19 April 2021 | **WHO Thailand Situation Report**

43,742 (+1,390) Confirmed

104 (+3) Deaths

14,851 Hospitalized

28,787 (+104) Recovered

THAILAND SITUATION UPDATE No. 173

SPOTLIGHT

- Today, 1,390 new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand bringing the total number of cases to date to 43,742. Three new deaths were reported today

- Of the cases reported in Thailand to date, 65.8% (28,787) have recovered, 0.2% (104) have died, and 34% (14,851) are receiving treatment or are in isolation (14,288 are in conventional hospitals and 563 in field hospitals).

- The 1,390 laboratory-confirmed cases reported today include

  ◊ 1,058 cases detected through the routine surveillance system: (testing of people presenting at a healthcare facility for a variety of reasons, including presence of COVID-19 symptoms, contact with a case, concern about a possible exposure)

  ◊ 326 cases identified through active case finding: (testing of people in the community at the initiative of public health authorities).

  ◊ 6 cases detected in quarantine after arriving in Thailand from another country

- Of the 1,384 cases acquired in Thailand and reported today, 293 were detected in Bangkok, 210 in the vicinity of Bangkok's and 881 in other provinces.

- Between 1 April 2021 and 19 April 2021, 14,879 confirmed cases have been reported, of which 10,204 were detected through the routine surveillance system, 4,532 through active case finding, and 143 are individuals who entered Thailand from other countries. In this time period, ten cases have died.

- The 34 provinces reporting more than 50 cumulative cases in the latest wave (1-19 April, 2021) are Lopburi (53), Chantaburi (53), Nakhon Si Thammarat (55), Buriram (55), Saraburi (59), Ratchaburi (100), Ubon Ratchathani (114), Chachoengsao (115), Lampang (119), Suphanburi (127), Khon Kaen (131), Nakhon Sawan (136), Lamphun (136), Ayutthaya (153), Phitsanulok(154), Chiang Rai (157), Surat Thani (162), Phetchaburi (164), Udon Thani (164), Sa Kaew (190), Nakhon Ratchasima (191), Rayong (192), Phuket (204), Nakhon Pathom (216), Songkhla (236), Pathum Thani (257), Samut Sakhon (369), Narathiwat (381), Samut Prakan (688), Nonthaburi (701), Prachuab Khiri Khan (772), Chonburi (1,280), Chiang Mai (2,250), and Bangkok (3,615).

COVID-19 cases in Thailand, by date of reporting
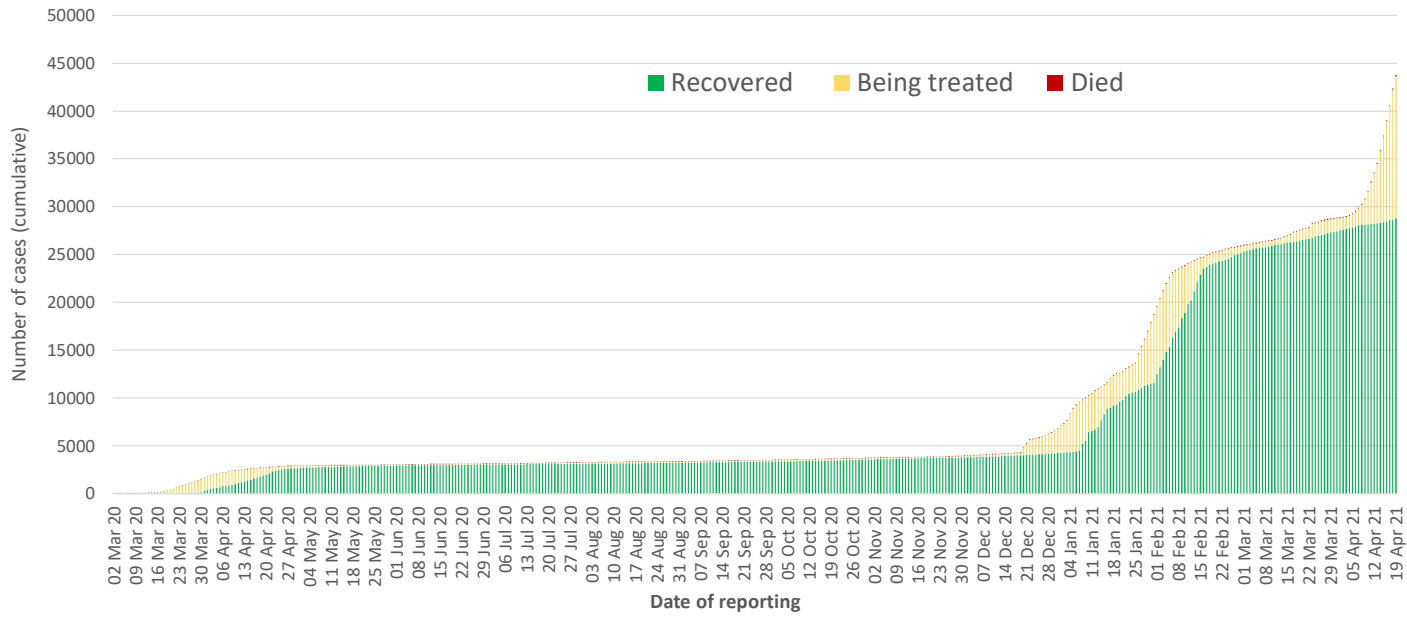
Source: MoPH, 19 Apr 2021

