



COVID-19 Situation Update

Date: July 30th 2021

Both Thailand and Burma are currently experiencing severe epidemics of COVID-19, driven especially by new variants including the highly transmissible delta variant. Tak Province of Thailand, bordering Burma, is currently seeing relatively high numbers of cases daily. The current wave of COVID-19 in Mae Sot began in late June; earlier and for most of the month of June, there had been sporadic or no daily cases of COVID-19. Cases reported in Mae Sot were usually imported, in travelers from either Burma or from elsewhere in Thailand. However, on June 27th, large outbreaks were detected at several factories in the area. On June 27th alone, 77 cases were logged, followed by 455 the following day, resulting in sudden, severe strains on the health system to identify, isolate and treat infected individuals. Cases have continued to increase since then on a daily basis. On Thursday, July 29th, there were 163 new cases diagnosed in Tak, with over 150 of those in Mae Sot, home to the clinic, and nearby districts of Phop Phra, Mae Ramat, and Tha Song Yang. While many have been discharged, there are currently over 2,200 individuals in treatment in Tak Province for COVID-19, in hospitals, field hospitals, or other isolation facilities, amongst a total of 4,289 cases reported in the province since April 1st, 2021 ([Tak Provincial Public Relations Office Page](#)).

In order to quickly respond to the crisis, on June 28th, the Mae Tao Clinic became an official field hospital for the Mae Sot public health system, providing care for between 60-70 infected individuals deemed low risk for developing complications or severe disease. While MTC staff members are responsible for providing daily care, they work in partnership with medical staff of the Mae Sot Hospital and other Thai public health entities, closely monitoring patients for evidence of clinical deterioration and facilitating timely referrals if necessary. Since the beginning of the current wave in Mae Sot, the Mae Tao Clinic has served approximately 325 patients with COVID-19 who were referred from Mae Sot Hospital, are staff from MTC and partner organizations or are residents of the surrounding communities.

On July 9th, our first staff member was found to be infected with COVID-19. This prompted the clinic, working in conjunction with local health partners, to pursue aggressive contact tracing and screen all members of the staff, along with household contacts, nearby community members, and others with possible exposure. The results of these efforts are shown in the table below:



No	Category	Total testing	Total positive	%
1	Clinical staff	173	38	22%
2	Non-clinical staff	309	51	17%
3	Household contact	125	58	46%
4	Surrounding community members	74	20	27%
5	Patients	53	15	28%
	Total	734	182	25%

** Last updated on July 28th 2021. Please note that these figures do NOT reflect the epidemiology of COVID-19 in the community or the clinic and its partners as testing was primarily extended to those with potential exposure and others in higher risk situations.*

As a precaution, starting on July 15th, most clinical services at the clinic were suspended indefinitely in order to protect the health and safety of our staff members, their families, and all the communities we serve. This pause was also to allow us to efficiently focus our efforts on identifying and taking care of infected members of the extended MTC family and the community.

Clinical Services

During this time, all clinical services remain closed.

Please refer to the Facebook pages of the Mae Tao Clinic (in [English](#) and [Burmese](#)), which will frequently be updated to incorporate the most up-to-date information as it becomes available, particularly during this current unpredictable situation.

The MTC is currently also unable to provide testing and vaccinations for COVID-19, which are currently all handled through the Thai health system. If you think you have been exposed and would like testing, please contact the Mae Sot Hospital call center Tel. 065-461-1120 or the COVID-19 call center Tel. 1442 or 1688. For the latest vaccine information, please visit the Thai Government Public Relations Department's [official Facebook page](#).

In case you need assistance for maternal health care services (ANC, delivery care and PNC), please visit Mae Sot Hospital or nearest health posts. For those who are in need of assistance in management of non-communicable (chronic) diseases, please contact Ms Sophia Hla (English, Burmese and Karen language), Tel. 081-037-5800 or Mr Saw Than Lwin (English, Burmese, Karen and Thai language), Tel. 088-144-9551.



Donations/Support

Many have also expressed an interest in helping out during these difficult times for the clinic, and we are deeply thankful for all those that have and continue to support our work and the communities we work with. For those interested in doing so, please understand that as a COVID-19 field hospital in the midst of a serious epidemic, to ensure safety for everyone, we are very limited in what we are able to accept. We are currently **not** able to accept **cooked food** or **individually purchased medicines**. If you would like to donate clothes or bedding, we respectfully request that these are new and in their original packaging. The supplies that we are currently most in need of are listed below.

General Social Support
Dry food (rice; tinned fish; cooking oil; salt; yellow beans; chili powder; seasoning etc.)
Nutritional supplements (milk; milo)
New bedding (mat; pillow; blanket; mosquito net)
Medical Supplies
PPEs (surgical mask for medical use; face shields; medical/ hospital grade gloves; medical coveralls)
N95 face mask
Infrared Thermometers
Pulse oximeters
Surgical Scrubs
Disinfectants
Alcohol 70% + Glycerin 1%
Alcohol Gel
Lab Supplies
COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing Kits (approved by Thai FDA)*
Glucose test (50/box)
Hygiene Supplies
Personal Hygiene Kit (soap; shampoo; tooth paste & tooth brush; sanitation pad; toilet paper)

*The list of approved kits can be found on the Thai FDA website, here:

https://www.fda.moph.go.th/sites/Medical/SitePages/test_kit_covid19.aspx

Please note that this list is dynamic and, given the rapidly evolving circumstances, will be frequently updated to reflect our changing needs and priorities. For further questions regarding donations, please contact the designated persons listed below.

Contact information:

For general inquiries and donations, please contact the following:

- Ms Nwe Ni (English, Burmese and Thai language), Tel. 084-820-3743
- Ms Naw Annie (English, Burmese and Karen language), Tel. 089-916-5855
- Ms Pattinee Suanprasert (English and Thai language), Tel. 087-677-1415



For media inquiries:

- Mr Saw Than Lwin (English, Burmese, Karen language), Tel. 088-144-9551
- Ms Pattinee Suanprasert (Thai language), Tel. 087-677-1415

For clinical inquiries:

- Ms Sophia Hla (English, Burmese and Karen language), Tel. 081-037-5800
- Mr Saw Than Lwin (English, Burmese, Karen and Thai language), Tel. 088-144-9551

For those interested in supporting our COVID-19 emergency response efforts directly: this can be done through deposits/wire transfer to the following account:

Account Name: Suwannimit Foundation for Mae Tao Clinic

Account Number: 016-8-83807-7

Bank and Branch: Kasikorn Bank, Mae Sot

SWIFT Code: KASITHBK

Bank Address: 84/9, Prasart Withi Rd., Mae Sot, Tak Province 63110, Thailand

For more donation information, please visit our donation page: <https://maetaoclinic.org/how-to-help/donate/> or contact at fundraising@maetaoclinic.org