

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Thailand Situation Report – 16 March 2020

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health on 16 March 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

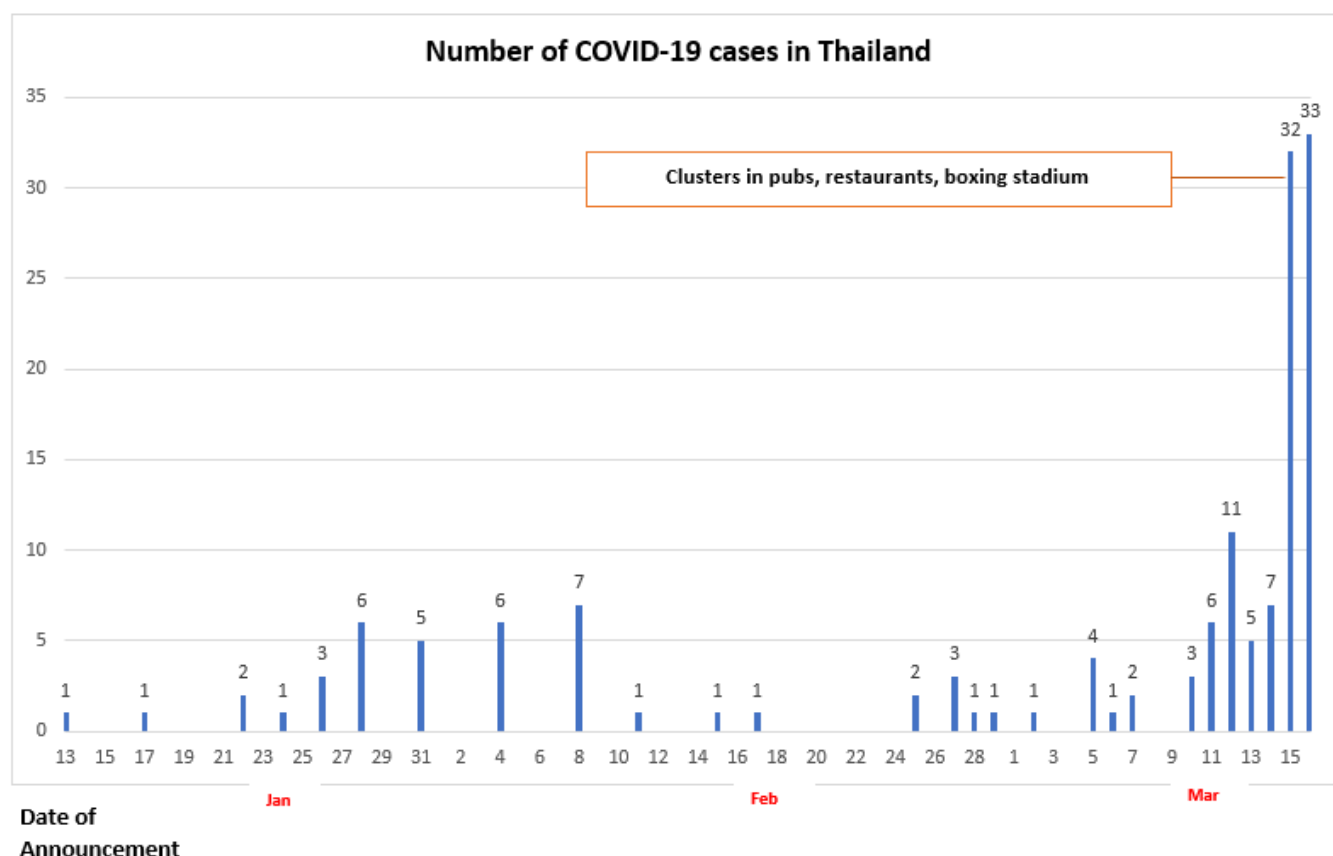
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, 33 new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand (MoPH), bringing the total number of cases in Thailand to 147.
- The new cases include 16 people who are either close contacts of previously reported cases (six people), or who are linked to places where clusters have been reported (seven people are linked to a Thai boxing venue, three are linked to a drinks venue)
- The remaining 17 cases include two who are linked a religious event in Malaysia, six who have a history of travel to other countries where infection was likely acquired, six who interact with international tourists as part of their work and three who are part of a new cluster.
- Of the 147 COVID-19 cases reported in Thailand, 38 have recovered, 108 are receiving treatment in healthcare settings and one has died. 58 are imported cases, 88 are locally-transmitted cases. The source for the remaining case is unclear.
- There is now a cumulative total of 6545 Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) identified since the COVID-19 event started in Thailand, including 2465 people who are currently being actively investigated or treated. This second group includes people being treated for other conditions who are no longer suspected of having COVID-19 infection.
- A proposal to postpone the Songkran Holiday will be discussed in cabinet tomorrow (17<sup>th</sup> March). Other measures might include temporary closures of educational facilities, sporting and entertainment venues.

### THAILAND SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

147 confirmed (33 new)  
1 death  
2465 persons under Investigation / treatment

### Number of Case



## 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](mailto:sethawebsite@who.int) and [risleyp@who.int](mailto: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 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 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](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 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](mailto:sethawebsite@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 travelers, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication