

SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES RELATED TO COVID-19

Strategy/Plan title	Vision	Key points	Adjustments for COVID-19 response
12th National Health Development Plan (2017–2021)	Strong and unified health system to ensure a healthy population and the nation's stability, prosperity, and sustainability Aligned with WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure health promotion, disease prevention, and consumer and environmental protection excellence • Foster fair treatment and reduce inequality • Create mechanism to increase efficiency in managing human resources for health • Strengthen health governance 	
National Strategic Plan for Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness, Prevention and Response (2013–2016)¹ (currently being updated for COVID-19)	Thailand is capable of effective prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases (EIDs). It can reduce illnesses, deaths, and the socio-economic and environmental impacts arising from outbreaks of EIDs through coordinated participation of government, private sector, and the community. Aligned with WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen disease surveillance, prevention, treatment, and control systems under the “One Health” concept • Strengthen systems to enhance a disease-free animal husbandry and improve animal health and health of the wild • Intensify the knowledge management system and promote research and development on EIDs • Establish an integrated management system for public health emergencies preparedness and response • Enhance measures on public information and risk communication on EIDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on this Plan, Thailand MOPH and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established in 2016 the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which coordinated responses to 2017 and 2018 outbreaks of Zika virus.² • In early January 2020, the MOPH scaled up the operations of the EOC to Level 2 to monitor COVID-19.³ • In mid-January 2020, the MOPH issued directives for: (i) nationwide initiatives to control spread, including enhanced surveillance and screening for overseas flights; (ii) standardization of clinical management and diagnosis for patients under investigation; (iii) strengthening of isolation measures; and (iv) strengthening of surveillance as well as risk

¹ Government of Thailand. Ministry of Public Health. 2013. [Thailand's National Strategic Plan for Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness, Prevention and Response \(2013–2016\)](#). Nonthaburi.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2019. [Thailand Partnership Puts the Pieces Together for Emergency Response](#). Atlanta.

³ Government of Thailand. 2020. [Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release: MOPH emphasizes no outbreak of Novel Coronavirus in Thailand, ensuring Thailand's preventive measures for emerging disease, early detection, early treatment](#). News release.

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			communication and health promotion measures. ⁴
National Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan⁵	Thailand has capacity to prevent and control outbreaks of existing or new strains of influenza Aligned with WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an integrated management system for preparedness and response to pandemic influenza Study influenza strains in support of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Planning⁶ Enhance local production capacity of influenza vaccines⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of Acute Respiratory Infection clinics in all hospitals Defining and coordination of the roles of different categories of health facilities Integration of all experts and members of the workforce for coordinated response to the epidemic Reservation of necessary medicines and medical supplies⁸
Communicable Diseases Act B.E. 2558 (2015) MOPH Department of Disease Control	Prevention and control of existing and emerging infectious diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declare COVID-19 as a dangerous communicable disease Give authority to disease control officers in local areas to bring people to be tested for COVID-19, quarantined, or treated Define disease infected zones Prohibit entry/exit of people at ports unless approved by the disease control officers at the quarantine offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking and daily dashboard of case numbers and mortalities Modelling conducted mid-March forecast that, without adequate controls, infections could reach 7.3 million cases by end of 2020.⁹ On 25 March 2020, under Section 34, the government updated travel regulations. Initial COVID-19 testing limited to high risk groups, such as travellers or those in contact with infected cases but testing criteria have since been expanded. As of 7 June 2020, 6,026 tests per 1 million people have been conducted.¹⁰

⁴ Government of Thailand. 2020. [Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release: DDC reported British traveler was infected by influenza A virus, not 2019-nCoV](#). News release.

⁵ Updated plan pending approval by the Prime Minister's Cabinet. WHO Thailand. 2020. [Coronavirus disease 2019: WHO Thailand Situation Report – 6 February 2020](#). Bangkok.

⁶ Thai National Influenza Center. 2020. [Report on surveillance of species changes in the cold 1 January – 31 January 2020](#). Bangkok.

⁷ P. Pitisuttithum and P. Wirachwong. 2019. [A review of epidemic preparedness for influenza through local vaccine production: national security for Thailand](#). *Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics*. 15 (1).

⁸ WHO Thailand. 2020. [Coronavirus disease 2019: WHO Thailand Situation Report – 5 April 2020](#). Bangkok.

⁹ A. Wipatayotin. 2020. [At least 400,000 infections expected](#). *Bangkok Post*. 18 March.

