SPOTLIGHT

• Zero deaths reported today.

• All 18 new cases reported today were detected in migrants entering the country and held in quarantine at the immigration detention centre in Songkhla’s Sadao border district.

• At present, these cases have no or mild symptoms. Confirmatory laboratory tests for these cases will be undertaken in Bangkok.

• To date, 84 confirmed cases were detected in people who were held in state/local quarantine across the country; another 60 confirmed cases were detected in immigrants who were held in the immigration detention centre in Songkhla.

• During the last 28 days, 74 confirmed cases were reported in Yala (54 of which were in Bunnungsata District alone). Prior to this period, 52 were reported in the province.

UPDATES FROM THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Testing
• Data from 121 of the total 142 COVID-19 RT-PCR laboratories (both public and private) as of 1st May show that a total of 227,860 samples have been tested for COVID-19. The trend during April shows that the number of tests has been increasing but the percentage of positive cases has been decreasing.

• The overall positive rate among PUI (persons under investigation) is also reduced (mid-January to 6 April = 4.5%). From 7 April (when the definition of PUI changed) to 30 Apr the rate is 1.9%.

• The ministry’s policy is to increase testing among at-risk/vulnerable groups in the community.

Migrant population
• While active case finding is being intensified in the South, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) is expanding its efforts to other crowded settings, such as prisons and migrant camps. Active case finding among these groups to date has found no confirmed cases.

• On 1st May, DDC launched the COVID-19 hotline (#1422) using Khmer, Myanmar and Lao languages.

• 73 calls were received on the first day of operation. Questions included: the general COVID-19 situation; the Emergency Decree and information about border crossing; testing for COVID-19 while jobless/without income; preventive behaviours; and influenza vaccination.
ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

Influenza vaccination and COVID-19

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent infection and reduce hospitalisations and deaths caused by influenza viruses. The Ministry of Public Health and WHO recommend yearly influenza vaccination for pregnant women (as the highest priority), as well as for children, elderly people, those with underlying chronic medical conditions (including immunosuppression and thalassaemia) and health-care workers. The Ministry of Public Health also supports vaccination for individuals with obesity.

Influenza vaccine is not effective against the COVID-19 virus. However, preventing excess burden on the health system by reducing influenza in the population means that the system has more capacity to manage COVID-19. In addition, because COVID-19 and influenza have a similar disease presentation, it may also help your doctor to make an accurate diagnosis if they know you have been vaccinated against influenza.

WHAT WHO IS DOING TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THAILAND

WHO Thailand is 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, including working with key partners and the Ministry of Public Health to support migrant populations in Thailand. WHO also provides information and advice to staff of the UNUN.system in Thailand.

USEFUL LINKS

- The Thailand COVID19 situation report is available in Thai and English, please visit.
- For regular updates on WHO’s response in Thailand, please visit.
- For global figures and technical advice from WHO, please visit.

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For latest updates and resources, please visit:

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