

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health

1 May 2020

## WHO Thailand Situation Report



THAILAND  
SITUATION  
IN THE PAST  
24 HOURS

## SPOTLIGHT

- Zero deaths reported today.
- To date, 68 of 77 provinces have reported cases. Bangkok has the highest number of cases (1,489 +12 from State Quarantine) followed by Phuket (216) and Nonthaburi (157).
- Nine provinces have never reported cases.
- A total of 29 provinces have not reported new cases in the past 28 days.

## UPDATES FROM MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### Testing

- The ministry's policy is to increase testing among at-risk/vulnerable groups in the community. These tests aim for diagnosis and contact tracing by using RT-PCR.
- The positive rate among PUI (person under investigation) is quite low (mid-January to 6 April = 4.5%). From 7 April (when the definition of PUI changed) to 30 Apr the rate is 1.9%.
- Mass screening will not be used as it is not cost-effective.

### Vaccines

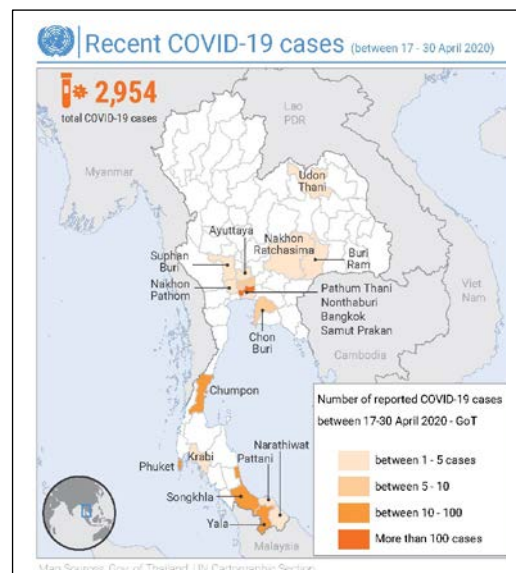
- There is no vaccine available for COVID-19. To reduce the risk from influenza-related illnesses, the MOPH is encouraging seven at-risk groups to receive seasonal influenza vaccinations for free at public hospitals and private hospitals under National Health Security Office contract starting from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020. The seven groups are: pregnant women; children aged 6 months to 2 years; patients with chronic diseases; persons over 65 years of age; people with disabilities; patients with thalassemia and immune deficiency; obese patients with a BMI greater than 35.

### Risk factors

- Alcohol consumption is among the risk factors for COVID-19.
- A survey among the Thai population in April shows that almost 50% reported they had not been drinking (due to limited access, reduced income and fear of contracting COVID-19). 33% had reduced the amount of alcohol they drank and 18% continued to consume alcohol at the same level.
- Road traffic accident deaths in April reduced significantly from 850 in 2019 to 350 in 2020. The study showed that if 50% of Thai population stop drinking for the whole year, Thailand could save 42 billion THB in healthcare costs, premature death, property loss and associated factors.
- The survey on smoking behaviour among the working age population during COVID-19 shows that 20% reported reduced the amount they smoked, while 10% increased the amount they smoked and almost half of reported the same level of smoking. Those respondents who reported reduce smoking cited loss of income and health reasons. The reasons respondents cited for smoking are stress from the COVID-19 situation, stress from work and fear of cigarettes prices rising/cigarettes being hoarded or becoming unavailable

### Mental Health

- The Department of Mental Health is focusing on suicide prevention, monitoring the situation and recording all cases on the national database for suicide.
- Regional Mental Health Offices nationwide are working with local health facilities and MCAAT teams to provide support to those who need it.
- The Mental Health Hotline (Tel. 1232) is available for counseling.



## ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

Today saw the launch of the 1422 Hotline for migrant workers, who can call and receive health information about COVID-19 in 3 languages: Khmer, Lao and Burmese.

The project is a joint initiative of WHO Thailand, the Department of Disease Control and the Ministry of Public Health. Raks Thai and World Vision are operating this information line to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate advice to migrant workers from three neighbouring countries of Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia.

**Migrant workers have a unique set of vulnerabilities during this outbreak, particularly as they often live in overcrowded conditions without adequate sanitation for handwashing, and in which it is almost impossible to practice social distancing and self-isolation.**

**DR. DANIEL KERTESZ**  
WHO REPRESENTATIVE TO THAILAND

**COVID-19 Hotline for Migrant Workers**  
**DDC 1422**

Logos: WHO Thailand, World Vision, Raks Thai, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand.

## WHAT WHO IS DOING TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THAILAND

WHO Thailand is in frequent direct contact with the Royal Thai Government through the Ministry of Public Health, sharing information on key developments, guidelines and scientific updates.

WHO supports the wider UN response, including working with key partners and the Ministry of Public Health to support migrant populations in Thailand. WHO also provides information and advice to staff of the UN system in Thailand



- The Thailand COVID19 situation report is available in Thai and English, please [visit](#).
- For regular updates on WHO's response in Thailand, please [visit](#).
- For global figures and technical advice from WHO, please [visit](#).

**World Health Organization Country Office for Thailand**  
4th Fl., Permanent Secretary Bldg.3 Ministry of Public Health,  
Nonthaburi Thailand, 11000

Media queries [sethaweabmaster@who.int](mailto:sethaweabmaster@who.int) and [kanpirom@who.int](mailto:kanpirom@who.int)



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