

Thailand situation update on 2 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 2 April 2020, there were a total of 938,923 confirmed cases, with 35,757 patients in critical condition and 47,314 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 (215,344 cases), Italy (110,574), Spain (104,118), the People's Republic of China (82,432 cases, as well as 802 and 41 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), Germany (77,981), France (56,989), Iran (47,593), England (29,474), Switzerland (17,781), and Turkey (15,679).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 1 April 2020 showed that among 36,402 flights, there were a total of 4,380,811 passengers screened. Among those, 506 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 130,922 people from 1,304 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 1 April 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,749,389 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 1 April 2020. Between 30 January to 2 April 2020, a total of 141,823 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 508 people.

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

On 2 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 850 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 22,453 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) | 22,453 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) | 506 |
| <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) | 21,857 |

| 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 | 1,875 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals | 518 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment | 1,279 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths | 15 |
| Severe cases (including undergoing treatment) | 23 |

In Thailand, there have been 1,875 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 581 patients have recovered and returned home, 15 patients have died, and 23 are in critical condition undergoing treatment.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 34 years old (ranging from 5 months to 84 years old). 1,012 cases are male, and 769 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.32:1) and gender data is not available for 94 cases.

In terms of nationality, 1,577 are Thai, 31 cases are Chinese, 17 are French, 15 are British, nine are American, nine are Japanese, seven are Burmese, seven are Canadian, six are Italian, five are Danish, five are German, five are Swedish, five are Russian, four are Swiss, four are Belgian, four 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, 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, one is Australian, one is German-Swiss, and data are not available for 132.

Underlying diseases were found in some of those cases including hypertension (14 cases), allergy (9 cases), diabetes (5 cases), other NCDs (12 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 (5 cases), Stroke (1 case), epilepsy (1 case), Thyroid Disease (1 case), There were 1,815 cases reported without any underlying disease. 39 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 1,172 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 664 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

- H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ban Thais and foreigners from entering the country from today until April 15, 2020 due to the increasing number of new infections among imported cases.
- Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha announced to increase the measures against COVID-19 by declaring second-level directives imposed under the Emergency Decree. The prime minister ordered a nationwide 10 p.m.-to-4 a.m curfew effective from April 3, with the exception of necessary tasks, medical workers, banks, delivery of consumable goods, crops, medicine, medical supplies and equipment, newspapers, fuel, parcels, goods for export or

import, transporting people to quarantine sites, those working on the night shift, and those coming from or going to airports with certified documents of travel during this period of time. Any person violating any of these provisions shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 40,000 Baht or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.

- Surin Province announced temporary closure of the following facilities: entertainment spots, institutes/tutoring schools, Chong Chom market, flea markets, exercise classes and facilities, non-essential health establishments (i.e. massage shops), department stores (except the supermarket section, drug stores, banks, communication service centres), public and private nurseries, beauty parlours, liquor stores, and grilled pork and hot pot restaurants. Beverage shops, restaurants, and street food stalls can be opened only for take-out services. Restaurants and beverage shops in hospitals can be open as usual. Staff, operators, employees and service users must comply with disease prevention measures.
- Songklanagarind Hospital Branch 2 was established and located at the Tinsulanonda Building, Elderly Care Center, General Prem Tinsulanonda Historical Park, Mueang, Songkhla province. This branch will serve as a place to support COVID-19 patients who have improved symptoms and been discharged from hospitals in Songkhla Province and still have to recover completely. It has been established so that the hospital has enough beds for patients with severe symptoms.
- Phuket has shut down bike rental businesses from April 2-30, 2020. Convenience stores were also required to be closed nightly from 20.00 – 03.00 hrs. from April 2-30, 2020.
- The provincial governor of Satun Province ordered surveillance measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 by restricting the movement of people who travel in-out across the area of Satun Province. Exceptions will be made for medical services or treatments, any necessary actions for keeping people safe from viruses, transporting consumer goods, medical supplies, ambulance and emergency service vehicles, and government vehicles from 3-30 April 2020
- Samut Sakhon Province announced measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. From 3-30 April 2020, people must wear a mask or cloth mask when leaving their house. Places such as shops, restaurants, markets, establishments, etc. require people to wear hygienic masks or cloth masks. If people do not put on masks, they may be refused for service. Temperature screening points before entering buildings, and alcohol gel must be provided. People are also required to implement social distancing measures.
- Chiang Mai issued additional measures to control the travel of foreign and Thai people arriving from risk areas to the province. Those people must implement self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to Chiang Mai.
- The Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) approved an emergency budget in the amount of 660 Million Baht for purchasing 400,000 N95 masks and 400,000 PPE supplies from the People's Republic of China. 150,000 units per set of the aforementioned medical equipment will be transported within this week. The remaining supplies will be transported by ship within the next 2 -3 weeks.
- Thai Airways International Public Co.ltd announced to its staff to stop working for two months. The effective dates are from 4 April to 31 May 2020 and their salary will be reduced at around 10–50%.
- The Royal Thai Airforce is developing a robot named “Nong-Tard-Loom” to service the COVID-19 patients. This robot which has a face detection system, will reduce the workload

of medical staff and the risk of entering the quarantined areas of patients, help to deliver food/medicine, and check the patients' body temperatures. The robot will be piloted and tested for efficiency on 6-9 April 2020.

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.