

Thai News Update: 1 July 2020

1. Committee issues new rules governing medical tourism

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Thailand's medical hub committee on 30 June unveiled a set of guidelines for medical tourism as the country gears up to open its borders to international visitors. The first meeting of the medical hub committee which was attended by members of the public, related government ministries and the private sector resulted in three decisions, said Dr Tares Krassanairawiwong, director-general of the Department of Health Service Support. The first decision, he said, was a policy pertaining to quarantine requirements for Thais and foreigners arriving from abroad for medical treatment. These visitors will be asked to show proof that they have been tested for Covid-19 at least 72 hours prior to arriving in the country and are required to complete a 14-day quarantine.

2. Thailand among 14 countries EU deems “safe” during Covid-19 pandemic

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

Thailand has made the cut to be among the 14 countries listed by the EU that are deemed “safe” during the world Covid-19 pandemic. Citizens of these countries may be granted entry to the EU from July 1. It will come as little surprise to learn that the US and Brazil have been excluded from the list at this stage, as has China. The EU says it will consider adding China if the Chinese government returns the favour for EU travellers.

3. Online, food delivery services to be regulated

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The cabinet on 30 June approved measures to regulate food and online delivery services after customer complaints during the country's coronavirus lockdown, a senior government official said. Food deliveries surged during the lockdown and in April. The Trade Competition Commission warned that if food delivery platforms increased prices unfairly they could be fined. "The Covid-19 outbreak has changed consumer behavior and more consumers are using these online services and there were complaints so control [of] prices is necessary," deputy government spokeswoman Ratchada Dhnadirek told reporters.

4. Energy Ministry plans to buy solar energy generated by public under new project

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

The Energy Ministry aims to launch a new public solar energy project with an annual target of 50 megawatts and the pilot phase to be completed in 60 days, Minister Sonthirat

Sonthijirawong said. Sonthirat also said that in the next two months a ministry task force will work with project partners to design the project's parameters, designate locations, the budget, subsidies, incentives and other measures to motivate people to produce solar energy for their own use and sell the extra energy to the PEA or Egat.

5. Three-pronged plan for Thai medical tourism after Covid-19

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

The Medical Hub Policy committee has agreed on three principles for receiving medical tourists after the Covid-19 outbreak has been resolved, Dr Thares Krainairawiwong, Department of Health Service Support director general, said today (June 30). The first is to establish separate 14-day quarantine guidelines for Thai returnee and foreign medical tourists, with Thais sent to hospital quarantine and foreigners to alternative hospitals ("Alternative Hospital Quarantine"). Advance appointments are required for alternative quarantine.

6. Cambodia and Laos happy as Thailand reopens 37 border checkpoints

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

Thailand will reopen checkpoints on the border with all neighboring states to resume cross-border cargo transport and trading from Wednesday (July 1), according to the Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha. CCSA decided on Monday to reopen a total of 37 checkpoints on the borders with Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia, so that cargoes can be transported and traders can be allowed to cross the border, said CCSA spokesman Thaweasilp Visanuyothin. That is part of the phase-5 easing of Thailand's lockdown measures against the pandemic. The Thai border checkpoints which will be reopened include 14 connected with Laos, eight with Myanmar, seven with Cambodia and eight with Malaysia, according to the CCSA spokesman. Laos and Cambodia, particular, will be happy as they can continue business and trading dealings which has slowed down due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

7. Govt bets on local tourism

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The cabinet on 30 June approved two stimulus packages worth 22.4 billion baht to revitalise domestic tourism which has been left reeling from the Covid-19 pandemic. The packages will start today and run until Oct 31, said deputy government spokeswoman Traisuree Taisaranakul. She said that originally there were three packages known as "Happiness-sharing trips", "Let's travel", and "Moral Support" -- proposed by the Tourism and Sports

Ministry. But two of them -- "Happiness-sharing trips" and "Let's travel" have now been merged and are known as "We travel together", she said.

8. Cabinet accepts B200bn in energy schemes

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The cabinet on 30 June acknowledged the Energy Ministry's plan to accelerate investment in energy projects worth more than 200 billion baht, starting later this year, in a collective move to help reboot the economy. According to Rachada Dhnadirek, deputy government spokeswoman, the Energy Ministry has pledged to rev up spending on large-scale energy projects and renewable energy schemes with an aim to create more than 10,000 new jobs this year. Key investment projects include exploration and production of petroleum, development of LNG receiving terminals, the decommissioning of gas production rigs in the Gulf of Thailand, grid modernisation and grid connectivity to neighbouring countries in order to supply electricity in the future.

9. Central takes on farm supply

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Central Group is launching a programme to help rebuild the economy by buying goods from local farmers and small producers and selling the products at discounted prices at the group's 106 shopping plazas nationwide. The company plans to purchase 1.5 billion baht in goods from farmers and communities representing 30,000 households. The aim of the Ruamjai Market project is to reduce the cost of living for Thais by cutting prices on 3,000 consumer product lines, while locking in prices for 23,000 lines for a period of 90 days and boosting income for farmers and SMEs. Central buys products from communities, growers and SMEs from around the country.

