

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Thailand Situation Report – 12 March 2020

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health on 12 March 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

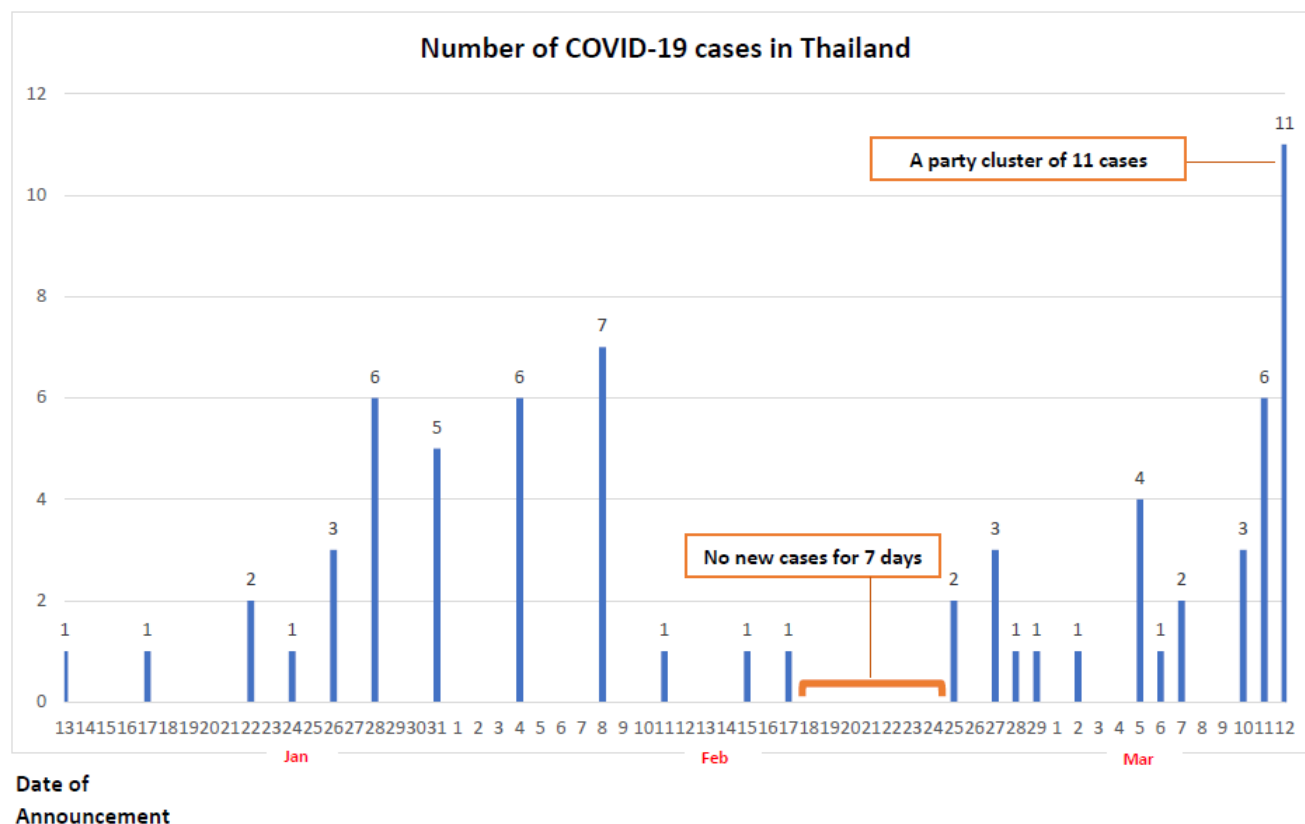
- On the 12th of March 2020, eleven new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand (MoPH), bringing the total number of cases in Thailand to 70.
- All eleven new cases are Thai nationals, their ages range from 25-38. The cases were part of a group of 15 people who attended a party at a venue in Bangkok; the remaining four people all tested negative.
- The first person in this group to become unwell developed symptoms on 25 February, before joining their friends several days later. Beginning 4th March, some friends started to develop symptoms, leading to the laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection in the other 10 cases. Contact tracing of 70 friends and family members has not identified any additional cases.
- The MoPH also announced that they expect COVID-19 testing capacity to be expanded to all Regional and some Provincial laboratories within the next 2 weeks.
- Of the 70 COVID-19 cases reported in Thailand, 35 have recovered, 34 are in hospital and one has died. 41 are imported cases, 28 are locally-transmitted cases and for the remaining case the source of infection is unclear.
- There are currently 1,447 Patients Under Investigation (PUIs), this number includes people being treated for other conditions who are no longer suspected of having COVID-19 infection.

THAILAND SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

70 confirmed (11 new)
1 death
1,447 persons under Investigation / treatment

Number of Case



ANALYSIS

On 11th March, 2020, the Director General of WHO announced that the current status of the COVID-19 event can be characterized as a pandemic. However, this announcement does not change the World Health Organization's assessment of the threat posed by this virus. It also doesn't change the work that WHO is doing to assist the Government of Thailand and in countries across the globe. Characterizing this event as a pandemic also does not change the approach we should take:

- Stop transmission and prevent spread of this virus by finding, isolating, treating every case and tracing every close contact
- Communicate relentlessly with all people – about the risks and how they can protect themselves
- Prepare hospitals: train and protect health care workers.

Contact tracing is a critical step in stopping transmission of coronavirus. After a COVID-19 case is confirmed, public health officials will identify all persons who have been in close contact with the case since the case became sick. Close contacts are usually persons who have been in repeated, close proximity with the case – family members, intimate partners, co-workers sharing the same office space, close friends, caregivers. All contacts are monitored daily for 14 days. Should contacts develop symptoms, contact tracing ensures that they are identified quickly and isolated, so that they do not continue to pass the virus to others. In this way, the transmission from person to person may be broken.

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.

Advice from WHO on cleaning practices and the survivability of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on surfaces & in different settings, available [here](#).

WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travelers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, travelers 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 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 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 Thailand¹;
- 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 is also updating its dedicated national pandemic influenza preparedness plan (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 traveling from affected areas are being screened and 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
 - 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](#)

ⁱ 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 travelers, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication