

## Common Place for COVID-19 Local Spreading: Observation from Thailand

Dear Editor,

COVID-19 is a new global public health problem. Its origin is from the Republic of China and it already spread to more than 150 countries.<sup>[1]</sup> Historically, the disease investigation teams in China found that the disease might link to wildlife animals and the first commonplace of spreading the disease is Wuhan Seafood Market, which is the biggest center for selling meats of wildlife animals in Hubei, China.<sup>[1]</sup> At first, the disease is usually imported to a new country by infected immigrants. After that, the local transmission might occur and the transmission chain causes further causing a national wide outbreak. The characteristic of local spreading is interesting. The study on this issue is very useful for disease control and prevention planning.

Here, the authors analyzed the characteristic of COVID-19 local spreading in Thailand, the second country that COVID-19 exists.<sup>[2]</sup> At present (March 16, 2020), there are 114 COVID-19 patients. Of these, 34 are non-imported COVID-19 patients. The places that the patients got disease contacts are identified and the known common places for local spreading are identified as bar 11 cases, boxing stadium 9 cases, restaurant 3 cases, airport 4 cases, shopping center 2 cases, home 1 case, and hospital 1 case. It shows that there might be a possible spreading of COVID-19 in several places including the home of the COVID-19 patient. The spreading places with many infectees are usually the public places that are crowded with people and usually common activities among people, which are for a long duration (such as sport matching, partying, or eating dinner). A key observation from this study is the risk place for the spreading of COVID-19 is a crowded public place with common activities of visitors for a long duration.

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### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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