

Thai News Update: 13 April 2020

1. 28 new cases point to declining Covid-19 infections in Thailand over a week (Updated)

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Thailand's total number of Covid-19 patients rose to 2,579 with 28 new cases confirmed over a 24-hour period, and two more deaths, Taweessin Visanuyothin, spokesman of the government's Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration, said on Monday (April 13). The cases can be divided into three groups. The first group of 18 had close contact with others previously confirmed as infected (mostly nine in Bangkok). The second group comprised seven – one of whom had just returned from overseas, two who worked in crowded areas or close to foreigners, one who visited a crowded area, and three medical staff.

2. Thailand's major food product Co. 'CP' to produce & distribute face masks mid-April

Source: Pattaya Mail ([Link](#))

The new 100-million-baht surgical mask plant that Charoen Pokphand Group (CP) built is testing its machines and will start its production in response to the local shortages of surgical masks amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The plant stands in Phra Pradaeng district of Samut Prakan province. Its first lot of surgical masks will go to King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital that will then distribute the products free of charge to the medical personnel who are treating COVID-19 patients. Its machines imported from China will produce three-layer surgical masks. The plant is designed to produce 100,000 masks a day or 3 million a month. The chief engineer of the plant said the production would be automatic and artificial intelligence would be applied to reduce human touches on the products.

3. Thailand's banks get approval to expand operation in Myanmar

Source: Vietnam Plus ([Link](#))

Thailand's two major commercial banks - Kasikornbank and Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) - have received permission to expand operation in Myanmar. Kasikornbank said on April 11 that it plans to invest up to 40 million USD in a 35 percent stake in Myanmar's Ayeyarwaddy Farmers Development Bank after receiving approval from Myanmar's central bank. The investment will be done through its unit Kasikorn Vision, which has a budget of 14 billion baht (428 million USD) for overseas business opportunities. Meanwhile, SCB, the country's fourth-largest lender by assets, has won preliminary approval for a subsidiary business licence in Myanmar, targeting 7 billion baht in loans in the first five years of operation.

4. Thailand prepares 3,500 hotel rooms to quarantine returnees after flight ban is lifted

Source: The Thaiger ([Link](#))

Thailand is anticipating an onslaught of quarantined returnees once the incoming flight ban is lifted, and the government is preparing about 3,500 private hotel rooms in Bangkok and upcountry, to house them. The ban, imposed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand, is due to expire next Saturday. Thailand's Deputy Defence Minister and Defence Permanent Secretary met with officials today to discuss preparations. In addition to the hotel quarantine facilities, hospitals will also be prepared to accommodate those who test positive for the Covid-19 coronavirus. There will be medical personnel and guards stationed at the hotels to look after those in quarantine.

5. MRT allows train-pass top up via apps or ATM

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

MRT train operator Bangkok Expressway and Metro Pcl (BEM) announced today (April 13) that from now on commuters can top up their MRT train passes via mobile applications or at any Krungthai Bank ATM. "We aim to reduce crowding at MRT station ticket kiosks and eliminate the unnecessary touching of bank notes, which could lead to Covid-19 spreading," said the company. "From April 13, commuters can top up their MRT train passes via mobile applications such as MRT Mobile Top Up, True Money Wallet or Krungthai Next. Or they can top up at any Krungthai Bank ATM."