¹⁰ [Worldometers.com](#). Accessed 7 June 2020.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 22 April 2020, 100 screening points nationwide had been provided with testing equipment to carry out active case finding and had expanded testing among at-risk groups and vulnerable people.¹¹
Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situation (2005) Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Allow the government, pursuant to the Law, to enforce measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declare an emergency in all areas of Thailand¹² Introduce 16 measures relating to (i) internal and external travel; (ii) partial lockdowns in high risk areas; (iii) prohibitions on the opening of entertainment and sports venues, spas, etc.; (iv) limits on public gatherings and regulations on social distancing; (v) financial mitigation initiatives; (vi) maintenance of essential service provisions, including hospitals; (vii) management of specific risk groups, such as the elderly; and (viii) delegation of authority to provincial governors to implement emergency decree measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening expanded to all ports of entry, including seaports, ground ports and immigration checkpoints,¹³ prohibiting Thais and foreigners from entering the country without appropriate medical certificates and quarantine provisions.¹⁴ A nationwide curfew was introduced.¹⁵ Provincial governors were instructed to screen travellers returning from at-risk countries and internal hotspots, including Bangkok Metropolitan Area. Village authorities were required to monitor returning workers from Bangkok and its surrounding provinces, including foreign travellers, and ensure quarantine for 14 days.¹⁶

¹¹ N. Techasanee. 2020. [‘Prof. Eor.’ Revealed now, screening Covid-19 is open. Anyone can check 100 points across the country](#). 22 April.

¹² Government of Thailand. 2020. [The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation: Thailand situation update on 27 April 2020](#). News release. 27 April. Emergency decree measures extended until 31 May 2020.

¹³ Government of Thailand. 2020. [Novel Coronavirus 2019 Pneumonia News release: Special Announcement of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 on 9 February 2020](#). News release.

¹⁴ Government of Thailand. 2020. [Measures under the Communicable Diseases Act B.E. 2558 \(2015\) to control the Coronavirus Disease 2019 or COVID-19 \(Version 4\)](#). Bangkok.

¹⁵ Government of Thailand. 2020. [Official Statement of the Office of the Prime Minister RE: Regulation Issued under Section 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2548 \(2005\) \(No. 2\)](#). Bangkok.

¹⁶ Government of Thailand. 2020. [The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation: Thailand situation update on 23 March 2020](#). News release. 23 March.

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Border Health Development Master Plan (2012–2016)	Improve health for populations living in border areas, including registered and non-registered migrants, ethnic minorities, and displaced persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide guidelines for public health services to provide care for migrants and other marginal populations in border areas • Develop capacity of migrant health workers and migrant health volunteers to provide translations for migrant patients in the Thai public facilities, and outreach health education to migrant communities¹⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen surveillance, quarantine, and treatment procedures at all border crossings • Coordinate and facilitate safe border passage for migrants returning to neighboring countries¹⁸
Migrant Health Strategy	Strengthen public health services to improve health of migrants and populations in border zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide health insurance and migrant-friendly health services for documented and undocumented migrants and their dependents¹⁹ • Improve access to health services for stateless people²⁰ • Provide migrant-friendly services through use of migrant volunteers • Strengthen public health management in border areas • Improve cross-border collaboration and increase capacity for disease prevention in border areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend active case finding among migrant groups and give free COVID-19 testing and healthcare to migrant workers and their families • Extend visas and provide relief payments for temporary workers, including migrants²¹ • Establish 1422 Hotline for migrant workers for health information about COVID-19 in Khmer, Lao or Burmese language

COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, EID = emerging infectious disease, EOC = Emergency Operations Center, MOPH = Ministry of Public Health, WHO = World Health Organization.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

¹⁷ R. Suphanchaimat, H. Kosiaporn, and A. Limwattanayingyon. 2019. Migrant Policies in Thailand in Light of the Universal Health Coverage: Evolution and Remaining Challenges. *OSIR Journal*. 12 (2). pp. 68–74.

¹⁸ *Radio Free Asia*. 2020. [Lao Migrant Workers Clear Quarantine, Return Home, After Crossing Back From Thailand](#). Washington, D.C.; IOM Thailand. 2020. COVID-19 Flash Update: [Government Guidance Affecting Migrant Workers and their Employers in Thailand and Neighbouring Countries](#). Bangkok.

¹⁹ World Health Organization. [WHO Regional response \(WHO South-East Asia Region\)](#).

²⁰ P. Sriprasert. [Special Public Health Border Zone Plan](#).

²¹ IOM Thailand. 2020. [Tips for Migrant Workers whose Job is Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Bangkok.