

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Thailand Situation Report – 28 March 2020

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health on 28 March 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On the 28th of March 2020, 109 new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, bringing the total number of cases to 1,245.
- Most newly reported cases are related to previously reported clusters; others have returned from abroad or had occupational exposure to large numbers of people (spa, hotel, restaurant, shops). Two new cases are health personnel. The total number of COVID-19 cases in healthcare workers is now eleven, but several of these individuals may have been exposed in community settings.
- A majority of cases to date are male, and in the 20-49 age group: this is likely because so many cases are linked to boxing stadiums, entertainment venues and to the Dakwah Pilgrimage.
- Underlying conditions found among cases who are receiving treatment include hypertension, diabetes, kidney disease and cancer. The Ministry of Public Health has requested younger people returning to their home towns to self-quarantine to protect vulnerable older people, and strongly encourages older adults who develop respiratory symptoms and fever to immediately seek care.
- Of the 76 Provinces in the country, 57 have now reported cases. Escalated measures are being implemented according to the emergency decree in the Provinces where cases are concentrated, i.e.
  - Central region: Bangkok and its neighbouring provinces
  - Eastern region: Chonburi, Pattaya, Rayong
  - Southern region: Songkhla Pattani, Narathiwat, Yala

### THAILAND SITUATION

total and new cases reported in the last 24 hours

1245 confirmed (109 new)  
6 deaths (1 new)  
1139 people being treated  
17 severe cases  
100 recovered



ผู้ป่วย COVID-19 สะสม ประเทศไทย ถึงวันที่ 28 มีนาคม 2563



## ANALYSIS

The spike in the number of daily cases reported on 22<sup>nd</sup> March was due to a change in the policy on laboratory testing for COVID-19. Before 22<sup>nd</sup> March every case had to be confirmed by two separate tests, taken a day apart. The policy then changed so that only a single test was required. As a result, the 188 cases reported on 22<sup>nd</sup> March represented **two** days of positive results instead of one (the total of 188 included all the cases who initially tested positive on 21<sup>st</sup> March getting their second positive result on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, and all the cases getting their first - and only - positive result on 22<sup>nd</sup> March).

The proportion of COVID-19 cases detected outside of Bangkok is increasing further; cases have now been reported in 3/4 of Thailand's provinces. Sub-national public health capacity is robust, including extensive networks of Rapid Response Teams and Village Health Volunteers. These networks will work to identify suspected cases, ensure they are quickly isolated from others, treat them and trace and quarantine their close contacts. Rapidly separating infected persons from others minimizes opportunities for spread of the virus and is effective in preventing disease in the population. The goal is to interrupt spread and contain COVID-19 in every affected Province.

Everyone can play their part by staying at home when possible, maintaining 1-2 m distance from others if they must go out, washing hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based sanitizer, avoiding touching the mouth and nose, and observing respiratory hygiene (coughing into flexed elbow or a tissue which is disposed of safely). Anyone who has recently travelled to any province from Bangkok in the past 14 days, and who develops symptoms of COVID-19, should separate themselves from others, wear a mask and seek medical attention immediately.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

- Remain inside your home. Leave your home **only** for essential activities (e.g. medical care, purchase food).
- Always try to maintain a distance of at least 1.5 meters from all other persons.
- Wash your hands frequently. An alcohol-based hand rub is also effective
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- If unwell, wear a mask. Do not use N95 respirators as supplies are limited and they are critically needed for healthcare workers.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a clean tissue. Dispose of tissues immediately and wash your hands.
- Do not shake hands, embrace, share eating utensils or smoking devices with other people.
- Keep all commonly touched surfaces clean. Advice on cleaning practices and the survivability of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on surfaces & in different settings is available [here](#).

## 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](mailto:sethawebsite@who.int) and [kanpirom@who.int](mailto:kanpirom@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

- 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 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

- 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

- The Thailand COVID19 situation report is available in Thai and English at <http://covid19.th-stat.com/en>.
  - For regular updates on WHO's response in Thailand, please visit [www.who.int/thailand](http://www.who.int/thailand)
  - For global figures and technical advice from WHO please [visit](#).
  - The **International Health Regulations (IHR)** can be viewed [here](#).
  - 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](#).
  - For information on [Global research](#) on the novel coronavirus.
  - **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 [sethwebmaster@who.int](mailto:sethwebmaster@who.int), visit [www.who.int/Thailand](http://www.who.int/Thailand), and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)