

Thai News Update: 3 April 2020

1. Nation-wide curfew imposed from Friday night

Source: Thai PBS News ([Link](#))

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has announced a nation-wide curfew, from 10pm until 4am, effective from 4 April night, as authorities in Thailand intensify their attempts to control the movement of people and the continuing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are certain exceptions to the curfew, including medical professionals, vehicles delivering medical supplies, food and fuel, those going to airports to catch departing flights, bank staff and those in need of urgent medical care, all of whom need official permission from the local authorities. The Prime Minister also gave a stern warning to those hoarding basic food items and medical items, that they will face harsh penalties of up to seven years imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of 140,000 baht.

2. Thailand shuts doors on all new arrivals, including Thais, for two weeks to prepare better quarantine centers

Source: The Pattaya News ([Link](#))

Taweessin Visanuyothin, the spokesman for the Center for the Covid-19 Situation Administration, said 3 April afternoon that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha had ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to issue a new directive prohibiting new arrivals effective immediately, April 2nd, 2020 until April 15th, 2020. “The spread of Covid-19 must be stopped,” the Prime Minister said. “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will give more details on the directive. However, people who already have permission and who need to enter Thailand are exempted but there will be a strict process via the embassy in the country that one is currently in.”

3. MDES joins hands with HUAWEI, brings AI solution in tackling COVID-19 situation

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

The Digital Economy and Society Ministry, together with Huawei Technologies (Thailand) Co., Ltd., is helping to enhance Thai medical personnel at Ramathibodi Hospital with CLOUD technology, by providing CD with AI solution for CT quantification results of COVID-19 diagnosis designed to reduce the time in medical image analyzing of COVID-19 suspected cases to as quick as 25 seconds per case. The AI solution of HUAWEI CLOUD applies computer vision to leverage the healthcare front in Thailand. This illustrates how HUAWEI

CLOUD, the first world-leading cloud service provider in Thailand, helps transform Thai medical services to combat the impact of COVID-19 during this challenging time.

4. Thailand push online trade for fishermen

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

The Fisheries Department has introduced online trade in aquatic animals to help the fishermen who are affected by export bans and the government's campaign for people to stay home due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Banjong Jumnong Sittham, deputy director-general of the department, said the online trade started at the <https://coastalqua.fisheries.go.th/preorder/public> website of the Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Bureau. People already bought export-standard black tiger shrimps from Phang-nga province and premium Asian sea bass from Chachoengsao and the lots from the online trade would be delivered for the first time at the Fisheries Department in Bang Khen district, Bangkok, on April 2, he said.

5. Thailand reopens 4 ports at Mekong River to allow essential goods from China to reach country

Source: Xinhua News ([Link](#))

Thailand has lifted its ban to close four ports at the Mekong River to allow essential goods to be shipped to and from China as Thailand is currently facing the COVID-19 outbreak. The four ports, including cargo terminals and border crossing, were closed since March 21 to curb the virus outbreak, leaving only two bridges over the Mekong River in Chiang Kong and Mae Sai districts to remain open. However Chiang Rai Governor Prajon Pratyakul said on Thursday that he had decided to lift the ban as essential goods shipped from China, were necessary to assist those impacted by the pandemic.

6. New relief measures to form six-month buffer

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

A fresh batch of relief measures for people and businesses affected by the outbreak, farmers and capital market stabilisation is set to go before the economic ministers' meeting on 3 April before being forwarded to the cabinet next 7 April. The government hopes the measures will suffice to buffer the economy over the next six months, said Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. The size of the third phase of measures rests on the cabinet's discretion, while the government plans to issue either a royal decree or an act to fund the new package, he said. Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana said recently that the third-phase package would be larger than the first two combined to cushion against fallout from the coronavirus outbreak.

7. Foodpanda allots B35m for partners

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

Foodpanda Thailand, the local operating unit of the Germany-based food delivery app, is gearing up for a special outlay of 35 million baht to support merchant partners, users and drivers in terms of discounts and sanitary kits as the country is combating the spread of coronavirus. Alexander Felde, chief executive of Foodpanda Thailand, expects online food delivery to account for 30% of the total food and beverage industry in the country within three years, thanks to the digital lifestyle. "The company is allocating an extra budget of 35 million baht for a Covid-19 relief programme to help eateries and delivery drivers overcome this crisis," Mr Felde told the Bangkok Post.

8. New locally produced Covid-19 test kits to be distributed soon

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

Siam Bioscience has joined hands with the Department of Medical Science to develop a new test kit for detecting Covid-19, and the first lot of 20,000 kits was delivered to Government House today (April 2). Each locally produced test kit costs around Bt1,500, while imported ones go for about Bt4,500 each. The collaboration aims to produce 20,000 test kits every week, and when 100,000 have been produced, they will be distributed among 100 hospitals nationwide. Meanwhile, the Government Pharmaceutical Organisation on Wednesday (April 1) approved the urgent purchase of 400,000 N95 masks and the same number of personal protection suits from China. A budget of Bt660 million has been earmarked for the purchase.