

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

WHO Thailand Situation Report – 8 February 2020

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health on 8 February 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Today, 8 February, the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand announced seven more laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV cases, bringing the total of confirmed cases in Thailand so far to 32.**
- Of the new cases reported, three are Thai nationals and four are visitors from China to Thailand.
- This makes it a total of 23 Chinese visitors and 9 Thai nationals confirmed with novel coronavirus infection to date in Thailand.
- One of the Thai cases is a man who was among the 138 Thai nationals brought back to Thailand from Wuhan, Hubei Province, China on 4 February and who were immediately placed in quarantine at Thai Navy guesthouses. He tested negative for novel coronavirus for two days running, but displayed mild flu-like symptoms on 7 February, yesterday, whereupon tests confirmed 2019-nCoV infection. The Ministry reports that the man is doing well today.
- Of the other two Thai cases announced today, one had close contact with international visitors to Thailand. The other case is a close contact of this person.
- Out of the four Chinese visitors reported today to have novel coronavirus, three are members of the same family who were close contacts of an earlier confirmed case, thereby constituting a family cluster of infection.
- The Ministry of Public Health says that 375 persons are currently under investigation, while 279 have been treated for symptoms and discharged.
- Earlier confirmed cases of Thai nationals include two taxi drivers and a bus driver who likely came into contact with infected passengers from China. The Thai authorities today emphasised that taxi drivers, tourist bus drivers, retail sector employees and other nationals who through their work come into close contact with international visitors constitute a “high risk” category for contracting novel coronavirus. The government has been conducting a hygiene and safety campaign aimed at citizens who come into close contact with international visitors or who otherwise operate in crowded environments.
- There were also two Thai nationals who traveled to Japan and displayed symptoms after returning to Thailand, but health authorities say it’s as yet unclear where they acquired their infection.
- A Thai woman who travelled to Wuhan, China, is also counted among the confirmed cases; she has since fully recovered.
- A confirmed case in the Republic of Korea had travelled to Thailand prior to onset of illness and diagnosis. The timeline suggests it is possible infection could have been acquired in either Thailand or in the Republic of Korea after the person returned home.
- Screening at airports in Thailand has identified fewer and fewer possible cases in recent days. However, screening has been further intensified at prominent ports in Thailand amid reports that dozens more persons on a cruise ship off the coast of Yokohama, Japan had tested positive for novel coronavirus.

THAILAND SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in
last 24 hours

32 confirmed
375 persons currently under
investigation

MEDIA

- Media coverage of the outbreak continues to be high in Thailand, including news of the outbreak from China and other countries.
- WHO Thailand continues to receive media queries about the outbreak, and has revamped its [website](#) to better present relevant content on a regular basis to the public and other constituencies. Media queries can be directed to sethawebsite@who.int or kanpirom@who.int

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;
- 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 also recently updated its dedicated national pandemic influenza preparedness plan (currently 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; this support is currently being provided to Myanmar, and support for Indonesia and the Maldives is also being arranged.
- A special advisory group consisting of former high-level health officials has been formed to support the Health Ministry in its response to the outbreak.
- 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 who have recently been in Wuhan, China, and other affected areas are being provided information upon arrival by the Ministry of Public Health, including how to report any possible illness to the Department of Disease Control:

Health Beware Card
For travelers arriving in Thailand

Welcome to Thailand. Please keep this card with you. It may save your life!
If you are ill with fever, cough, difficult breathing within 14 days after arriving in Thailand. Kindly give this card to your doctor and tell him or her of your recent travel in Wuhan, China.

You may have been exposed to an infectious disease before arriving in this country. Thus, your information on travel history, symptoms, onset date, arrival date, accommodation name will help your doctor to give a right disease diagnosis and prompt treatment.

If you would like to report your illness, please contact the Department of Disease Control at DDC Hotline# 1422 , so that appropriate assistance can be offered.

DDC Hotline 1422

WeChat for your health

What WHO is doing in Thailand

- WHO Thailand has been in regular and direct contact with the Royal Thai Government through the Ministry of Public Health;
- WHO shares information with the Government including key developments elsewhere, as well as guidelines and updates;

- WHO facilitates the external sharing of the virus between researchers to contribute to regional and global efforts to develop a vaccine and strengthen efforts to combat the outbreak;
- WHO facilitates support from the WHO collaborating centre in Hong Kong for infectious disease modelling as required;
- WHO supports the wider UN response and provides relevant information and advice to staff of the UN system in Thailand;
- WHO is collaborating with UNICEF on supporting the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Education in relation to special measures in schools and other educational institutions to safeguard against the spread of 2019-nCoV.

What WHO is doing globally

- WHO has developed a protocol for the [investigation of early cases](#) (*the “First Few X (FFX) Cases and contact investigation protocol for 2019-novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection”*). The protocol is designed to gain an early understanding of the key clinical, epidemiological and virological characteristics of the first cases of 2019-nCoV infection detected in any individual country, to inform the development and updating of public health guidance to manage cases and reduce potential spread and impact of infection.
- WHO has developed interim global guidance for laboratory diagnosis, advice on the [use of masks](#) during home care and in health care settings in the context of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, [clinical management, infection prevention and control](#) in health care settings, [home care](#) for patients with suspected novel coronavirus, [risk communication and community engagement and Global Surveillance](#) for human infection with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).
- WHO has prepared a [disease commodity package](#) that includes an essential list of biomedical equipment, medicines and supplies necessary to care for patients with 2019-nCoV.
- WHO has provided recommendations to reduce risk of transmission from animals to humans.
- WHO has published updated advice for [international traffic](#) in relation to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV.
- WHO has activated an R&D blueprint to accelerate diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics.
- WHO has developed an [online course](#) to provide general introduction to emerging respiratory viruses, including novel coronaviruses.
- WHO is providing guidance on early investigations, which are critical to carry out early in an outbreak of a new virus. The data collected from the protocols can be used to refine recommendations for surveillance and case definitions, to characterize the key epidemiological transmission features of 2019-nCoV, help understand spread, severity, spectrum of disease, impact on the community and to inform operational models for implementation of countermeasures such as case isolation, contact tracing and isolation. Several protocols are available here: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/early-investigations>
- WHO is working with its networks of researchers and other experts to coordinate global work on surveillance, epidemiology, modelling, diagnostics, clinical care and treatment, and other ways to identify, manage the disease and limit onward transmission. WHO has issued interim guidance for countries, which is updated regularly.
- WHO is working with global expert networks and partnerships for laboratory, infection prevention and control, clinical management and mathematical modelling.

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: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>
- For the latest on the Thai government response, access the **Department of Disease Control, Thai Ministry of Public Health 2019-nCoV landing page**: <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/intro.php>
English: <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/eng/index.php>
Thai: <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/index.php>
Chinese: <https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/chn/index.php>
The Department of Disease Control Hotline is 1422 (dialed from within Thailand).
- For a comprehensive 2019-nCoV global case-tracker, via data visualisation including maps and charts, access the **Johns Hopkins University’s Centre for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE)**:

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6> (English)
<https://mophgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/210413ebb5ff49bb8914808af6473322>
(Thai)

For more information or queries on WHO Thailand's response to the 2019-nCoV outbreak, or our work more widely, contact sethawebmaster@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 travellers, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication*