1,162 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 27 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,729,178 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 28 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 408 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 17,779 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)	17,779
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	406
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 2,196 cases, Government hospitals: 2,221 cases) 	17,283

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by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

Situation	Total number of PUI
<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)	17,779
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	8,021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	7,468
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	2,290
Confirmed cases	1,388
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	258
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,123
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	7
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	23

In Thailand, there have been 1,388 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 258 patients have recovered and returned home, seven patients have died, and four are in critical condition. Of the remaining 16,391 PUI, 9,430 cases returned negative laboratory results, and results are pending for 6,961 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 36 years old (ranging from 6 months to 84 years old). 768 cases are male, and 499 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.53:1) and gender data is not available for 121 cases.

In terms of nationality, 1,128 are Thai, 30 cases are Chinese, 10 are French, nine are British, six are Japanese, six are Italian, five are Danish, five are American, four are Burmese, four are German, four are Swiss, three are Canadian, three are Swedish, three are Belgian, two are Singaporean, two are Portuguese, two are Indonesian, two are Pakistani, two are Spanish, two are Cambodian, two are Indian, one is French Guianese, one is Malaysian, one is Iranian, one is a New Zealander, one is Finnish, one is Filipino, one is Uzbek, one is Ukrainian, one is South Korean, and data are not available for 145.

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 1,370 cases reported without any underlying disease. 19 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 878 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 491 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

- Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and the executive team visited the COVID-19 patient management system at Ramathibodi Chakri Naruebodindra Hospital. The COVID-19 Medical Supplies Distribution Center has assigned the Government Pharmaceutical Organization to be a supplier and to distribute protective face masks to hospitals under the Ministry of Public Health, and university hospitals. The hospitals under the Ministry of Public Health will receive 7,129,350 masks per day. The hospitals which are not affiliated with the Ministry of Public Health will receive 334,000 per day. The university hospitals and the faculty of dentists, private hospitals and hospitals under the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration will buy masks directly from the manufacturer.
- According to the government's supportive measures to assist those affected by COVID-19 by registering through the website. www.เราไม่ทิ้งกัน.com, it was found that there were 44 fake websites that imitated the website's URL and enticed people to give identification data for their own advantage. The official website will remain open until no more people register. An AI system will be used to consider the qualifications of the registrants as quick as 7 working days.
- The Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-Cha went to the Government House to monitor the situation and to hold a meeting to discuss and follow up the progress with relevant agencies to deal with the spread of the virus in the country. There were also discussions about bringing approximately 7,000 Thai nationals back from Italy and there are preparations to coordinate charter aircrafts carrying evacuees to Thailand.
- The Labour Minister M.R. Chatu Mongkol Sonakul called for an urgent meeting of senior executives of the Ministry of Labor and relevant government agencies to discuss measures to help workers who have registered in the social security system and who have been affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. The meeting agreed for the Ministry of Labour and the Social Security Office to amend the ministerial regulations, so that insured people in the social security system that are eligible to receive compensation for lack of income are entitled to receive a minimum of 5,000 baht per month. This will be effective from 1 March 2020, and will be proposed to the cabinet meeting for their approval this Tuesday, 31 March.
- Phuket governor Pakkhapong Thawiphat issued Announcement No. 11/2020 regarding closure of risky venues as the measures to curb the spread of the COVID-19. Entry and exit will be closed starting from 00.01 of March 30 to April 30, 2020 or until the situation has improved.

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

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<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.
- 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.