

Thailand situation update on 30 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 30 March 2020, there were a total of 731,453 confirmed cases, with 26,820 patients in critical condition and 34,660 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 142,737 confirmed cases in the United States, 97,689 confirmed cases in Italy, 85,195 confirmed cases in Spain, 82,150 confirmed cases in the People's Republic of China (in the Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, there have been 642 confirmed cases in Hong Kong, and 38 confirmed cases in Macau), 62,435 confirmed cases in Germany, 40,174 confirmed cases in France, 38,309 confirmed cases in Iran, 19,522 confirmed cases in England, 15,069 confirmed cases in Switzerland, and 11,899 confirmed cases in Belgium.

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 29 March 2020 showed that among 36,045 flights, there were a total of 4,358,901 passengers screened. Among those, 452 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 129,590 people from 1,174 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 29 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,733,913 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 29 March 2020. Between 30 January to 30 March 2020, a total of 135,271 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 454 people.

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

On 30 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 917 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 18,696 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)	18,696
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	452
<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) 	18,154

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)	18,696
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	8,502
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	7,653
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	2,541
Confirmed cases	1,524
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	342
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,173
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	9
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	23

In Thailand, there have been 1,524 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 342 patients have recovered and returned home, nine patients have died, and four are in critical condition. Of the remaining 17,172 PUI, 9,815 cases returned negative laboratory results, and results are pending for 7,357 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 34 years old (ranging from 6 months to 84 years old). 828 cases are male, and 560 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.48:1) and gender data is not available for 136 cases.

In terms of nationality, 1,227 are Thai, 31 cases are Chinese, 15 are French, 10 are British, six are Japanese, six are Italian, six are American, six are Burmese, five are Danish, four are Swiss, four are Canadian, three are Swedish, three are German, three are Belgian, three are Pakistani, two are Singaporean, two are Portuguese, two are Indonesian, 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, one is Laos, one is Thai-Belgian, one is Russian, one is Vietnamese, one is Albanian and data are not available for 166.

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 1,493 cases reported without any underlying disease. 20 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 973 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 531 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 Phuket Governor announced to shut down Phuket for 30 days. Only some vehicles will be allowed such as vehicles that carry necessary supplies.
- Volunteer groups in Chiang Mai jointly created functional acrylic boxes to block patient secretions from contaminating health care workers and donated them to medical providers including nurses in various hospitals to fight the COVID-19 epidemic, free of charge. Auto parts manufacturers also built disinfectant-spraying booths for employees before entering the building as well as giving them health recommendations.
- The State Railway of Thailand has adjusted the southern route (Bangkok - Hat Yai), destination in Yala and Sungai Kolok after the COVID-19 epidemic and the closure of Yala province. People are not allowed to travel in and out, and people can refund the full fare of their tickets.
- The Prime Minister received an innovative rapid test, called the "Chula COVID-19 Strip Test Service" from Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn, President, Chulalongkorn University, in an amount of 100,000 sets. This is for the government to serve the people in screening those at-risk.
- Thailand has announced to temporarily suspend production at two factories, Ford Thailand Manufacturing (FTM) and Auto Alliance (AAT), between 27 March - 20 April 2020 to prevent the COVID-19 outbreak from further spreading. Ford insists that employees will still be paid based on classification into two groups. First, those still working on-site will receive 100% of their salary and people who work at home will get 90% however, they are able to use the annual compensation holiday to get 100% to be paid as salary.
- Mitsubishi Motors Thailand has announced a temporary shutdown of all factories in Chonburi within April and will still pay 85% of wages, in accordance with the capacity adjustment plan in line with the market situation. Car sales have fallen due to the COVID-19 epidemic.
- Sa Kaeo has increased the number of border checkpoints to 19 points until the COVID-19 situation returns to normal, after Sa Kaeo was classified as 1 of 5 risky areas. For patients who have an appointment to receive medication at hospital, they have to wait to receive the medication at home starting from April 1.
- The College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University is concerned about the risk of COVID-19 in elderly and their children who return home should be quarantined, isolated and separated from having meals. Moreover, the elderly, are recommended to stay at home throughout this time.
- Pol. Lt. Gen. Sapon Pisuttiwong, The Deputy Governor of Bangkok stated that Bangkok elevated the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the risk areas of Bangkok in accordance with the MoPH recommendations, especially risk communication to the public about implementing self-protection and social distancing. In addition, the relevant sectors are performing their duties and responsibilities to mitigate the situation of COVID - 19
- Palang Pracharath Party opened legal centers to provide service to people during the COVID-19 outbreak including launching an application for communicating and sharing information with the public.

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.
- 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.