

Thailand and the Influenza A (H1N1): Information for Visitors
Update #6, as of 18 June 2009

- Since 12 May 2009, the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand has confirmed over 500 **laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection in Thailand**. The Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health, has been working closely with laboratories of various universities to identify the confirmed cases of influenza A (H1N1) everyday. All of the confirmed cases were duly reported to the World Health Organization in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005). **Thailand fully commits to the transparency of information with regards to the situation of the influenza A (H1N1) within the Kingdom.**

- Some of the confirmed cases are travelers, both Thais and foreigners, who arrived from Thailand from affected areas since early May this year. Other cases appear to be cases of transmission from close contact with those affected within Thailand. **All cases have been given medical treatments and some have fully recovered, while the others are recovering.** As a preventive measure, those in close contact with those known to be infected are undergoing close monitoring from the Ministry of Public Health.

- The rapid identification of patients with influenza A (H1N1) infection in Thailand is due to the intensive surveillance system in place in Thailand as well as excellent cooperation from the public, especially those who returned from affected areas. Every patient with a confirmed influenza A (H1N1) infection received antiviral drug treatment within 48 hours, with satisfactory results, as all of the patients have recovered and there has been no deaths. **The Ministry of Public Health will prioritize disease prevention within the Kingdom to limit spreading of influenza A (H1N1) to as narrow a scope as possible. The authorities will also continue to tighten surveillance measures to promptly identify patients, to provide affective medical treatment and to promote public awareness on self-prevention from infection.**

- Thailand is thus fully prepared to cope with any outbreak, should one occur, within the Kingdom. Intensive medical measures are being implemented, and **the situation is still under control.** Efficient surveillance and treatment processes by Thai public health authority ensure that the **general public's welfare is not compromised.**

- **Thailand recognizes that WHO continues to recommend no restrictions on travel and no border closures although it has raised the level of global influenza pandemic alert from phase 5 to phase 6. Hence, Thailand still welcomes all visitors.** In light of current circumstances, however, the public health authority is implementing the following measures:

- monitoring and screening of inbound international travelers for prompt medical services in case of need,
- distribution of Health Beware Cards, health questionnaire, and advice on self-care to inbound international travelers, by collaboration between public health authority and international airlines,
- coordination with travel agencies, hotels, and airlines in order to take care and give advice to travelers,
- other measures include intensive surveillance on travelers who just returned from epidemic areas, and measures for case detection and disease control.

- For you own well-being and that of the general public, visitors to Thailand are requested to cooperate with and to follow instructions of the public health authority, both at the ports of entry and within the Kingdom. You are also requested to be alert and take care of your personal hygiene. **Available global data at present suggests that the characteristic feature of this influenza A (H1N1) is their rapid spread. However, data also shows that the virus is of only moderate severity, similar to seasonal flu, as most patients experience mild symptoms and fatality rate is very low.**

- Medical services in Thailand are of international standard. Thailand also has past experiences in successfully dealing with the SARS and Avian Flu. The public health authority in Thailand thus has full confidence that, with the level of preparedness gained through our experiences, collaboration with the WHO, and cooperation from the general public, we shall be able to continue to maintain the situation under control in Thailand.

- If you have any further questions, there are two 24-hour hotlines in service, namely, the Ministry of Public Health Hotline at +662 590 1994, and the Department of Disease Control Hotline at +662 590 3333. You can also visit the website of the Bureau of Emerging Infectious Diseases, Department of Disease Control, at <http://beid.ddc.moph.go.th/eng> and the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/2933.php>.

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