

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO **Thailand** Situation Report – 23 March 2020

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health on 23 March 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

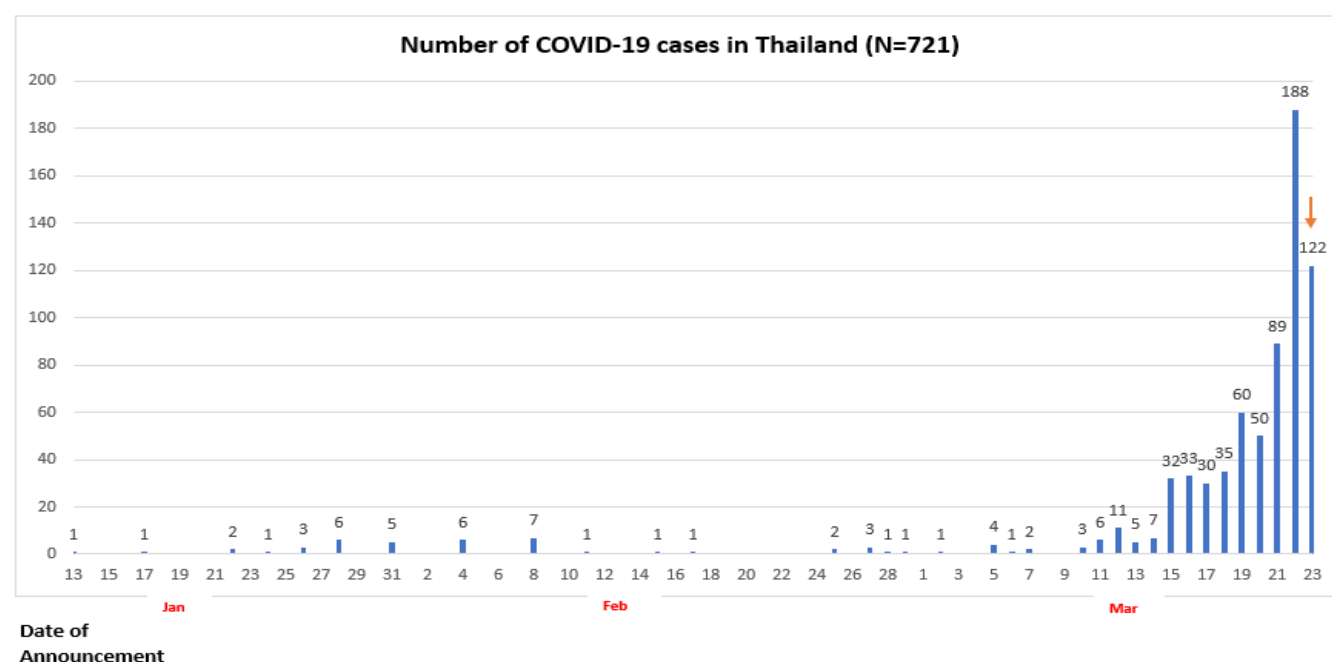
- On the 23rd of March 2020, 122 new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand (MoPH), bringing the total number of cases to 721.
- Twenty cases are linked to previous clusters involving pubs and Boxing stadiums.
- Ten cases are related to foreigners and Thais returning from abroad or those working with international travelers.
- Ninety-two cases are still under investigation. Many of these cases are younger adults living in Bangkok with mild symptoms, underscoring the critical importance of practicing social distancing.
- Increasing numbers of cases are being identified in Thailand's provinces. The MOPH asks all persons coming from Bangkok to report to the designated Communicable Diseases Officers in their sub-district. They are requested to carefully monitor their health, practice respiratory hygiene and social distancing (remain at home, maintain a distance of 1 meter from other persons).
- As of March 22nd, 370 cases have been male (67.2%) and 229 females (32.8%). Cases have ranged from 6 months to 79 years old with a median age of 38 years old.
- Of the 721 COVID-19 cases reported in Thailand, 52 have recovered, 668 are receiving treatment (7 cases are severe) in healthcare settings and one has died.
- There is now a cumulative total of 10,955 Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) in Thailand since the COVID-19 outbreak began, including 5,341 people being actively investigated or treated. This group 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

721 confirmed (122 new)  
1 death, 7 severe cases  
5,341 persons under  
Investigation / treatment

Number of Case



## RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

The Governors of Bangkok, five neighboring provinces and Chiang Mai have imposed urgent measures to ensure social distancing, including closing a range of retail business until at least April 12th. People living in these areas are requested to remain inside their homes and to limit all social contacts. The MOPH has urged workers of retail businesses in Bangkok not to travel to their hometowns in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus to their families. The National Communicable Disease Committee has asked all Provincial Governors to develop action plans for screening, case- finding and disease prevention measures at the district and sub-district levels. Some provinces are seeing their first cases. Testing, isolating positive cases and tracing their contacts to limit ongoing transmission of the virus, is an essential public health response at this moment. These activities, combined with strict social distancing measures, are the best tools currently available to combat the pandemic.

The basic principles to reduce the risk of contracting the virus that causes COVID-19 include the following:

- Remain inside your home. Leave your home only for essential activities (e.g. to seek medical care or to purchase food).
- Frequently wash your hands, especially after any contact with ill people or their environment. An alcohol-based hand rub is also effective
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- People with symptoms should cover coughs sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and frequently wash their hands.
- Maintain a distance of at least 1 meter from all other persons at all times.
- Do not shake hands, embrace, share eating utensils or smoking devices with other people.
- Avoid contact with people suffering any symptoms of acute respiratory infection.
- If you are feeling unwell, wear a cloth or paper mask. Do not use N95 respirators as supplies are limited and they are critically needed for healthcare workers.
- Keep all commonly touched surfaces clean, using disinfectants that are active against enveloped viruses, such as 70% Ethyl alcohol or Sodium hypochlorite at 0.5% (equivalent 5000ppm).

## EXPLAINER: Thailand joins the WHO Solidarity Trial – Global Testing of COVID-19 Drugs

Thailand will join the World Health Organization's "Solidarity Trial" – an eight-country clinical study for potential treatments for COVID-19, part of a rapid global search for drugs to treat COVID-19. In addition to Thailand, the multi-arm, multi-country trial will include the participation of Argentina, Bahrain, Canada, France, Iran, Norway, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland. The Solidarity trial will test four different drugs or combinations – a) remdesivir, b) a combination of two drugs, lopinavir and ritonavir, c) the two drugs plus interferon beta, and d) chloroquine – and will compare their effectiveness to what is called standard of care — the regular support hospitals treating COVID-19 patients use now.

## 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 transmission to citizens and health care workers thereby slowing the spread of the virus
- Rapidly identify, isolate and provide the best available care for all patients
- Address crucial unknowns regarding clinical severity, extent of transmission, viral shedding, treatment options, and accelerate the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines
- Communicate critical 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.
- Thailand is also updating its 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.
- 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 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

- 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](#)