

04 February 2020

## Latest update on coronavirus cases in Thailand

**Bangkok**, **03 February**, **2020** – The Tourism Authority of <u>Thailand</u> (TAT) would like to provide a summary of the health surveillance systems and preventive actions taken by Thai airports to screen for 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) cases.

## **Airports of Thailand**

Since 3 January, Thailand has implemented passengers' health screening with thermal scans at Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Krabi International Airports for suspected symptoms of the 2019-nCoV disease.

These airports have also stepped up hygiene measures, including extra cleaning and disinfection as well as provision of additional hand sanitisers.

All tourists will receive health advice (health beware cards) from the immigration officials and officers at the points of entry. The card is available in Chinese, English and Thai.

Health surveillance systems at Thai airports for coronavirus prevention



#### **Department of Airports**

The Department of Airports (DOA) has also implemented passengers' health screening with thermal scans and handheld thermometers at all its commercial airports throughout Thailand including nine airports in the North (Lampang, Phrae, Nan, Mae Hong Son, Pai, Mae Sot, Tak, Phetchabun and Phitsanulok), nine in the Northeast (Buri Ram, Nakhon Phanom, Khon Kaen, Nakhon Ratchasima, Loei, Roi Et, Udon Thani, Sakon Nakhon, and Ubon Ratchathani), and 10 in the South (Krabi, Chumphon, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Hua Hin, Narathiwat, Surat Thani, Ranong, Trang, and Pattani).





All airports have been instructed to step up hygiene measures, including extra cleaning and disinfection as well as provide hand sanitisers.

All tourists will also receive information on everyday hygienic practices, which can help prevent the spread of several viruses, including the 2019-nCoV.

# **U-Tapao Rayong-Pattaya International Airport**

Managed by the Royal Thai Navy, the U-Tapao Rayong-Pattaya International Airport is also implementing passengers' health screening with thermal scans and handheld thermometers and has a team of medical doctors on standby as part of its preventive measures.

# Samui Airport

Bangkok Airways has implemented health surveillance and hygienic measures at its Samui Airport. Hygienic measures have been stepped up at its other two airports in Sukhothai and Trat.

# **Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand**

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has issued updates and recommendations on the prevention of the 2019-nCoV for air operators in the country. It also offers advice for the people on how to protect themselves from the coronavirus while travelling by air.

Thai airlines – TAT has previously provided an update on Thai airlines step up preventive actions against the 2019 novel coronavirus.

TAT would like to remind all to strictly adhere to everyday hygienic habits, which can help prevent the spread of several viruses, especially when you are out and about enjoying travel experiences in Thailand.

The TAT's offices in Thailand and around the world are ready to help and act as coordination centres for those people wanting any information updates on the 2019-nCov situation in Thailand.

Thailand's Department of Disease Control released recommendations regarding 2019 novel coronavirus



**Bangkok, 02 February, 2020** – The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) would like to provide a brief of the recommendations for the public and private operators of tourism-related businesses regarding the 2019 novel





coronavirus (2019-nCoV) preventive measures recently released by the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health.

## **Recommendations for Self-Protection**

How to reduce your risk of coronavirus infection – Clean your hands with soaps and water or alcohol-based hand rub, cover the nose and mouth when coughing and/or sneezing with a tissue or flexed elbow, avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms, cook meat and eggs thoroughly, and have no unprotected contact with live wild or Farm animals.

Inbound tourists – Local and international travellers, travelling from affected areas within 14 days, who have a fever with respiratory symptoms; such as, cough, sore throat, a runny nose, or difficulty breathing should seek medical attention and notify the medical providers of their travel history, symptoms, and onset date of symptoms.

Tour guides and hotel staff – Protect yourselves by observing your guests' health status and ask the guests who have respiratory symptoms to wear a mask. Be careful of close contact while performing any duties if it is hard to avoid, wear a mask and regularly wash your hands. Keep your body warm and get enough sleep. If you are sick, seek medical advice at the nearest hospital and notify the history of contact with any suspected patients to the healthcare providers.



#### **Recommendations for Tour Agencies**

Inform customers from affected areas before arriving to Thailand about the 2019-nCoV screening measures at Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Krabi and Chiang Rai International Airports.

Share information about the health advisories, especially for people with a travel History to affected areas. If someone has any respiratory symptoms as stated above, they should postpone their travel.

Provide surgical masks, alcohol handwashing gel and recommendations for health care, and immediately Take any customers with respiratory symptoms to hospital for diagnosis and treatment.

Step up hygiene measures of tour vehicles, especially on parts that are often used by passengers including seating, vehicle seat cases, armrests, curtains, blankets and mirrors/windows, as well as air conditioning systems and restrooms on the buses.

## **Recommendations for hotel Operations**

Inquire about your guests' travel history and observe the health status of the guests while staying at the hotel. If a





guest travelled during the past 14 days to an affected area and has respiratory symptoms, staff must immediately report him/her to the Department of Disease Control Hotline at Tel. 1422 and require the suspected patient to wear a mask before sending them to the nearest hospital.

Provide masks and install alcohol dispensers for washing hands in common areas; such as, lobbies, restaurants, exercise rooms, doorways or elevators.

Increase awareness among housekeeping staff of the risks of contamination of viral agents on surrounding surfaces. All housekeeping staff need to pay attention to self-protection; such as, wearing a mask and rubber gloves while working. Frequently used items; such as, remote controls, light switches, glasses for water, telephones, headboards, and door handles need to be cleaned to eliminate germs.

For hotels that have had guests who are confirmed cases of the 2019-nCoV, the housekeeping staff must protect themselves by wearing a shower cap, large clear windproof glasses, masks, plastic aprons, long gloves and boots. Cleaning supplies for the room should include bleach with 6% sodium hypochloride mixed with water in a ratio of 1 to 100 to clean the areas that may be contaminated or stained with nasal discharge, saliva, or mucus of the confirmed case.

