



Announcement of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)
Subject: Surveillance, Prevention and Control Measures for the Spread of
Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) during the Period of Songkran Festival

Reference is made to the Announcement of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) on Order of Temporary Closure of Premises (No. 20) dated 23rd February 2021, specifying that in case where organizing activities in the area of Bangkok Metropolis with the number of attendees exceeding 300 persons, organizers shall submit the working plan and disease control measures to the district office in charge of service area before organizing the said activities in order to prevent the new spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the area of Bangkok Metropolis.

Events or activities to promote tradition and culture and to enhance tourism and economy will be organized during the period of annual Songkran Festival. However, the said Festival tends to have activities like splashing water, powdering each other, and large public gathering. These activities may lead to a state of disorder. So, the BMA Communicable Diseases Committee, in the Meeting No. 6/2564 dated 19th March 2021, resolved to approve of surveillance, prevention and control measures for the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) during the period of Songkran Festival (between 10th April 2021 and 15th April 2021). Therefore, by the virtue of Section 35 of the Communicable Diseases Act B.E. 2558 (2015), and Regulation Issued under Section 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2548 (2005) and the stated resolution of the BMA Communicable Diseases Committee, there shall be the Announcement on Surveillance, Prevention and Control Measures for the Spread of COVID-19 during the period of Songkran Festival (between 10th April 2021 and 15th April 2021) as follows:

1. Organizing activities during Songkran Festival: general ones like bathing rituals for Buddha images, other religious activities, and ceremonies to pour water over hands of the revered elders and ask for blessing can be done. Organizers and the people shall strictly comply with the Announcement of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) on Order of Temporary Closure of Premises (No. 20) dated 23rd February 2021. In case of organizing activities with the number of attendees exceeding 300 persons, organizers shall submit the working plan and disease control measures to the district office in charge of service area before organizing the said activities;

2. Organizing activities during Songkran Festival: additional activities apart from general ones specified in Clause 1 like fairs for displaying and selling goods and products, and banquets with the number of attendees exceeding 100 persons, organizers shall submit the working plan and disease control measures to the district office in charge of service area before organizing the said activities. Such activities should be organized in the open air with good ventilation. Organizing activities in limited areas or air-conditioned rooms should be avoided. Activities with public gathering that may lead to a state of disorder or ones with close contact like gathering for water splashing, concerts, powdering each other or foam parties **shall be refrained**;

3. Banquets and get-together parties of people from various areas should be avoided and dining and drinking beverages together for an extended period should be refrained.

Any ...

Any persons who violate or fail to comply with this Announcement shall be guilty of an offense under Section 18 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situation B.E. 2548 (2005) which shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine not exceeding forty thousand Baht or to both.

As this is a case where there is urgent necessity and the delay of action may cause great harm to any individual or affect the public interest, litigants shall not be given the right to object under section 30 paragraph two (1) of the Administrative Procedure Act, B.E. 2539 (1996).

Announced on 23rd March 2021.

Pol. Gen. (Signature)
(Aswin Kwanmuang)
Governor of Bangkok