

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

WHO Thailand Situation Report – 6 February 2020

Data as reported by the Thai Ministry of Public Health on 6 February 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 6 February 2020, 25 laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV cases have been reported by health authorities in Thailand, most of them persons from China, including Wuhan city of Hubei Province, who visited Thailand.
- Besides these cases, 595 persons in Thailand have been under investigation for 2019-nCoV, with tests still being carried out on the majority of them, while others have been treated for symptoms and discharged.
- The confirmed cases of Thai nationals include two taxi drivers who likely came into contact with infected passengers from China. One of these men has been released from hospital and appeared at a press conference with the Thai Ministry of Public Health to share his experience. The Thai authorities are conducting a hygiene and safety campaign aimed at citizens (including taxi drivers) who come into close contact with international visitors or who otherwise operate in crowded environments.
- There are 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 confirmed case in the Republic of Korea had travelled to Thailand prior to onset of illness and diagnosis. The timeline in this case suggests it is possible infection could have been acquired in either Thailand or in the Republic of Korea after the person returned home.
- Reports indicate that two confirmed 2019-nCoV patients with relatively severe illness improved significantly after unlicensed treatment with Lopinavir and Ritonavir (both HIV drugs), and Oseltamivir (usually used to treat influenza). *[Note: WHO guidelines say unlicensed treatments should be administered only in the context of ethically approved clinical trials or the Monitored Emergency Use of Unregistered Interventions Framework, with strict monitoring.]*
- 138 Thai nationals who were in Wuhan, China, returned to Thailand on 4 February, aboard a specially commissioned flight Thai AirAsia flight under the auspices of the Government and military. Upon landing at U-Tapao Airport, Rayong Province, they were immediately sent into quarantine at Navy guesthouses for a duration of 14 days. All are said to be doing well. Physical examinations and laboratory tests are being conducted for the entire group, along with a psychosocial assessment.

THAILAND SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

25 confirmed
595 under investigation

MEDIA

- The WHO Representative in Thailand, Dr Daniel Kertesz, participated in a well-attended media event which was also open to the public at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand on 4 February, to discuss the ongoing outbreak alongside representatives from the Ministry of Public Health and the Thai Red Cross who have been at the forefront of responding to the outbreak. The audience posed several questions pertaining to personal safety, the possible course the outbreak may take and the response by government and partners. The WHO Thailand [social media](#) accounts carried live coverage of the event, and content generated was widely disseminated by the social media audience, demonstrating how concerned the public is about the outbreak and its implications.
- WHO Thailand continues to receive media queries about the outbreak, and is revamping its [website](#) to better present relevant content on a regular basis to the public and other constituencies.



- The WHO South-East Asia Regional Director, Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, issued an op-ed, [The Four Weapons Against Coronavirus](#), which was carried in the Bangkok Post (print copy and online) on 5 February. The piece stressed the need for early warning, alert and disease surveillance systems; stepping up infection prevention and control (IPC) in health facilities; equipping rapid response teams to act decisively; and the need for streamlined procedures to ensure timely and transparent communication at all levels of government.

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;
- 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 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 will be conducting modelling exercises with the National Research Council of Thailand to forecast possible scenarios and outcomes as the outbreak evolves in Thailand.

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

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 **WHO Thailand**: www.who.int/thailand
- For the latest worldwide figures and technical advice about the outbreak, including how to protect yourself, access WHO Headquarters: 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>
Department of Disease Control Hotline is 1422
- 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 sethwebmaster@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