

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Thailand Situation Report – 11 March 2020

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health on 11 March 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, six 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 59.
- Two cases are connected to Suvarnabhumi airport: a 21-year-old immigration officer who was admitted to hospital with symptoms on 8 March, and a security officer, age 40, who developed symptoms on 7 March and was admitted to hospital on 9 March.
- A third case is a 25-year-old Thai office worker, who developed mild symptoms on 25 February. Their condition progressed to pneumonia, leading to laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection.
- Two cases are travel-related: A 27-year-old Thai national who returned from Korea on 7 February but only developed symptoms much later and was confirmed with COVID-19 on 8<sup>th</sup> March, and a 40-year-old Thai national who was admitted to a hospital in Japan for treatment of a fractured wrist, then returned to Thailand on 26 February and was admitted to hospital for further treatment of the injury on 27 February, where they were later diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The final case is a Singapore national living in Thailand who had symptoms on 6 March and was admitted to hospital on 9 March.
- The MoPH is also following possible transmission by a Singapore national who visited Thailand for one day, meeting with work colleagues, before returning to Singapore and developing symptoms; leading to a diagnosis of COVID-19. The individual had visited other countries including the UK prior to visiting Thailand; their 84 contacts (all Bangkok-based colleagues) have so far tested negative. The patient is now receiving treatment in Singapore.
- Of the 59 COVID-19 cases reported in Thailand, 34 have recovered, 24 are in hospital and one has died. 40 are imported cases, and 13 are locally-transmitted cases.
- There are currently 1,903 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

59 confirmed (6 new)

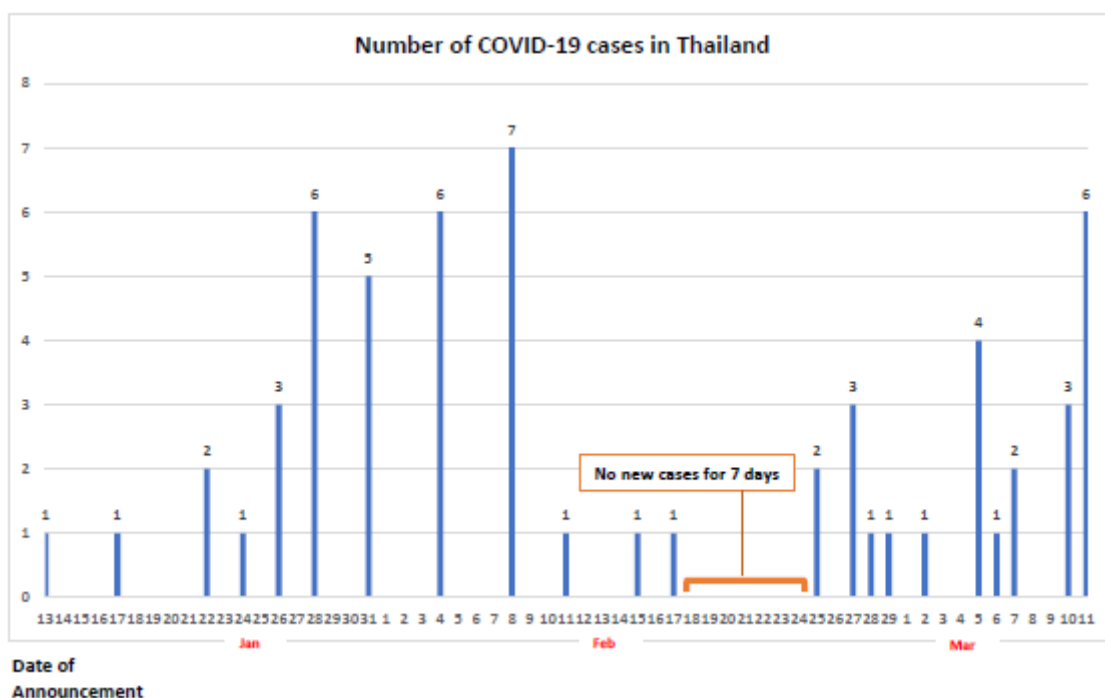
1 death

1,903 persons under  
Investigation / treatment

### ANALYSIS

Despite a recent increase in numbers of cases, most of Thailand's confirmed COVID-19 cases appear to continue to link to "imported" cases – in public health terms, the limited local transmission of cases has not become community-based transmission, where the source of the infection for most cases is not directly traceable. All countries confronting threats of COVID-19 outbreaks, including Thailand, should continue to prioritize preventing transmission of the coronavirus through vigorous public health action – identifying and diagnosing suspected cases, isolating them quickly to prevent spread to others, providing appropriate treatment, and following close contacts to ensure that they remain healthy.

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>1</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