

Thailand situation update on 9 May 2020

1. International Situation

As of 9 May 2020, there were a total of 4,027,960 confirmed cases with 48,499 patients in critical condition and 276,396 COVID-19 deaths across more than 209 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 (1,322,163), Spain (260,117), Italy (217,185), England (211,364), Russia (198,676), France (176,079), Germany (170,588), Brazil (146,894), Turkey (135,569), and Iran (104,691). The 11th is the People's Republic of China (83,977 cases, as well as 1,045 and 45 cases in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, respectively).

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

2.1 Surveillance Protocol for COVID-19

The accumulated data from 3 January to 8 May 2020 showed that among 38,339 flights, there were a total of 4,423,980 passengers screened. Among those, 1,100 people met the case definition criteria of patients under investigation (PUI). Outside of the airports, 142,590 people from 2,173 ships were screened at seaports between 1 January and 8 May 2020, and two people met the PUI criteria. There were 1,888,307 people screened at ground ports between 1 February to 8 May 2020. Between 30 January to 8 May 2020, a total of 172,033 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 1,102 people.

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

On 9 May 2020 at 18:00, Thailand announced that 3,311 additional people met the criteria for PUI, raising the total to 96,955 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) divided by ports	96,955
• Detected from the airport screening	1,100
• Detected from seaports	2
• Sought medical services on their own at hospitals	95,765
• Notified by hotel residences, the Erawan Medical Center, local universities, tour groups and U-Tapao	88

Situation	Total number of PUI
Confirmed cases	3,004
• Recovered and discharged from hospitals	2,794
• Undergoing Treatment	154
• Deaths	56
Characteristics of Infection in Confirmed cases	3,004
• Local Transmission	2,465
• Imported Case	539
- Designated Quarantine Places*	87

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

In Thailand, there have been 3,004 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Among the confirmed cases, 2,794 patients have recovered and returned home, and 56 patients have died.

A 14-day State Quarantine measure has been implemented by the government for travelers entering Thailand from abroad. On 9 May 2020, no additional case was reported, and the total number of cases at designated quarantine areas remained at 87 cases. There are 62 cases among Thai people returning from Indonesia, nine cases from America, four cases from the United of Arab Emirates, four cases from Malaysia, two cases from England, two cases from Kazakhstan, one case from the Netherlands, one case from Japan, one case from India, and one case from Russia. All Thai people returning from abroad are required to comply with State Quarantine measures, meaning they have to quarantine in specific provinces; in total there are 5 cases quarantined in Narathiwat, 12 cases in Pattani, 8 cases in Yala, 18 cases in Songkhla, 19 cases in Satun, 3 cases in Krabi, 4 cases on Chonburi, 14 cases in Bangkok, and one case in Samut Prakan.

On 8 May 2020, 65 confirmed cases were found at the immigration quarantine unit at Sadao district in Songkhla province (37 cases were Burmese, 20 cases were stateless Rohingya, 3 cases were Vietnamese, 2 cases were Malaysian, 1 case was Yemeni, 1 case was Cambodian, and 1 case was Indian).

The median age of the confirmed cases is 37 years old (ranging from 1 month to 99 years old). 1,631 cases are male, and 1,373 cases are female (ratio of male to female: 1.19:1).

In terms of nationality, 2,670 cases are Thai, 56 are Burmese, 34 are Chinese, 29 are French, 24 are British, 20 cases are Stateless Rohingya, 12 are Russian, 12 are American, 11 are Japanese, nine are Indian, eight are Canadian, eight are Italian, eight are German, six are Swedish, six are Belgian, six are Swiss, five are Danish, five are Filipino, five are Singaporean, four are Pakistani, four are Australian, four are Malaysian, four are Vietnamese, three are South Korean, three are Indonesian, three are Cambodian, two are Kazakh, two are Brazilian, two are Laos, two are New Zealander (one case is Maori), two are Spanish, two are Israeli, two are Albanian, one is American-Samua, one is Malian, one is Kuwaiti, one is Serbian, one is Tunisian, one is Taiwanese, one is Dutch, one is Palestinian, one is Portuguese, one is Finnish, one is Mexican, one is Ukrainian, one is Yemeni, one is Liberian, one is Thai-Indian, one is Iranian, one is Uzbek, one is Hungarian, and data is not available for the remaining 14 cases.

Underlying diseases were found in some of these cases, including hypertension (27 cases), hypotension (1 case), allergies (19 cases), diabetes (10 cases), other NCDs (13 cases), asthma (8 cases), dyslipidemia (3 cases), thyroid disease (3 cases), psoriasis (2 case), salivary gland cancer (1 case), paranasal sinus disease (1 case), COPD (1 case), multiple underlying diseases (28 cases), stroke (1 case), epilepsy (2 case), thrombocytopenia (1 case), myasthenia gravis (1 case), valvular heart disease (1 case), HIV (2 case), depression (2 cases), anemia (1 case), migraine (1 case), liver cirrhosis (1 case), breast cancer (1 case), Hepatitis B virus (1 case), and rheumatoid arthritis (1 case). There were 2,850 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). 1,752 cases sought medical treatment by themselves, 1,021 cases were tracked via case investigation and defined as “close contacts”. A total of 32 confirmed cases were found from the active case finding measures.

3. Thailand Precautions

- The Department of Health of the Ministry of Public Health and Sathira Dhammasathan have discussed about public health guidance for religious practices in religious places to support relief measures for businesses or activities in meditation centers. This will allow Buddhists to practice their religious activities as a spiritual anchor in order to reduce stress. The Department of Health has prepared guidelines and recommendations for management in Buddhist worship places including 1) screening checkpoints at the entrance, providing hand washing stations with soap and water and alcohol gel at the entrance and exit 2) those who have illnesses such as fever, coughing, sneezing or runny nose, will be restricted from attending the religious rites and will be suggested to immediately see a doctor 3) organize religious ceremonies and a distance of 1-2 meters needs to be kept between individuals and people also have to wear a hygienic or cloth masks 4) the number of participants required to be limited as appropriate 5) any religious rites that gather a large number of people should be refrained or postponed 6) taking care of the cleanliness of the place before and after performing the religious practices such as opening the windows and doors for ventilation and if there is a almshouse, it should be arranged in an open area with good ventilation.
- On 2 May 2020, the Minister of Education announced there will be 17 days in the first semester of 2020 and 37 days in the second semester of 2020 for teacher and student holidays. Moreover, he revealed the details of learning management in unusual conditions and at-risk areas to adapt the teaching style involved with the situation in their area and prepare distance learning and online learning systems. They will test the system’s efficiency and access on 18 May 2020.
- On 8 May 2020, at exit points of Tha Chat Chai immigration point, Phuket, more than 1,000 people left from Phuket and went back to their hometowns. People who want to exit from Phuket must cross the province and be screened by the Thalang district officers (morning to afternoon) and present to the exit point. People must pass the thermal scan.

- The secretariat of the National Communicable Disease Committee under the Communicable Diseases Act 2015 issued an official letter requesting all provinces to strictly implement active screening, detection and surveillance of COVID-19 among people returning from Phuket. If staff found that people in the area develop a fever and respiratory symptoms, please bring them to the hospital for further diagnosis. For people returning from Phuket, staff in areas are requested to bring them to the quarantined places determined by each province for 14 days including following up their respiratory symptoms every day.
- Bangkok planned to open the JJ market allowing merchants to sell the goods on this Saturday and Sunday during 05.00. A.M. to 06.00 P. M. However, the night market zones and the stand zones have not been yet allowed to sell due to the Emergency Decree not allowing people to go outside the residence from 10.00 P. M. to 04.00 A.M. The Bangkok staff sprayed disinfectant in areas to prevent the spread of COVID-19 before opening the JJ market on this Saturday and Sunday. In addition, Bangkok also determined the measures to control the disease among JJ Market customers by setting up 6 main checkpoints to check the customers' body temperature and that they are wearing masks.
- The Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) agreed to remove China and South Korea from the list of countries that are defined as Disease Infected Zones of the COVID-19 infection while continuing intensive screening measures for traveling to Thailand. Mr. Anutin Charnverakul, Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of the Ministry of Public Health said about the reason for this issue that both countries are able to control the outbreak of COVID-19 effectively and is also to maintain diplomatic relations and support each other as well. However, travel to Thailand must strictly abide by Thai measures. In addition, Dr. Taweetil Vishnuayothin, a spokesman for the CCSA, said that some concerns of Chinese and South Korean people might cause an influx into Thailand. So, there is no need to worry because there are still many screening measures, including 1) commercial flights have not been allowed to enter in Thailand 2) passengers need to get Fit to Fly or be issued a medical certificate and 3) when entering to Thailand, they will be monitored in state or local quarantines under the supervision of governmental or local units.
- General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister gave an interview about the announcement of relaxation measures for some activities and businesses reopening such as shopping malls in phases 2 on 17 May 2020. The government is trying to improve this situation and proceed gradually because a lot of people and business owners need help and support. The period of this situation is uncertain but in the short term, businesses may reopen if suited with the situation.

4. Risk Communication to the Public

- The measures including disease screening, isolation, quarantine or quarantine for observation to control and prevent the disease are implemented among 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.