

Thailand situation update on 3 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 3 April 2020, there were a total of 1,018,985 confirmed cases, with 37,688 patients in critical condition and 53,292 COVID-19 deaths across more than 201 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 (245,373 cases), Italy (115,242), Spain (112,065), Germany (84,794), the People's Republic of China (82,463 cases, as well as 802 and 41 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), France (59,105), Iran (50,468), England (33,718), Switzerland (18,827), and Turkey (18,135).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 2 April 2020 showed that among 36,412 flights, there were a total of 4,385,111 passengers screened. Among those, 551 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 131,248 people from 1,336 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 2 April 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,755,874 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 2 April 2020. Between 30 January to 3 April 2020, a total of 143,664 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 553 people.

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

On 3 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,216 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 23,669 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)	23,669
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	551
<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) 	23,028

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	1,978
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	612
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,347
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	19
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	23

In Thailand, there have been 1,978 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 612 patients have recovered and returned home, 19 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 86 years old). 1,074 cases are male, and 827 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.3:1) and gender data is not available for 77 cases.

In terms of nationality, 1,686 are Thai, 32 cases are Chinese, 21 are French, 17 are British, nine are American, nine are Japanese, seven are Burmese, seven are Canadian, seven are German, seven are Russian, six are Italian, five are Danish, five are Swedish, four are Swiss, four are Belgian, four are Pakistani, three are South Korean, three are Singaporean, two are Portuguese, two are Indonesian, two are Spanish, two are Cambodian, two are Indian, two are Malaysian, two are Australians, 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 Liberian, one is Vietnamese, one is Albanian, one is Taiwanese, one is Serbian, one is Hungarian, and data are not available for 115.

Underlying diseases were found in some of those cases including hypertension (14 cases), allergy (11 cases), diabetes (6 cases), other NCDs (9 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 (9 cases), stroke (1 case), epilepsy (1 case), thyroid disease (1 case), thrombocytopenia (1 case), and myasthenia gravis (1 case). There were 1,912 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

- The Ministry of Public Health provided the latest update that there are now two 'hospitals' (hotels converted into field hospitals). The two pilot hotels have passed the criteria to be used as field hospitals according to MOPH standards, which will serve as care centers for COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms who were already treated in hospitals for 7 days, and patients who wish to move their accommodations. The two hospitals in Bangkok that passed the criteria are Princeton Park Suite which is already accommodating about 50 patients and the Palazzo

Bangkok (under Emerald Hotel). They will be able to accommodate 700-800 patients. It is expected that patients will be taken to these hospitals next week. For the expenditure, 'hospitals' are considered to be a part of the medical care system and all people who are taken to the 'hospitals' are considered patients, therefore the cost of recovery services can be reimbursed from the Public Health Insurance plan in accordance with the eligible benefits of the patients. Hotels can also join the efforts as hotels which can be used to observe symptoms of the patients under investigation or isolation. They can provide support for risk groups including the group that disease control officers diagnosed for quarantine and those who are voluntarily detaining or isolating themselves for 14 days such as people returning from abroad or other people voluntarily paying for the accommodation themselves.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is facilitating and coordinating to send 223 Germans and Europeans back to their countries. Thailand has strict measures to screen this passenger group via thermal scan before entry to the international terminal in Phuket province.
- The Student Loan Fund announced measures to help and alleviate the suffering livelihood from the impact of COVID-19 among the borrowers' lives and to enable the borrowers to manage monthly expenses during this hectic situation.
- The Royal Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia announced the measures in accordance with the order of the Administrative Center for the Situation of COVID-19 tasking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to slow down travel to Thailand among foreigners and Thai people from today to 15 April 2020. Therefore, the Royal Thai Embassy informed Thai people living in Malaysia to slow down the return to Thailand during the aforementioned period. For people who have already received the medical certification and official approval letter from the Consulate General at Kota Bharu or Penang and plan to return to Thailand during the said period, are requested to postpone their trip to be after 15 April 2020.
- SCG Foundation provided "the innovative Modular Unit" to Rajavithi Hospital comprising a Modular Screening Unit which can admit 12 patients and 3 Modular Screening Units used for detecting the virus. UV Germicide is sprayed for 10 minutes to clean the unit after every use. The innovative Modular units were installed at the car parking area which has around 300–400 Square Meters to ensure the safety of medical staff. Medical staff and patient areas will be adequately separated. The pressure control and air ventilation system in the units are appropriately managed to reduce the risk of medical staff and people tested for COVID-19 from getting the infection. In addition, ACG Foundation also provided 12 Modular Bathrooms to Rajavithi Hospital where medical staff and patient areas are also adequately separated. ACG has a target to provide the innovative Modular Unit to seven hospitals in the future.
- The Phuket governor ordered hotels to be temporarily closed in the province to prevent the spread of COVID-19, except for hotels that the government arranges to be used for field hospitals or accommodation to observe symptoms among suspected cases starting from 4 April 2020 onwards.
- BTS Skytrain has adjusted its operating hours on the Sukhumvit and Silom lines which will be open until 9.30pm starting Friday (April 3).

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.

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

- 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.