

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)



World Health
Organization

Thailand

DATA AS REPORTED BY THE THAI MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

28 APRIL 2020

WHO Thailand Situation Report



2,938

Confirmed cases
(7 new)



54

Deaths
(2 new)



232

Hospitalized



101

Health care staff
infected



2,652

Recovered



THAILAND
SITUATION IN THE
PAST 24 HOURS

HIGHLIGHTS

- On the 28th of April 2020, seven new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, bringing the total number of cases to 2,938.
- Of these, more than 90% (2,652) have recovered, about 1.8% (54) have died, and about 8% (232) are receiving treatment.
- Five of the new cases (reported in Bangkok, Phuket, Nakorn Ratchasima) are close contacts of previously confirmed cases.
- An analysis of data of COVID-19 patients between January and 26th April shows that:
 - 11% of all the patients are aged 60 and above
 - Major risk factors among this group involve attending religious events (24%), associated with boxing stadia (24%), had contact with confirmed cases (18%)
 - Yala, Phuket, Pattani (all in the south of Thailand) are the three provinces with the highest infection rate per 100,000 older persons aged 60 and above
 - The percentage of deaths among COVID-19 patients aged 60 and above is 6.4%

The ratio of death between men and women is 2.3:1

- The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand will restrict international commercial flights entering the country between 4th April and 31st May.
- The cabinet has approved the extension of the emergency decree until the end of May.
- The government has formed a working group to consider the way forward on relaxing measures.
- Directives will be adjusted using a phased, gradual approach. New phase will be introduced at 14 day intervals to allow monitoring and assessment.

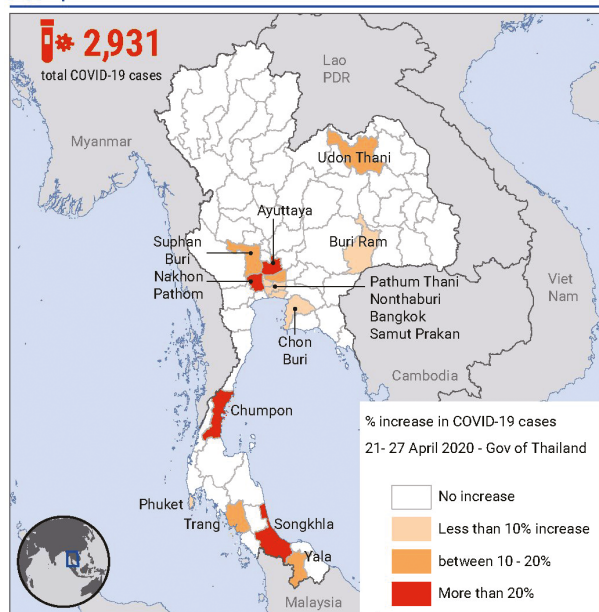
UPDATE FROM THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Department of Disease Control's recommendations for the next phase of managing the COVID-19 response are premised on the notion that elimination of COVID-19 is difficult to achieve, but keeping transmission at a controlled level is feasible. The level of risk of a new outbreak is linked to the ability of people to maintain physical distancing.

- Public health measures will include:



Increase in COVID-19 cases (as of 27 April 2020)



Map Sources: UN Cartographic Section, Royal Thai Survey Dept., Gov. of Thailand

- Enhanced surveillance – active case finding in communities among people with mild symptoms, pneumonia patients and healthcare workers with respiratory symptoms
 - Case investigation – case finding, contact tracing, quarantine.
 - Management of those at a higher risk of death – such as older persons
 - Preparedness and management of the treatment and care system
 - Management of mental health
 - Prevention of infection in hospitals
- Maintaining preparedness of the emergency management system in collaboration with Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
 - Promoting health literacy on COVID-19 prevention and control
 - Promoting personal hygiene practices
 - Physical distancing in public sphere

Additional measures

- Travel restrictions (domestic and international) will remain in place
- Curfew will continue.

ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

Media all over the world are buzzing with speculation about when restrictions could be eased, shutdowns ended and economies reopened.

Read our short explainer to understand what needs to be in place before this can happen and why we can't "just lift the lockdown".

The 6 steps

WHAT THEY ARE?

These are criteria that any country should use to keep transmission of COVID-19 low and at manageable levels.

These steps can help countries gradually lift restrictions in phases. This will allow some resumption of economic and social life, while minimizing the risk of disease.

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

The six criteria outline what should be in place before transitioning away from these measures currently in place, such as physical distancing and "shutdowns".

This "slow and strategic" response is necessary because the virus spreads rapidly and outbreaks can occur quickly.

There are no new vaccines or medicines to prevent or treat COVID-19. Physical distancing measures and movement restrictions are effective in slowing the spread of the virus by limiting contact between people. If these measures are lifted too early or too quickly it is likely to lead to a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases.

WHAT THEY ARE NOT.

These six steps do not guarantee that COVID-19 will not re-emerge or increase. Without vaccines or medicines, our societies must balance the need and hardship of physical distancing measures to control COVID-19 and the need to resume important activities in our lives. As these six criteria are applied, decisions about when and where to move away from restrictions should be based on real time assessments of disease activity. Measures should be lifted in a phased, step-by-step manner.

"Why can't we just lift the lockdown?"

Speculation about lifting of restrictions that are currently in place to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus is hot topic in media. It is important that restrictions are lifted slowly and strategically, with a tapering off of restrictions that will hopefully avoid a new cycle of outbreaks.

"While COVID-19 accelerates very fast, it decelerates much more slowly," warns WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "We need to be aware that measures such as physical distancing only slow the spread of the virus' spread, but do not eradicate it."

Even after cases peak or reach low levels, we will not be able to return to normal, and will need to keep adjusting our strategies according to the latest evidence. "These decisions should be based on human health and guided by how the virus behaves," said Dr Tedros. "Our global connectedness means the risk of re-introduction and resurgence of the disease will continue." ***We need to prepare for a "new normal" which will require all of us to change our behaviours for the foreseeable future.***

The World Health Organization has outlined six criteria that each country should meet before lifting restrictions:

1

Transmission of the coronavirus is under control.

2

The health system is able to detect, test, isolate and treat every case and trace every contact.

3

The risk of outbreak hotspots is minimized in vulnerable settings like health facilities.

4

Workplaces, schools and other essential places have preventative measures in place.

5

Measures are in place to manage the risk of importing new cases.

6

Communities are fully educated, engaged and empowered to adjust to the new norms.

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.

Media

WHO Thailand's website, Twitter and Facebook accounts, regularly provide content on all aspects of the outbreak in Thailand and around the world. Media queries can be directed to sethawebmaster@who.int and kanpirom@who.int

USEFUL LINKS



- The Thailand COVID19 situation report is available in Thai and English
- Regular updates on WHO's response in Thailand
- Global figures and technical advice from WHO



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