

Thailand Report
on the Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia (COVID-19) Situation
as of 4 March 2020

1. The Disease Situation in Thailand :

1.1. Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 3 March 2020, showed that among 22,445 flights, there were a total of 3,272,785 passengers screened. Among those, 126 people met the case definition criteria of PUI. For the screening protocol outside the airports, 107,175 people from 562 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 3 March 2020. There were two PUI among that group. There were 727,595 people screened at ground ports from 1 February to 3 March 2020. A total of 79,390 people renewing their passports at the Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty at Chaengwattana Road were also screened from 30 January to 4 March 2020. The total number of PUI from all ports is 128 people.

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

On 4 March 2020 at 18.00, Thailand announced that 215 additional people met the criteria for patients under investigation, raising the total to 3,895 PUI as shown in the table:

Situation	Total number of PUI
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	3,895
• Detected from the airport screening (Suvarnabhumi: 67, Don Mueang: 26, Phuket: 8, Chiang Mai: 1)	126
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals (Private hospitals: 1,843 cases, Government hospitals: 1,703 cases)	3,716
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities and tour groups	51
Total number of people who met the criteria of patients under investigation (PUI)	3,895
• Under ongoing treatment (Private hospitals: 874 cases, Government hospitals: 671 cases)	1,577
• Recovered from their illnesses and discharged from the hospitals	2,269
• Monitoring of symptoms at OPD/PUI's home	50
Confirmed cases	43
Recovered and discharged from hospitals	31
Being treatment	11
Severe cases	1
Deaths	1

There are 43 confirmed cases with the virus causing COVID-19. Among the confirmed cases, 31 cases recovered and returned home and there has been one death. Laboratory results of the other 3,852 PUI showed 2,237 negative results to the virus causing COVID-19 and results are pending for 1,615 PUI. The median age of the confirmed cases is 39 years old (ranging from 3 to 74 years old). Twenty-two cases were male, and 21 cases were female (ratio of male to female: 1.1:1). There were 25 Chinese cases and 18 Thai cases. Underlying diseases were found in some of those cases including hypertension (4 cases), hypertension with cardiovascular disease (1 case), stroke (1 case), hepatitis B viral infection (1 case), and hearing loss and osteoporosis (1 case). There were 35 cases reported without any underlying disease. Three cases were detected from the screening protocol at airports, 26 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 13 cases were tracked from case investigation and defined as close contacts, and one case was detected from the group of Thai people who returned from Wuhan.

2. Thailand Precautions:

- The government of Thailand has prepared measures for Thai workers returning from South Korea who passed the screening process. Upon arrival of the Thai workers returning from South Korea, they need to pass the screening procedures and need to be quarantined for 14 days at designated areas, i.e. military bases, local hospitals, hospitals in their hometown. Medical providers will be in charge of the detainees during the said period.
- The Ministry of Public Health warned that surgical masks are not intended to be used more than once and never reuse them as they can be contaminated by germs during use and can cause the spread of infection. If people want to buy surgical masks, they are recommended to buy standardized surgical masks produced from factories and to wear masks when conditions are needed.
- Siriraj Hospital has appealed people in good health for donations of Types A, B, and O blood, as its stock is inadequate
- The National Health Security Committee has agreed upon the introduction of COVID-19 into the National Health Care System (Gold Card) which covers a wide range of health care services including diseases prevention, health promotion, diagnosis, treatment and medical rehabilitation, and has also agreed in principle for using Gold Card funds to disburse the cost of COVID-19 treatment.
- The Ministry of Commerce has accelerated the production of 38 million surgical masks per month and controlled distribution of face masks for adequate supplies during the COVID-19 outbreak. Moreover, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health recommends using cloth masks which can block droplets from other people's sneezes and coughs in order to help alleviate shortage. The MOPH asked the public for their cooperation if they find a supplier who sells face masks with no price tag or where the price tag does not match, the customer can submit a complaint to the authorities right away.