

**FAQs on COVID-19 Situation and Measures in Thailand**

- 1. Why were the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China, including Macao and Hong Kong Special Administrative Regions, removed from the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health on Localities outside the Kingdom Designated as Dangerous Communicable Disease Infected Zones of the Communicable Disease Coronavirus 2019 or COVID-19 B.E. 2563 (2020) on 15 May 2020?**

The Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China, including Hong Kong and Macao, were designated as dangerous communicable disease infected zones of COVID-19 on 2 March 2020, which is more than two months ago, when they had a high number of daily confirmed cases of COVID-19. Since then, they have seen an overall downward trend in new infections and have put in place strong public health measures to control local transmissions. Therefore, they were removed from the list of localities designated as dangerous communicable disease infected zones of COVID-19 to reflect the current outbreak situation in those areas.

However, this is a separate issue from the restrictions on entering the Kingdom of Thailand, which is still in place. On 16 May 2020, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand extended its temporary ban on all inbound international flights to Thailand, with some exceptions, until 30 June 2020. In addition, all individuals arriving in the Kingdom are still required to undergo a mandatory 14 day quarantine in state facilities. Thus, precautionary measures to prevent local disease transmissions remain in place.

- 2. What has changed under phase 2 of the relaxation of measures and easing of restrictions in Thailand on 17 May 2020?**

The Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has been assessing the COVID-19 situation in Thailand on a daily basis. Given that the number of daily confirmed cases of COVID-19 has seen a downward trend since the beginning of May and has stayed below 10 for more than a period of one week, phase 2 of the relaxation of measures started on 17 May 2020.

Under phase 2, the nationwide curfew has been reduced by one hour, namely, from 23.00 hrs. – 04.00 hrs. of the following day. The ban on inbound international flights to Thailand has been extended till 30 June 2020 and people are still discouraged from traveling between provinces unless necessary.

Under phase 2, certain businesses and activities are allowed to resume operations, and can be divided into two groups. First, activities related to the economy and way of life. This includes sales of food and beverages in restaurants, the re-opening of department stores, retail and wholesale shops, care centres for children, and hotel meeting rooms for a limited number of people. Second, exercise and healthcare activities, which include the re-opening of fitness centres with restrictions, the re-opening of swimming pools, botanical gardens, museums, and learning centres.

On 17 May 2020, the Government also launched the “Thai Chana” platform, which seeks to monitor local transmissions by requesting that customers check in and check out of shops and restaurants via a QR code. If it is found that a customer tests positive for COVID-19, an alert will be sent to people who were in the same shop or restaurant at the same time as the said customer. At the moment, the “Thai Chana” platform is still in its early days and under trial.

The CCSA will continue its daily assessment of the COVID-19 situation and effectiveness of measures to control the spread of COVID-19. The next step is to consider whether to extend the Emergency Decree beyond 31 May 2020, and whether the situation in Thailand is sufficiently safe to proceed to phase 3 of further relaxation of measures and easing of restrictions after 14 days.

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