

Thai News Update: 11 May 2020

1. Thai Government confirms that a Covid19 contact tracing phone application is coming very soon

Source: The Pattaya News ([Link](#))

The spokesman of the Center for Covid19 Situation Administration (CCSA), Dr. Taweessin Visanuyothin, confirmed this afternoon to the associated Thai press that a contact tracing application is indeed coming **very** soon and being developed by the Thai Government in association with the CCSA. The app, which will be designed to work for nearly all modern smart phones, is based on similar applications that is required in China, South Korea, Taiwan and other countries to enter “high risk” venues like entertainment. Dr. Taweessin stated that more in depth details will be released at tomorrow’s press briefing from the CCSA, but did take time to allay some fears.

2. Govt to test re-opening of 8 businesses next week

Source: Thailand Today ([Link](#))

Doctor Taweessin Visanuyothin, the spokesperson of the Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), said the government will gather opinions for the second phase of business re-opening on 13 May and use a “sandbox” method to test the effectiveness of social distancing and other measures to prevent the further spread of infections. Trial openings of department stores and other businesses are due on 14-15 May. If the results on Covid-19 preventive measures are satisfactory on 16 May, the following 8 businesses will be allowed to re-open on 17 May.

3. Seven-Eleven convenience store chain to make Cambodia debut in 2021

Source: The Mainichi ([Link](#))

Thai conglomerate CP Group will oversee popular convenience store chain Seven-Eleven's Cambodian debut in 2021 under a master franchise agreement with 7-Eleven Inc., a U.S. subsidiary of Seven-Eleven Japan Co. CP All Public Co., the agricultural conglomerate's retail arm, has concluded a deal with the U.S. firm to operate a Seven-Eleven store chain through CP All (Cambodia) Co. beginning in 2021. The first Seven-Eleven outlet will open in Phnom Penh, a spokeswoman for the Japanese retail group Seven & I Holdings Co., told NNA.

4. Ministries, business leaders meet to discuss further reopenings

Source: The Thaiger ([Link](#))

A meeting this weekend, chaired by the director-general of the Department of Disease Control and secretary to the Covid-19 Center for Situation Administration, discussed suggestions and

assessments of businesses ready to reopen, which will be forwarded to the PM Prayut Chan-ocha for consideration early in the week. Representatives of the Interior Ministry and Tourism Ministry along with those of multiple business clusters in the country, came together at the Public Health Emergency Centre in Bangkok yesterday to discuss the potential of “unlocking” and reopening more businesses around May 17. The plan is part of a structured overall effort to cautiously relaunch the Thai economy and get an estimated 10 million currently unemployed workers back to their livelihoods and businesses.

5. Thai govt to launch Covid-19 contact-tracing app

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The government will soon launch a Covid-19 contact-tracing app as part of its latest efforts to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, and the government will regularly organise virus testing for six risk groups, Dr Taweessin Visanuyothin, spokesman of the government’s Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), said on Sunday (May 10). China, South Korea and other countries have introduced contact-tracing applications as part of their efforts to slow the spread of the virus.

6. Shoppers’ delight: Chatuchak opening hours to be extended to 7pm

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Chatuchak Weekend Market, which was reopened on 9 May from 5am to 6pm, will be allowed to stay open for another hour, Bangkok Governor Aswin Khwanmuang said during a market inspection on Sunday. One of the most popular weekend markets in Bangkok had been shut down since March 22 under the government’s order to prevent Covid-19 from spreading. “The extra hour of opening aims to accommodate shoppers, most of whom visit the market from the afternoon to the evening to avoid the heat,” he said.

7. Central launches new online retail platform via Line

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

Retail giant Central Pattana Pcl has launched “Central Life: Chat & Shop”, offering a new online shopping experience via Line. More than 30 leading brands were selected from Central World and Central Village. Free delivery service will be provided on every order through Central Life: Chat & Shop” by simply adding Line Official Account ‘@CentralLife’. Customers can choose-chat-shop any items that were specially picked out from selected stores as highlight of the week. "You can either chat or capture any items that you are interested in and ask your personal shopping partner for more details via Chat & Shop.

8. Community pantries expand to 43 provinces

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The new phenomenon of the "community pantry", also known as "pantry of sharing", is rapidly increasing as Thais continue to donate daily necessities items to people affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Community pantries were found in 43 provinces on 11 May, a surge from 21 on 10 May. The central region, including Bangkok, led the pack with 16 provinces, followed by 16 in the northeastern region, seven each in the North and South, and three in the eastern areas. The number was compiled by Supakit Kulchartvijit, who has asked people who set up a roadside cupboard or spot one to take a picture and send it to his Facebook page so he can update the figures.