SPOTLIGHT

- 802 new cases (up 5% from previous day’s cumulative total) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand bringing the total number of cases to date to 17,023.
- Of these, 67% (11,396) have recovered, 0.5% (76) have died, and 33% (5,551) are receiving treatment or are in isolation. **No new deaths were reported today**.
- The 802 laboratory-confirmed cases reported today include:
  - 19 individuals who arrived recently in Thailand and were diagnosed in quarantine facilities and 2 individuals who had entered Thailand through the land border.
  - 89 cases were linked to occupational risk, visiting crowded places or contact with confirmed cases in Samut Sakhon (79), Bangkok (7), Ayutthaya (2) and Ang Thong (1).
  - The remaining 692 cases reported today are migrant workers (521) and Thai nationals (171) who were identified in relation to the event in Samut Sakhon through contact tracing and active case finding in Samut Sakhon (686), Bangkok (3), Nonthaburi (1), Sa Kaeo (1) and Rayong (1). This brings the cumulative total in this group to 7,664 cases.
  - Locally-transmitted COVID-19 cases have now been reported in 63 provinces. No additional provinces reported new cases today.
- The 10 provinces reporting more than 50 cumulative cases are Samut Sakhon (8,684), Bangkok (745), Chonburi (648), Rayong (578), Samut Prakan (341), Chanthaburi (221), Nonthaburi (162), Ang Thong (113), Pathum Thani (86), and Nakhon Pathom (77).

UPDATE FROM THE CCSA

Relaxation of measures

The CCSA has approved relaxation of measures and designation of areas in 5 levels, effective 1 February 2021. Samut Sakhon will remain the only area still Highly-Controlled and Under Strict Measures*.

Measures for the next tier of “Highly Controlled Areas” include:

- Re-opening of markets with limited number of customers.
- Restaurants can operate until 11 p.m. with limited customers and number of diners per table with no alcohol allowed.
- Schools
  - Adopting on-site or on-line learning methods as appropriate.
  - Schools with less than 120 students and those along the border can operate fully provided that precautionary measures are in place.
- Spas and traditional massage businesses can open with limited number of customers.
- Outdoor and indoor gyms/fitness centres and boxing stadiums can host games but no audiences allowed. Practice sessions allowed with precautionary measures in place.
EXPLAINER: COVID-19 AND TRANSMISSION IN SCHOOLS (PART 2)

“Understanding how COVID-19 affects children has been a priority issue. We all want to see children back at school and we all want to make sure schools are safe and supportive learning environments they should be.” – WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

In addition to the interruption of education, children being out of school increases the chances of teenage pregnancy as well as various forms of exploitation and violence against children.

The prolonged closure of schools also disrupts other essential school-based services such as immunization programmes, school nutrition programmes, and mental and psychosocial support. The lack of physical contact and interaction with their peers also increases stress and anxiety in children.

These impacts are shown to be significantly higher among vulnerable children, such as those accompanying families of undocumented migrants, children living with disabilities, children in conflict areas, refugees and internally displaced persons.

“As we enter the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and cases continue to soar around the world, closing schools must be a measure of last resort, after all other options have been considered,” says Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director.

Considerations for school closure, (and later, a partial or full re-opening) should be done based on a risk-based approach to maximize the benefits for students, teachers, their families and the wider community.


WHO: A SOURCE OF COVID-19 KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION

The World Health Organization Thailand has been working with the Ministry of Public Health to provide knowledge and information on COVID-19 to members of the public in Thai and English languages. Materials include infographics, short video clips, situation reports which can be accessed via the WHO Thailand’s website, Facebook and Twitter.

WHAT THE WHO IS DOING TO SUPPORT THAILAND

WHO Thailand supports the Royal Thai Government through the Ministry of Public Health, sharing information on developments, guidelines and scientific updates. WHO also supports the wider UN response, including working with key partners to support migrant populations in Thailand. WHO also provides information and advice to staff of the UN system in Thailand.

USEFUL LINKS

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