Recommendations for Operators in Domestic Public Transportation

Building and vehicle management – Keep the restrooms, food courts, and ticket sales counters clean and use disinfectant for cleaning of service areas at least every two hours; keep all vehicles clean, especially on surfaces that are frequently touched by passengers; keep all common equipment used by passengers clean; such as, the buttons on kiosks and vending machines, and prepare and provide masks and alcohol gel to passengers and staff at common service areas.

Staff management – Share information on disease prevention and control internally; provide recommendations to staff on what to do if sick and observe the symptoms of customers and staff. Operators and staff working on vehicles should pay attention to self-protection. Annual medical check-ups for staff is recommended.

Service management – Increase ticketing channels; such as, online systems to reduce congestion at ticket counters; ask passengers who have respiratory symptoms to wear a mask and share information to staff about the disease including how to prevent it.

Recommendations for Places Where There are Large Gatherings of People These include concerts, sports competitions, amusement parks, etc.

Event holders and enterprise management – Have a screening process for people who have any respiratory symptoms; provide alcohol hand sanitisers and masks; clean equipment in crowded places frequently; prepare first aid points and provide simple treatment by isolating the patient first before referring to the nearest hospital; increase the number of shuttle services; spread out the distribution of food stalls; provide health recommendations to participants for disease prevention, and consider postponing activities until the outbreak situation is resolved as appropriate.

Recommendations for participants – Prepare a mask and alcohol gel and follow personal hygiene habits; do not go to a crowded activity if you are sick; recommend any participants with respiratory symptoms to wear a mask, and avoid close contact with people who have symptoms.

Full details of the recommendations are available at <a href="https://dc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/eng/introduction.php">https://dc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/eng/introduction.php</a>





# TAT assures visitors: Thailand open for tourism & travel



Bangkok, 01 February, 2020 – As hundreds of thousands of visitors have booked travel to Thailand over the next few months, the tourism authority of thailand (TAT) would like to thank them for their continued support, and reassure them of their safety and security, in view of the following:

(+) All shops, department stores, attractions, restaurants, museums and tourist spots are open as normal.

(+) All events, sports activities, conferences and exhibitions are proceeding normally. Not a single one has been cancelled.

(+) A massive preventive campaign is under way nationwide to block the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus.

(+) Not a single case has been reported in popular destinations; such as, Phuket, Chiang Mai, Samui, Krabi, or in any of the 55 emerging destinations.

(+) hotels, tour operators, airlines and all other providers of products and services to visitors are Taking 100% action to ensure cleanliness and hygiene.

By just taking normal medical precautions, visitors can proceed with their plans as usual.

source; <u>here</u>





Statement from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) about the 2019 novel coronavirus situation in Thailand



Dear friends of Thailand,

On Thursday, 30 January, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in the People's Republic of China, with exportations to other countries, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

With regards to the 2019-nCoV situation in Thailand, as of 31 January, 2020, the Ministry of Public Health has confirmed five new cases resulting in a total of 19 confirmed cases. Seven people have already returned home and the others remain admitted at hospitals for treatment.

According to the Department of Disease Control (DDC), Ministry of Public Health, the identified confirmed cases reflect that Thailand has an effective implementation on disease surveillance. The disease surveillance is flexible and ready to be applied along with the updated situation so that more cases can be detected and to further control the transmission of disease promptly.

In addition, the DDC has advised that according to the assessment from experts, the level that Thai people are at-risk for becoming infected with the 2019-nCoV is still low. However, Thailand will not let its guard down. Strict surveillance continues to be implemented, and the public is recommended to protect themselves from the disease by avoiding crowded places and contact with people who are coughing and sneezing. People should bring a mask when going outside of their residences, and frequently wash hands with soap and water or alcohol gel. If anyone has any symptoms including coughing, sneezing, sore throat and a runny nose, please wear a mask and seek medical treatment at a hospital immediately or contact the DDC Hotline 1422.

TAT would like to emphasise that the Thai tourism industry will do everything possible to strictly implement preventive measures and heighten active surveillance for all tourists in Thailand to protect all from being exposed to the virus. This is consistent with the policy of the Thai tourism industry to provide and maintain quality services. In the meantime, Thailand's events and festivals between now and March 2020, will Take place as scheduled. Public transport, tourism establishments, attractions and Shopping malls are open as usual.

TAT would like to remind all to strictly adhere to everyday hygienic habits, which can help prevent the spread of several viruses, especially when you are out and about enjoying travel experiences in Thailand.

The TAT's offices in Thailand and around the world are ready to help and act as coordination centres for those people wanting any information updates on the 2019-nCov situation in Thailand.

Mr. Yuthasak Supasorn Governor of the <u>Tourism Authority of Thailand</u> Issued on 01 February, 2020 at 11.00 Hrs.

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#### 1698 words

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**About The Tourism Authority of Thailand**: The Tourism Authority of Thailand (T.A.T.) was established in 1960 by the Royal Thai Government to be specifically responsible for tourism promotion. In 1965, T.A.T. opened its first overseas office in New York. Since then, T.A.T. has established 21 offices in different parts of the world.

#### **Thailand Expert**

Thailand Expert is an online resource, designed for use by members of the travel trade. With a host of features offering a wealth of information, training and industry offers, <u>Thailand Expert</u> is the 'go-to' resource for anyone wanting to learn more about selling this hugely popular holiday destination.

#### Go Thai. Be Free.

Did you know that Thailand is one of the world's most friendly travel destinations for members of the LGBTQ+ community? Head to the <u>Go Thai. Be Free.</u> portal for more information.

