

Thailand situation update on 1 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 1 April 2020, there were a total of 861,113 confirmed cases, with 33,092 patients in critical condition and 42,385 COVID-19 deaths across more than 200 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 (188,592 cases), Italy (105,792), Spain (95,923), the People's Republic of China (82,310 cases, as well as 715 and 41 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), Germany (71,808), France (52,128), Iran (44,605), England (25,150), Switzerland (16,605), and Turkey (13,531).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 31 March 2020 showed that among 36,267 flights, there were a total of 4,373,405 passengers screened. Among those, 505 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 130,568 people from 1,287 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 31 March 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,741,630 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 31 March 2020. Between 30 January to 1 April 2020, a total of 140,302 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 507 people.

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

On 1 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,506 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 21,603 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)	21,603
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	505
<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) 	21,008

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
Confirmed cases	1,771
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	505
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,251
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	12
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	23

In Thailand, there have been 1,771 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 505 patients have recovered and returned home, 12 patients have died, and 23 are in critical condition.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 34 years old (ranging from 5 months to 84 years old). 963 cases are male, and 708 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.36:1) and gender data is not available for 100 cases.

In terms of nationality, 1,486 are Thai, 31 cases are Chinese, 16 are French, 15 are British, eight are American, seven are Japanese, six are Italian, six are Burmese, six are Canadian, five are Danish, four are Swiss, 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, two are Malaysian, two are Russian, one is French Guianese, 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 Vietnamese, one is Albanian, one is Taiwanese, one is Serbian, and data are not available for 136.

Underlying diseases were found in some of those cases including hypertension (12 cases), allergy (7 cases), diabetes (5 cases), other NCDs (7 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 (4 cases), Stroke (1 case), epilepsy (1 case), There were 1,722 cases reported without any underlying disease. 36 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 1,115 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 620 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 Governor of Sa Kaeo Province ordered convenience stores to close from 11pm to 5am from 2 April 2020 to 30 April 2020 to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19.
- The Governor of Samut Prakan Province ordered the closure of convenience stores during 11pm to 5am from 1 April 2020 to 30 April 2020 to mitigate infection numbers. People who go outside, are to wear a mask.
- The Governor of Nonthaburi Province imposed a curfew from 11pm to 5am except those who deliver goods, those who work at those specific times, and people with urgent needs. The effective date is March 31 onwards, to contain the spread of coronavirus

- The Governor of Phitsanulok Province issued an announcement asking for public cooperation not to leave their houses between 11pm to 5am except for people who deliver goods or people who have to work during the period. This will come into effect on 1 April 2020 onwards. There is also a closure of liquor stores, natural attractions and dams as tourist attractions from 1-30 April 2020.
- The Governor of Lampang Province asked civil servants, employees in government agencies and all government agencies based in Lampang Province to refrain or delay travel across provinces from 1 - 30 April 2020.
- Patong municipality (Phuket) issued an announcement requesting people's cooperation to detain themselves at their residences. Patong municipality will arrange staff to deliver food and drinking water daily, 3 times a day.
- The Governor of Mae Hong Son Province ordered people to remain in their residences from 10pm to 4am, unless urgent or necessary. People are barred from entering and exiting Mae Hong Son province from 10pm to 4am, except for certain cases such as medical treatment, transportation of essential goods, emergency cars, ambulance vehicles, and government vehicles. Foreigners are not permitted to enter the province. Thai citizens traveling from Bangkok Metropolitan Administration or provinces at risk of COVID-19 infection, have to report to the public health volunteers or the village headman, subdistrict headman or the disease control officer in the area. They are also required to self-quarantine for 14 days. All accommodation operators have to screen for fever before registering guests, which will be effective from 1 - 14 April 2020.
- All commercial banks extended the period for not providing account opening services and applying for PromptPay at their branches until 6 April 2020. Services will return to normal on 7 April 2020, in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Other services can still be operated at the branches as usual. People can still use electronic and online channels.
- Bangkok Mass Transit Authority enhanced social distancing measures by placing adhesive tape on the passenger seats beginning on 31 March 2020 onwards.
- The Bangkok Mass Transit Authority State Enterprise Workers Union proposed Bangkok Mass Transit Authority (BMTA) to provide temporarily free bus service until April 30, 2020, according to the Emergency Decree to reduce the risk of BMTA bus conductors (about 5,700 people) getting infected as they have to collect fares from passengers.
- Mahasarakham is preparing to establish field hospitals. The Suddhavej Hospital - Faculty of Medicine, Mahasarakham University will adapt a university dormitory to be a field hospital and residence for medical staff in order to cope with the COVID – 19 outbreak even though the situation of COVID -19 in Mahasarakham is still not critical. This field hospital is planned to admit only recovered patients who are referred from other hospitals and are under the quarantine period. This kind of service will help minimize the congestion of patients and the problem of insufficient beds at hospitals in the future.
- The Ministry of Industry is preparing to distribute 10 million cloth masks to people living in Bangkok via Post mail for preventing the spread of COVID-19. The first 1 million cloth masks will reach the people by the beginning of April.
- Bangkok issued measures to temporarily close places/areas from 2 April to 30 April 2020. Restaurants, shops selling beverages, and food stalls can open for take-away/take-out from 5.01 AM to midnight. Supermarkets must close from midnight to 5.00 AM. All public and private parks will be closed.

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.