

Thailand situation update on 31 March 2020

1. International Situation

As of 31 March 2020, there were a total of 789,240 confirmed cases, with 29,661 patients in critical condition and 38,092 COVID-19 deaths across more than 197 countries, two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong and Macau), and on cruise ships. The ten countries with the most confirmed COVID-19 cases include: United States (164,359 cases), Italy (101,739), Spain (87,956), the People's Republic of China (82,270 cases, as well as 714 and 38 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), Germany (67,051), France (44,550), Iran (41,495), England (22,141), Switzerland (15,922), and Belgium (12,775).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 30 March 2020 showed that among 36,151 flights, there were a total of 4,366,787 passengers screened. Among those, 488 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 130,075 people from 1,198 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 30 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,736,408 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 30 March 2020. Between 30 January to 31 March 2020, a total of 137,860 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 490 people.

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

On 30 March 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,401 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 20,097 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)	20,097
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	488
<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) 	19,519

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)	20,097
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment (Private hospitals: 1,006 cases, Government hospitals: 832 cases) 	9,086
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered from illnesses and discharged from the hospitals 	8,306
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home 	2,705
Confirmed cases	1,651
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	416
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,225
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	10
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	23

In Thailand, there have been 1,651 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 416 patients have recovered and returned home, nine patients have died, and four are in critical condition. Of the remaining 18,446 PUI, 10,853 cases returned negative laboratory results, and results are pending for 7,593 PUI.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 34 years old (ranging from 5 months to 84 years old). 915 cases are male, and 650 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.41:1) and gender data is not available for 86 cases.

In terms of nationality, 1,386 are Thai, 31 cases are Chinese, 16 are French, 15 are British, seven are American, six are Japanese, six are Italian, six are Burmese, five are Danish, four are Swiss, four are Canadian, four are German, three are Swedish, three are Belgian, three are Pakistani, three are South Korean, 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 Laos, one is Thai-Belgian, one is Russian, one is Vietnamese, one is Albanian, one is Taiwanese, and data are not available for 123.

Underlying diseases were found in some of those cases including hypertension (9 cases), allergy (6 cases), diabetes (4 cases), other NCDs (6 cases), asthma (7 cases), dyslipidemia (1 case), psoriasis (1 case), salivary gland cancer (1 case), paranasal sinus disease (1 case), COPD (1 case), multiple underlying diseases (2 cases), There were 1,612 cases reported without any underlying disease. 20 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 1,059 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 572 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

- Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, graciously granted permission to use Suda Duenpen Training Centre and the accommodations of the Chaipattana Foundation, Nakhon Nayok province as a rehabilitation facility for recovered COVID-19 patients before they return home.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined the operations center for establishing measures on travel in and out country, as well as discussed speeding up the process of bringing back Thai people and the management of foreigners who still remain in Thailand. Moreover, there were discussions about management of outbound foreign passengers.
- Nonthaburi province issued additional preventive measures. People over 60 years old are required to refrain from leaving their homes. Their close contacts and healthcare providers to elderly patients also need to take care of themselves and strictly follow the government's instructions. People are strongly requested to wear face masks when going out, avoid mass gathering activities such as ordination and wedding ceremonies, and avoid or postpone funerals. Workplaces and construction sites are requested to arrange handwashing facilities and reduce congestion in the workplace.
Nonthaburi province also announced the temporary closure of areas from 1 April 2020 to 30 April 2020, including educational institutions at all levels, exhibition venues, shopping malls, convention centers, department stores, shopping malls, markets and flea markets. These places are only allowed to open to sell fresh food, dry food, essential items etc. Restaurants can be opened for selling food from 05.00 - 23.00 but seating or standing areas for eating can not be provided. Moreover, service providers asked for consumer cooperation to wear face masks before entering every store and those who do not wear masks will be denied service. Service shops and various public places will also need to be closed
- The State Railway of Thailand announced to stop operating 22 commercial services which will affect trains from Bangkok to the North (6 trains), the Northeast (6 trains) and the South (10 trains) from 1 April onwards, to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 epidemic or until the situation returns to normal. Passengers can request to receive full refunds.
- The provincial governor of Sakon Nakhon Province, Mr. Monsit Phaisan Thanawat, issued a notice prohibiting shops from liquor distribution establishments, but they can sell other products. The closures apply to places such as shops and establishments with Type 1 and Type 2 liquor licenses, which is temporarily permitted under the Excise Tax Act B.E. 2560. This measure will be effective from 31 March to 16 April 2020 in order to keep people safe from the spread of COVID-19.
- The Deputy Spokesperson for the Office of the Attorney General, Mr. Kosolwat Inthuchanyong, issued a public warning referring to the culture in many countries, on the 1st of April in every year (April Fools' Day), that people will play jokes by lying to one another. Therefore, people are strongly requested not to share false news because it is illegal and is punishable. Sharing false information may be risky, according to the Emergency Decree, and especially the sharing of false information about COVID-19, which can result in a punishment with imprisonment of not more than 2 years and/or a fine of not more than 40,000 baht.
- Songkhla Nakarin University, Pattani Campus opened a dormitory to quarantine 57 students returning from Pakistan for 14 days before sending them back to their hometowns.

The staff from Pattani Provincial Health Office will be responsible for the quarantine process at the dormitory in accordance with DDC MoPH measures.

- Ranong is preparing to issue measures for controlling the travel of people who live outside the area. From 1 April 2020, if those people would like to go in and out of the province, they must present a medical certification. People entering the province must present themselves to the subdistrict headman, head of village, Chief Executive of the Subdistrict Administrative Organization (SAO) or mayor and must implement self-quarantine for 14 days. If anyone fails to comply with the rules, they will be punished in accordance with the law. In addition, Ranong will issue an official announcement specifying that if anyone departs from Ranong to other areas and makes a return, they must implement self-quarantine for 14 days. In case people outside Ranong (including tourists) want to enter the area, they must present a medical certification (issued within 3 days) and implement self quarantine for 14 days as well. They must also be responsible for their own financial expenditures during the 14 day quarantine.

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.