

Thailand situation update on 9 April 2020

1. International Situation

As of 9 April 2020, there were a total of 1,521,809 confirmed cases, with 48,134 patients in critical condition, and 88,653 COVID-19 deaths across more than 206 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: the United States (435,160 cases), Spain (148,220), Italy (139,422), Germany (113,296), France (112,950), the People's Republic of China (82,884 cases, as well as 974 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau respectively), Iran (64,586), England (60,733), Turkey (38,226), and Belgium (23,403).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 8 April 2020 showed that among 36,848 flights, there were a total of 4,394,145 passengers screened. Among those, 579 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 133,350 people from 1,473 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 8 April 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,779,174 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 8 April 2020. Between 30 January to 9 April 2020, a total of 150,525 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 581 people.

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

On 9 April 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 1,833 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 30,542 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)	30,542
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 160, Don Mueang: 41, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 3) 	579
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected from seaports 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought medical services on their own at hospitals 	29,873

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	2,423
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovered and discharged from hospitals 	1,013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing Treatment 	1,378
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths 	32
Characteristic of Infection in Confirmed cases	2,423
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transmission 	1,963
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imported Case 	460
- Designated Quarantine Places	47

Notice: The quarantine measures for travelers from aboard have been in effect as of 3 April 2020

A 14-day State Quarantine measure had been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 9 April 2020, 5 additional cases were reported, which brought the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas to 47 cases. All 5 additional cases were Thai people returning from Indonesia. All Thai people returning from Indonesia are required to comply with State Quarantine measures, meaning they have to quarantine in specific provinces; in addition to the 5 new imported cases, in total there are 2 cases quarantined in Narathiwat, 12 cases in Pattani, 7 cases in Yala, 10 cases in Songkhla, and 16 cases in Satun.

In Thailand, there have been 2,423 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 1,013 patients have recovered and returned home, and 32 patients have died.

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 1 months to 86 years old). 1,276 cases are male, and 1,056 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.2:1) and gender data is not available for 95 cases.

In terms of nationality, 2,101 cases are Thai, 33 are Chinese, 22 are French, 20 are British, 12 are Russian, 11 are Japanese, nine are Burmese, nine are American, eight are Canadian, six are German, six are Italian, six are Swedish, five are Danish, five are Belgian, five are Swiss, five are Singaporean, four are Pakistani, four are Indian, three are South Korean, three are Australian, two are Portuguese, two are Indonesian, two are Spanish, two are Cambodian, two are Malaysian, two are Filipino, two are Albanian, two are Kazakh, one is Uzbek, one is Iranian, one is a New Zealander, one is Finnish, one is Ukrainian, one is Laos, one is Taiwanese, one is Serbian, one is Liberian, one is Vietnamese, one is Hungarian, one

is Mexican, one is Tunisian, one is Thai-Indian, one is Dutch, one is Brazilian, one is Israeli, one is Palestinian, and data is not available for the remaining 112 cases.

Underlying diseases were found in some of those cases including hypertension (17 cases), hypotension (1 case), allergies (15 cases), diabetes (7 cases), other NCDs (11 cases), asthma (7 cases), dyslipidemia (2 cases), psoriasis (1 case), salivary gland cancer (1 case), paranasal sinus disease (1 case), COPD (1 case), multiple underlying diseases (15 cases), stroke (1 case), epilepsy (1 case), thyroid disease (2 cases), thrombocytopenia (1 case), myasthenia gravis (1 case), valvular heart disease (1 case), and rheumatoid arthritis (1 case). There were 2,336 cases reported without any underlying disease. 40 cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports (one case was found within the group of Thai workers returning from Wuhan). 1,512 cases sought medical treatment by themselves. 871 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts.”

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Royal Thai Government Gazette published the new notification of the Ministry of Public Health B.E. 2563 concerning principles, protective measures of COVID-19 for 20 establishments including spas, hotels, massage parlors, fitness, bathing places, medical care facilities, dormitories, swimming pools, skate parks, beauty clinics, weight-control services, amusement parks, computer service centres, golf courses, medical laboratories, skin tattoo businesses, babysitting, and elderly care services. Staff at these places are encouraged to frequently clean all surfaces and equipment, as to provide both hand sanitizers and soap. PPE must be provided for all workers. This announcement will come into effect starting April 9, 2020.
- The Ministry of Education (MOE) made an announcement on 9 April 2020 regarding the opening of the semester for educational institutes. According to the aforementioned announcement, all private and public educational institutes (formal and non-formal educations) shall start the semester on 1 July 2020, and must arrange their teaching programs to be in line with the emergency situation of COVID-19. For the international schools, which usually start their semesters on a different date from general schools, under the supervision of MOE these institutes can use their own discretion to start the semester on the appropriate date. However, similar to all other schools, international schools must develop a teaching program that aligns with the regulations of the specific emergency situation announcement for their area. In addition, due to the delayed opening of the semester for 2 months, MOE announced there will not be any school breaks in October 2020 and in April 2021 so that students have time to finish their courses. For the enrollment of Mattayom 1-4 students, in May 2020 schools will open their online platforms so students can begin to register for enrollment.
- The Department of Disease Control set up a proactive action plan to find people infected by COVID-19 by enhancing the conditions of target positions, increasing the investigation for all patients under investigation and high risk close contacts including the quarantine of healthcare workers in two hospitals and the surveillance of 112 other people after the situation in Phuket province (Hungarian patient was admitted because traffic accident but was later detected COVID-19 infection).

- The Medical Services released the “Medicine at Home” measures by sending medicine via postal service to patients with chronic disease who have a stable health status. For other patients, the Tele-consult platform is available for them to connect with doctors; please provide true information. According to medical and treatment guidelines for COVID-19, it is mandatory that people must report their symptoms, even if only mild, within at least 2-7 days. While the patients are recovering, they are sent to the hospital for observation for 14 days. For mild-symptom cases, patients will not receive any medicine. Patients suffering from pneumonia will receive Malaria antivirals, HIV antivirals, and Favipiravir to reduce the SARS-COV-2 infection in the patient’s lungs.
- The Securities Exchange of Thailand is preparing for if the government decides to extend the current curfew in place to 24 hours. The trading hours will be adjusted, but the commercial banking system will not be closed. The banking system will proceed as normal, and people will still be able to perform transfer money transactions. There are 11 provinces, including Rayong, Suphanburi, Surin, Lamphun, Sakon Nakhon, Phitsanulok, Buri Ram, Nakhon Pathom, Mukdahan, Samut Songkhram and Chiang Mai that have increased measures on banning the sale of alcoholic beverages for 24 hours. If the sale of alcoholic beverages remains, it could potentially serve as an instigator for people to gather in groups in their place of residence, where they are hidden from the inspection by officials. The purpose of this measure is to further reduce the risk of social gatherings.
- Bangkok plans to release a command to prohibit selling alcoholic beverages between 10 April 2020 to 20 April 2020 (10 days) in every store with a permit. At this time, Bangkok has requested that stores with alcohol permits comply.

4. Risk Communication to the Public

- The measures including disease screening, isolation, quarantine, or quarantine for observation to control and prevent the disease apply to passengers departing from areas or countries affected by COVID -19.
- In cases where it is necessary to make contact with other people, please wear a mask and maintain a distance of at least 1 meter between yourself and the other person when interacting with others. It is also recommended to only make contact with people for a short period.
- 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.