UPDATE FROM THE CCSA

- **The current situation**

  ◊ The index case for a cluster in Sa Kaew Province was a 41-year-old individual who had visited entertainment venues in Thonglor. He then visited several other places and came into contact with many people. Household and community transmission from this index case account for 26 in total in the same cluster. This illustrates how a single infected case can result in a large number of secondary cases.

  ◊ From 1-18 April 2021,146 healthcare workers have been infected with COVID-19, including clinicians and nurses. Not all these infections were due to transmission in a clinical setting, some of these people have become infected in their homes or in the communities where they live. This situation has led to reduced capacity of HCWs at some hospitals, so everyone needs to cooperate to bring the number of cases down. The MOPH and GPO have stockpiled masks, PPE and therapeutics, but public cooperation is needed to flatten the curve to ensure the health system is not overwhelmed (see below).

- **Message to the General Public**

  ◊ High-risk close contacts who initially test negative need to self-isolate for up to 14 days and refrain from being in contact with others.

  ◊ Hotline numbers include: 1422 (DDC), 1669 (Erawan Center), 1668 (DMS), and 1330 (NHSO)

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The number of people with COVID-19 in Thailand (14,851) currently either receiving treatment or in isolation is significantly higher than at any time since the pandemic began. Admitting all individuals who test positive for COVID-19 to a healthcare facility (including a hospitel or field hospital), including those who have no symptoms, can help with the rapid identification of anyone whose clinical condition deteriorates, and also facilitates the strict application of measures for infection prevention and control. However, if the number of COVID-19 cases being identified every day continues to exceed the number of people being discharged, the experience of other countries is that it may eventually become necessary to priortise hospital beds for people with greater need for supportive care or who have risk factors for severe disease.
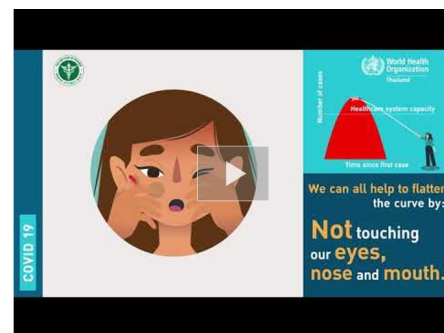
EXPLAINER: FLATTENING THE CURVE

One way to present information about an outbreak or epidemic is to show in a graph the number of cases of infected people over time.

A very high curve is created by a steep increase in the number of cases per day, followed by a quick decrease in the number of cases. A flatter curve is created by a more gradual increase in the number of cases per day and a more gradual decrease. Over a long period of time the number of people infected might be around the same, but the difference is the number of cases that occur each day.

This is important because in every country, there are limited numbers of hospitals, nurses and doctors. The capacity of the health system can be exceeded if too many people seek healthcare at the same time (the red curve in the animation). The flatter the curve, the more likely it is that hospitals can continue to deliver care to the people they serve (the green curve in the animation). The way we flatten the curve, is by slowing down transmission of COVID-19.

It is also important to realise that every single one of us has a role to play in flattening the curve. Doctors need to identify and test possible cases quickly and place them in strict isolation, so they can't infect others. Public health authorities need to identify close contacts of cases and place them into strict quarantine to limit possible spread. Physical distancing measures like cancelling sporting events, concerts and other large gatherings can also help to slow transmission of the virus.

Members of the public can also make a big difference. If you start to wash your hands regularly, you will help everyone. If you practice respiratory hygiene (cough into a tissue, dispose of it safely and wash your hands), you will also help. If you maintain a metre or more distance from other people when you go out, and if you stay at home when you are sick, you will protect yourself, your family, your community and your nation. And if we all do this, we can make this epidemic manageable.

Flattening the curve and reducing the spread of COVID-19

WHAT WHO IS DOING TO SUPPORT THAILAND

WHO Thailand supports the Royal Thai Government through the Ministry of Public Health, sharing information on developments, guidelines and scientific updates. WHO also supports the wider UN response, including working with key partners to support migrant populations in Thailand. WHO also provides information and advice to staff of the UN system in Thailand.