

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Thailand Situation Report – 1 March 2020

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health on 1 March 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020, the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand announced the death of a 35-year-old male Thai national with COVID-19 infection. He was initially suspected to have dengue virus infection at the time of presentation on 27<sup>th</sup> January, before being transferred to Bamrasnaradura Infectious Disease Institute following a positive test for COVID-19. His death on 29<sup>th</sup> February marks the first case of COVID-19 in Thailand with this outcome.
- The total number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in Thailand now stands at 42, of which 30 have recovered, 11 remain in hospital and one has died. One patient remains severely unwell.
- The cumulative number of PUIs stands at 2,953. Of this total, 1,234 are currently under treatment/investigation; this number includes people being treated for other conditions who are no longer suspected of having COVID-19.
- The Thailand Ministry of Public Health recommends postponing or cancelling large public gatherings in Thailand. If unavoidable, organizers should adhere with Ministry recommendations on the prevention of COVID-19 infection.
- The designation of COVID-19 as a dangerous communicable disease based on provisions in Sections 5 and 6 of the Communicable Disease Act will take effect today, Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. This gives legal authority to Public Health Officers to test, treat and quarantine people infected with COVID-19 as well as high-risk contacts if needed.
- The Ministry list of COVID-19-affected countries or areas includes: Italy, Iran, Japan, Singapore and South Korea in addition to mainland China, Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taipei and environs.
- WHO reiterates that [health screening and surveillance systems](#) in Thailand – at points of entry into the country as well as nationwide - are robust and capable of tracking suspected cases quickly, allowing health authorities to implement protocols to ensure isolation, contact tracing, testing and treatment of symptoms.

### THAILAND SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in  
last 24 hours

42 confirmed  
1 death (new)  
1,234 persons under  
Investigation / treatment

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

The basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections, including by the virus causing COVID-19, include the following:

- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).
- Within healthcare facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.

WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, travellers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their healthcare provider.

### MEDIA

- WHO Thailand continues to receive media queries about the outbreak, and has revamped its [website](#) to provide relevant content on a regular basis to the public and other constituencies. Media queries can be directed to [sethawebsite@who.int](mailto:sethawebsite@who.int)
- WHO Thailand's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts post useful information on hygiene and protection, such as when and how to use masks, as well as relevant WHO technical guidelines and other content related to the novel coronavirus situation in Thailand and globally.

## WHO THAILAND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WHO Thailand's strategic objectives to support Thailand's response are to:

- Limit human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers, preventing transmission amplification events, and preventing further spread within as well as to and from Thailand<sup>i</sup>;
- Identify, isolate and care for patients early, including providing optimized care for infected patients;
- Address crucial unknowns regarding clinical severity, extent of transmission and infection, treatment options, and accelerate the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines;
- Communicate critical risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation; and
- Minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

## PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

### What Thailand is doing

- Thailand has strong capacities for case detection, risk assessment, case investigation, laboratory diagnosis, clinical management, infection prevention and control, and risk communication.
- Thailand also recently updated its dedicated national pandemic influenza preparedness plan (currently pending approval by the Prime Minister's Cabinet).
- With WHO support, the National Institute of Health of Thailand is supporting specimen testing for other countries as requested.
- The Health Ministry is conducting modelling exercises with the National Research Council of Thailand to forecast possible scenarios and outcomes as the outbreak evolves in Thailand.
- Visitors to Thailand who have recently been to affected areas are being provided information upon arrival by the Ministry of Public Health, including how to report any possible illness to the Department of Disease Control using the 1422 hotline.
- The Ministry has also introduced a self-reporting online tool, available in Thai, English and Chinese, which can be accessed [here](#).

### What WHO is doing in Thailand

- WHO Thailand remains in regular and direct contact with the Royal Thai Government through the Ministry of Public Health, sharing information with the Government including key developments elsewhere, as well as guidelines and updates;
- WHO supports the wider UN response and provides relevant information and advice to staff of the UN system in Thailand;

## USEFUL LINKS

- For regular updates on WHO's response in Thailand, access the **WHO Thailand website**: [www.who.int/thailand](http://www.who.int/thailand)
  - For the latest worldwide figures and technical advice about the outbreak, including how to protect yourself, access WHO Headquarters' website: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) including [daily global situation reports](#) and WHO's technical support worldwide to the COVID-19 response.
  - The **International Health Regulations (IHR)** can be viewed [here](#).
  - For the latest on the Thai government response, access the **Department of Disease Control, Thai Ministry of Public Health 2019-nCoV landing page**. \*
  - The Department of Disease Control Hotline is 1422 (dialed from within Thailand).
  - The **Thai Communicable Diseases Act** (revised in 2015) is available [here](#).
  - For a comprehensive 2019-nCoV global case-tracker, access the **Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE)**: in [English](#) and [Thai](#).
  - [Global research](#) on novel coronavirus COVID-19
  - **The Global Health Network - Coronavirus Outbreak Knowledge Hub** - a pop-up area on [The Global Health Network](#) serves as a knowledge hub and access to guidance on COVID-19.
- (Note: WHO does not take responsibility for content on external websites.)

**For more information or queries on WHO Thailand's response to the 2019-nCoV outbreak, or our work more widely, contact [sehwwebmaster@who.int](mailto:sehwwebmaster@who.int), visit [www.who.int/Thailand](http://www.who.int/Thailand), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)**

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<sup>i</sup> *This can be achieved through a combination of public health measures, such as rapid identification, diagnosis and management of the cases, identification and follow up of the contacts, infection prevention and control in healthcare settings, implementation of health measures for travellers, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication*