



COVID-19: What support is available to migrants living in Thailand?

Do I need to be tested for COVID-19?

If you have been in touch with someone who you know has tested positive to COVID-19: It is important to get tested to see if you have contracted the virus. Please tell public health and medical staff immediately.

If you have a high fever over 37.5C and experience any of the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Fatigue
- Breathing difficulty **AND** you meet one of the risk factors below:

- 1 - You have recently returned from or lived in an area affected by an outbreak of COVID-19
- 2 - You work in close contact with tourists or communicate with large groups of people
- 3 - You have a history of going into public places with lots of people such as flea markets, malls, healthcare facilities, or using public transportation
- 4 - You have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case

If you do not have symptoms, and you do not match any of the risk factors above, you do not need to seek testing.

Where can I get testing and treatment for COVID-19?

The Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization in Thailand has opened a migrant hotline: **1422** Press **81** for Khmer, **82** for Laotian and **83** for Burmese. Call this number to find out the closest testing clinic near you.

Everyone in Thailand, including documented and undocumented migrants, who health staff think are likely to have been infected with COVID-19 will receive testing. This includes people showing symptoms, or people who have been in contact with other people confirmed to have the disease, as explained above. Health staff will ask you some screening questions to see if you are at risk and need to be tested.

Make sure you bring at least one of these documents to your appointment:

- Passport
- Migrant card (issued by the Department of Interior for registered migrants working in Thailand)
- Social security card
- Work permit
- Health insurance card etc.

Any of these documents will enable health staff to verify your rights to medical services regardless if you are a documented or undocumented migrant.

Is COVID-19 testing and treatment free?

The cost of COVID-19 testing varies, ranging from about 2,700-3,000 baht at public hospitals to over 10,000 baht at private hospitals.

Treatment for COVID-19 is free for everyone, including documented and undocumented migrant workers.

Any healthcare costs will be charged to your migrant health insurance scheme. If you do not have any insurance, the Department of Disease Control's emergencies fund can be used to support the testing and treatment cost.

What if I lose my job because of the COVID-19 crisis?

If you are a documented migrant who has been working full time for more than six months, you are entitled to receive 75% of your monthly salary as unemployment payment for 200 days. The maximum unemployment payment is 15,000 baht over that time.

If you are a documented migrant who has worked part time for more than six months, you are entitled to receive 65% of your monthly salary as unemployment payment for 90 days. The maximum unemployment payment is 15,000 baht over that time.

Documented migrants who have lost their job are allowed to stay in the country until November 2020.

If you lose your job - you AND your employer must report this information to the Department of Employment to secure your unemployment payment. The agency will help you to submit a request for payment and provide support in finding new employment.

If you are an undocumented migrant worker, you are not entitled to unemployment payments. However, according to the Thai Royal Decree on COVID-19, you are allowed to stay in Thailand until June 30, 2020.

Workers can also contact SSO hotline for further questions over request of unemployment payment, call 029562513-14 during working hours. For 24-hours service, please contact hotline 1506. Press 2 to connect with operators who speak Khmer, Laotian and Burmese languages.

If you have language difficulties or issues in dealing with employers and government authorities, please contact the Migrant Working Group at Tel: 089 788 7138.

If you are looking to learn new skills to help you find new work, the PROMISE program provides free/cost training for migrants such as Thai language lessons, cooking, hospitality and IT skills. Contact promise@iom.int 02-343-9300. PROMISE is a project run by the United Nations International Organization for Migration.



Does my employer need to pay me sick leave if I catch coronavirus?

According to the labour and social security law, documented migrants who are hired as full time staff for more than six months, are entitled to receive 30 days of paid sick leave from employers based on proof of treatment. Those who are not full time staff will not be eligible for paid sick leave.

If you are not a documented migrant, you are not entitled to paid sick leave. Any leave allowances will be at the discretion of your employer.

Where can I get more information about COVID-19?

The Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization in Thailand has opened a migrant hotline: 1422

Press 81 for Khmer 82 for Laotian 83 for Burmese

Other useful contacts include:

- Labour Attache, Royal Embassy of Cambodia Tel: 02-957-5851-2
- Labour Attache, Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Tel: 02-539-6679
- Labour Attache, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Tel: 094-884-5484
- Thailand Ministry of Labour Hotline: Call 1506 and press 2 to speak to an operator in Khmer, Laotian and Myanmar languages
- Migrant Working Group, contact@mwgthailand.org, Tel: 089 788 7138

