

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Thailand Situation Report – 24 March 2020

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health on 24 March 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

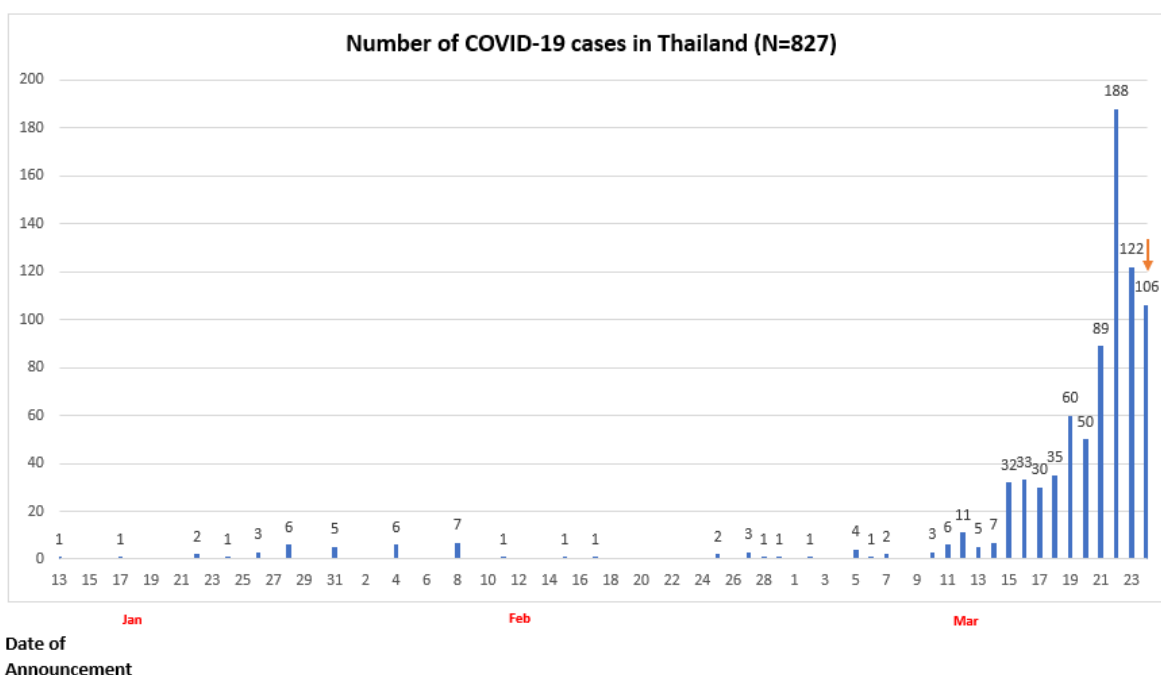
- On the 24th of March 2020, 106 new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand (MoPH), bringing the total number of cases to 827. Three fatalities were reported today by the Ministry.
- Eleven cases are linked to previous clusters involving pubs and Boxing stadiums. Fourteen cases are close contacts of other cases or related to religious events in Malaysia.
- Thirty cases are related to foreigners and Thais returning from abroad or those working with international travelers, including flight attendants.
- Four healthcare providers have become infected including a doctor, nurses, and a public health officer.
- Forty-seven cases remain under investigation.
- COVID-19 cases are now widely distributed in Thailand's provinces. The MOPH asks all persons coming from Bangkok to report to the designated Communicable Diseases Officers in their sub-district, remain at home, and maintain a distance of 1 meter from other persons.
- Of the 827 COVID-19 cases reported in Thailand, 57 have recovered, 766 are receiving treatment in healthcare settings. Four cases are in serious condition and four have died.
- There is now a cumulative total of 11,855 Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) in Thailand since the COVID-19 outbreak began, including 5,762 people being actively investigated or treated. This group includes people being treated for other conditions who are no longer suspected of having COVID-19 infection.
- Thailand's Prime Minister announced that an Emergency Declaration will come into effect on Thursday, with details to be announced later.

THAILAND SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in
last 24 hours

827 confirmed (106 new)
4 deaths, 4 severe cases
766 persons receiving
treatment.

Number of Case



RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

The Governors of Bangkok, five neighboring provinces and Chiang Mai have imposed urgent measures to ensure social distancing, including closing a range of retail business until at least April 12th. People living in these areas are requested to remain inside their homes and to limit all social contacts. The MOPH has urged workers of retail businesses in Bangkok not to travel to their hometowns in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus to their families. The National Communicable Disease Committee has asked all Provincial Governors to develop action plans for screening, case- finding and disease prevention measures at the district and sub-district levels. Some provinces are seeing their first cases. Testing, isolating positive cases and tracing their contacts to limit ongoing transmission of the virus, is an essential public health response at this moment. These activities, combined with strict social distancing measures, are the best tools currently available to combat the pandemic.

To reduce the risk of contracting the virus that causes COVID-19 observe the following:

- Remain inside your home. Leave your home **only** for essential activities (e.g. to seek medical care or to purchase food).
- Maintain a distance of at least 1 meter from all other persons at all times.
- Frequently wash your hands, especially after any contact with ill people or their environment. An alcohol-based hand rub is also effective
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- If unwell, wear a cloth or paper mask. Do not use N95 respirators as supplies are limited and they are critically needed for healthcare workers.
- Cover coughs & sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing and frequently wash your hands.
- Do not shake hands, embrace, share eating utensils or smoking devices with other people.
- Avoid contact with people suffering any symptoms of acute respiratory infection.
- Keep all commonly touched surfaces in your home clean.

MEDIA

- WHO Thailand continues to receive media queries about the outbreak and through its [website](#) provides relevant content on a regular basis to the public and other constituencies. Media queries can be directed to sethawebsite@who.int and risleyp@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 transmission to citizens and health care workers
- Train and equip healthcare facilities to manage large numbers of COVID-19 patients
- Address crucial unknowns regarding clinical severity, extent of transmission, viral shedding, treatment options, and accelerate the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines
- Communicate risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation
- 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.
- With WHO support, the National Institute of Health of Thailand is supporting specimen testing for other countries as requested.
- Visitors to Thailand traveling from affected areas are being screened on arrival. Possible illnesses may be reported to the Department of Disease Control using the 1422 hotline.
- The Ministry has introduced a self-reporting online tool, available in Thai, English and Chinese, which can be accessed [here](#).

What WHO is doing in Thailand

- On March 27th at 2pm Bangkok time, WHO Thailand will offer a webcast titled “Urgent Insights from Wuhan”. Two senior Chinese physicians with first-hand experience responding to the Wuhan outbreak will discuss clinical and hospital management. All Thai doctors, administrators and healthcare workers are asked to participate. www.who.webex.com Meeting #492695827
- WHO Thailand remains 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 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
- For the latest worldwide figures and technical advice about the outbreak, including how to protect yourself, access WHO Headquarters’ website: 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 COVID-19 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 COVID-19 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 COVID-19 outbreak, or our work more widely, contact sethawebsite@who.int, visit www.who.int/Thailand, and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)