

Thailand situation update on 4 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 4 April 2020, there were a total of 1,120,099 confirmed cases, with 39,411 patients in critical condition and 59,257 COVID-19 deaths across more than 202 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 (277,522 cases), Italy (119,827), Spain (119,199), Germany (91,159), the People's Republic of China (82,526 cases, as well as 845 and 42 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively), France (82,165), Iran (53,183), England (38,168), Turkey (20,291) and Switzerland (19,702).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 3 April 2020 showed that among 36,583 flights, there were a total of 4,386,911 passengers screened. Among those, 555 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). For the screening protocol outside the airports, 131,654 people from 1,356 ships were screened at sea ports between 1 January and 3 April 2020 and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,760,829 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 3 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 557 people.

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

On 4 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 805 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 24,474 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)	24,474
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	555
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals 	23,829

Situation	Total number of PUI
(Private hospitals: 2,196 cases, Government hospitals: 2,221 cases)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao 	88
Confirmed cases	2,067
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	674
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,373
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	20
Severe cases (including undergoing treatment)	23

In Thailand, there have been 2,067 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 674 patients have recovered and returned home, 20 patients have died, and 23 are in critical condition undergoing treatment.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 35 years old (ranging from 5 months to 86 years old). 1,124 cases are male, and 874 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.3:1) and gender data is not available for 69 cases.

In terms of nationality, 1,771 are Thai, 33 cases are Chinese, 22 are French, 20 are British, 10 are Japanese, nine are American, eight are Canadian, seven are Burmese, seven are German, seven are Russian, six are Italian, five are Danish, five are Swedish, five are Belgian, four are Swiss, 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, two are Filipino, one is French Guianese, one is Iranian, one is a New Zealander, one is Finnish, 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, one is Mexican, one is Tunisian, one is Thai-Indian and data are not available for 107.

Underlying diseases were found in some of those cases including hypertension (15 cases), allergy (13 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 (12 cases), stroke (1 case), epilepsy (1 case), thyroid disease (1 case), thrombocytopenia (1 case), myasthenia gravis (1 case), and valvular heart disease (1 case), There were 1,997 cases reported without any underlying disease. 39 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 1,292 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 736 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 Department of Health Service Support assured that COVID-19 treatment is free for all COVID-19 patients or patients who meet the criteria of patients under investigation, according to Ministry of Public Health announcement. If patients have to pay for the medical treatment, notify the Department of Health Service Support in which private hospitals need to pay them back. Private hospitals that provide treatment for COVID-19 patients can request reimbursement for the expense to the National Health Security Office (NHSO).
- The Government Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration reported that General Prayut Chan-ocha, Prime Minister commanded to follow the people who escaped and refused to quarantine themselves. Thai people who just returned from abroad, refused to enter state quarantine under the government's measures at places that were prepared by the government when they arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport. If they resist being quarantined, the government will consider prosecuting them under the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situation, B.E. 2548.
- The Civil Aviation Authority Thailand (CAAT) announced the temporarily restriction of all flights entering Thailand for 3 days between 4-6 April 2020, 11.59 p.m. after the situation at Suvarnabhumi Airport, where Thai people who returned from abroad did not follow the disease control measures to be quarantined at designated places. However, CAAT has allowed flights for emergency cases such as "bringing Thais back home" as these flights can enter Thailand but the travelers need to be quarantined for 14 days at places which have been designated by the government.
- Chanthaburi Province ordered that all citizens must wear surgical or cloth masks while going out of their residences. Violators are subject to a fine not exceeding 20,000 baht under the Communicable Disease Act 2015 (B.E. 2558). The effective date has been begun since 3 April 2020.
- On 3 April 2020, Gen. Ponpipat Benyasri, Supreme Commander, Office of the Chief of Defence Forces, who is the chief person responsible for solving the emergency situation in the aspect of security, issued measures prohibiting mass gathering activities which are risks for the spread of disease, targeting people or acts that cause the disease transmission. However, the prohibited activities do not include family or government activities. If anyone fails to comply with the rule, they will be fined (not more than 40,000 baht) or punished with imprisonment (not over 2 years) or both of those punishments.
- Lampang Kweang Court issued a final judgment to a man who met the criteria for patients under investigation for COVID-19 who violated the communicable disease control officer's orders by not not isolating himself for 14 days. The court deemed appropriate, in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act, B.E. 2523 (1980), that he must be detained for 15 days instead of being imposed with a 7,500 baht fine at the Lampang Central Detention Center.
- The provincial governor of Yala ordered to close two additional districts, two sub-districts, 11 villages, and prohibited entry-exit. If it is necessary to travel in-out from the said areas, people must inform the disease control officer in the areas assigned by the sheriff from that area from 3 April 2020 onwards until the situation has been resolved.
- The Chiang Mai Provincial Governor issued additional urgent measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including closing all public parks, the Thapae area and the Three Kings Monument,

and prohibiting swimming, selling food and beverage or organizing activities around the moat and public canal without the permission from the government. The convenience stores and retail stores are prohibited from selling goods from 10 P.M – 4 A.M. If anyone fails to comply with the rules, they will be fined and punished with imprisonment. The effective date started on 30 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.