

## COVID-19 Outbreak in International Airport – Where the Incidence Case Occurs?

Dear Editor,

COVID-19 is a new emerging coronavirus outbreak causing a big pandemic at present. This disease firstly occurred in China,<sup>[1]</sup> then, the disease migrated worldwide due to International transportation.<sup>[2]</sup> COVID-19 is already imported to new countries by air travel, sea travel, and land travel. Considering air travel, it is the main route that the disease can emerge in a new setting. Focusing on this fact, the airport becomes the place that the disease is first imported into a new country. The airport personnel might have a chance to get COVID-19. This is an important issue in occupational health.<sup>[3]</sup> It is well recognized for the risk of airport personnel. However, interesting data that is little mentioned is the exact place in the international airport that has a high risk of infection transmission.

Here, the authors would like to share observation from Thailand, a tropical country in Southeast Asia, where the disease occurs in the second order of timelines of COVID-19 outbreak. At present (20<sup>th</sup> March 2020), the accumulated number of COVID-19 in Thailand is 272. Of these cases, 7 incidences occurred in the International airport. The specific places within the airport where incidences occurred are immigration border post (2 incidences), transit area (1 incidence), duty-free shop (1 incidence), airport check-in counter (1 incidence), air hostage unit (1 incidence), and cargo area (1 incidence). There are various places within the International airport that the incidence can occur. It can occur inside or outside the terminal building and it can progress onto the airplane. It might imply that International airport is not a safe place during COVID-19 outbreak. These data might support the use of International airport closure as a method for controlling disease, which is presently used by many countries.

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### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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