

Announcement to Close Temporarily Certain Places in Bangkok to Combat COVID-19 (21/3/2020)

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has issued an announcement, seeking to close temporarily certain places in Bangkok in order to combat the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The announcement, to be in effect from 22 March to 12 April 2020, was signed by Bangkok Governor Police General Aswin Kwanmuang on 21 March 2020.

The areas to be closed include 1) restaurants, except takeaway and hotel restaurants serving food for guests; 2) shopping malls, except supermarket zones, drugstores, shops selling necessary items, and food shops for takeaway; 3) places for sitting or standing to eat food in convenience stores; 4) markets, except sales of fresh and dried food, cooked meals for takeaway, animal feed, drugstores, and other necessary items; 5) beauty salons and barber shops; 6) tattoo service shops; 7) skate and rollerblade venues and other similar services; 8) amusement parks and bowling lanes; 9) gaming and internet shops; 10) golf courses and golf driving ranges; 11) swimming pools and similar service venues; 12) cockfight venues; 13) amulet sales stalls; 14) exhibition halls, convention centers, and exhibition venues; 15) educational institutions at all levels and tutorial schools; 16) weight-control service venues and cosmetic clinics; 17) health service venues (spas and massage shops); 18) pet care and spa centers; 19) massage parlors; 20) saunas and herbal treatment centers; 21) cinemas and theaters; 22) fitness centers; 23) entertainment places; 24) boxing stadiums and boxing schools; 25) sports stadiums; and 26) racecourses.

According to the announcement, violators will be subject to a jail term of up to one year, or a fine of up to 100,000 baht, or both. The Ministry of Public Health on 21 March 2020 reported 89 new COVID-19 cases in Thailand, raising the number of confirmed cases to 411.

The Bangkok Governor stated that the announcement was necessary to limit the gatherings of many people in certain areas in order to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus and control the infectious disease in a timely manner.