

# How Thailand Tackles COVID-19: Introducing and Adapting into New Norms

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Running Title: *How Thailand Tackles COVID-19*

**Abstract:** *Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of respiratory virus circulating in all continents as epidemic agents which cause respiratory infections which can result in common cold ranging to serious diseases such as, pneumonia. The 2019 novel coronavirus is a new strain that has caused viral pneumonia. It was initially linked to Wuhan's South China Seafood City market which is a market for seafood and live animals in December 2019. The virus has now been detected in several areas in the world. Pandemic emerges, while it is hard to predict the accurate time for it to occur or re-emerge, it may be best to consider an effective measurement to determine how well people tackles the pandemic in their daily life, how they comply with the local government and official's laws, and predict possible trends following the aftermath of the pandemic; to compose subjective and analyzed data and statistics for further business and academic purposes, ensuring the least-possible-myriad societal, economical changes in the community come in the post-pandemic time in the near future. All the information, statistics, and statements seen in this paper are allowed to be used for academic purposes and further paperwork associated in the field of business, education, medicine, economy and others related to the changes in the system due to outbreaks.*

**Keywords:** Climate Change, Flood, Drought, Adaptation, Mitigation

## 1. Introduction

Life has been changing ever since the epidemic of the latest coronavirus which is known as COVID-19. This virus was first discovered on December, 2019 in the well-known wildlife market in Wuhan, China. First, it spread throughout many states in China; unfortunately since March, 2020, many countries have been encountering with the most challenging pandemic in the decade.

The best way to prevent this outbreak is to practice social distancing. According to the official lock-down, many shops, department stores, theatres, offices, schools and universities, and some restaurants have closed. This has made several big changes on people's everyday life. Many industries have been affected by the lockdown, so did people's attitude and ways of life. For example, people have become more aware of their money saving. The restaurants have to change the way they serve customers. Take-away and delivery have become more popular. Public transport has been unoccupied in many countries. To reduce the infection in many areas, teachers and students rely on online study. A rising number of unemployment leads to online jobs in need. Shopping online has taken part in people's life. Those changes that happened in people's life have both advantages and drawbacks, and the condition for each situation differs for each individual.

Due to the changes in the surroundings and environment, new norms have been introduced into our daily life. The researchers want to conduct a research on how the sample group of Thai citizens from different parts of Thailand find the COVID-19 outbreak and what new norms do they consider most practical, for further business and academic purposes which related to epidemics, pandemics and outbreaks.

## 2. Methodology

- The first question asks the gender of the participant.
- The second question asks the age of the participant.
- The third question asks the residence of the participant.
- The fourth question asks the participant whether COVID-19 has a positive effect on their daily basis.
- The fifth question asks the participant their adaptability to the ever-changing situation

The questionnaire contains fourteen questions including;

More frequently ordering for take-away / requesting a delivery from merchants in your city
Deliberately/Alternatively purchasing products or services online instead of offline
Practicing Social or Physical Distancing, to Stay at least 6 feet from Other People
Temperature Screening Applied to You when Visiting an Operating Site and/or Building

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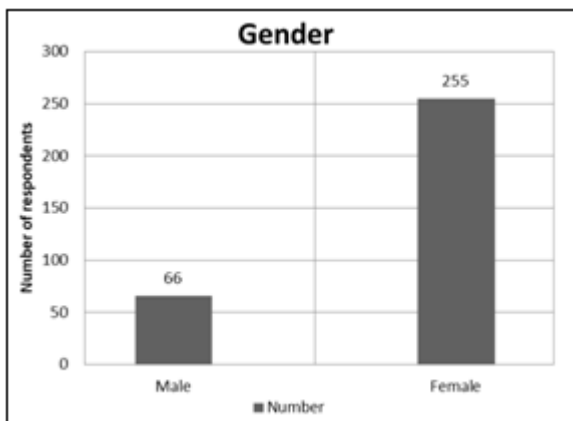
Work and Study from Home
Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility
Saving Money During COVID-19 / Making a Financial Plan B
Having a Chance to Find Part-time, Remote, and Work-from-home Opportunities.
Wear Face Coverings; medical and fabric face masks, When Close to Other People
Experiencing Several Health Strategies Implemented by Restaurants and Bars
Using the Thai Chana Mobile Application to Coincide with Resuming Outdoor Activities.
Washing Your Hands Often with Soap and Water When Available; if not, Using an Alcohol-based hand sanitizer
Or Others

While participants choose the most preferable and appropriate answer to each question. The survey is subject to 321 participants with a range of age, sex, residence, occupation. Descriptive and inferential statistics are used to analyze and interpret input into numerical output. Graphing and charting are used to displaying the data.

**3. Result**

**Table 1:** Gender distribution of respondents

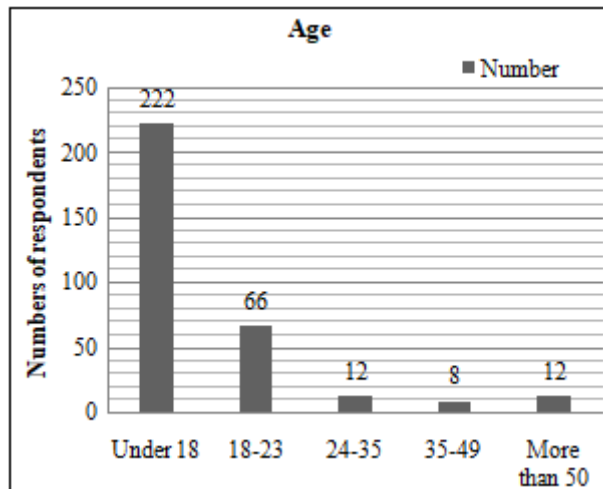
Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage
Male	66	20.56
Female	255	79.44
Total	321	100.00



**Figure 1:** Gender distribution

**Table 2:** Age Distribution of Respondents

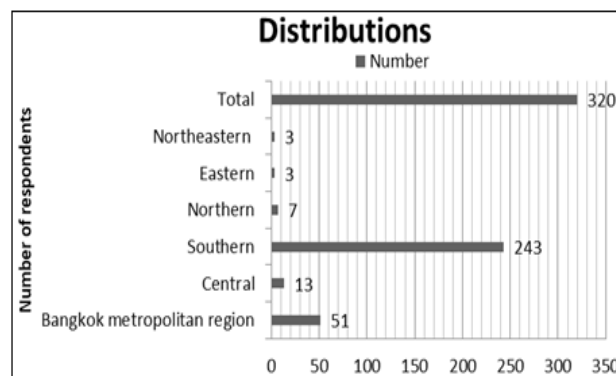
Age	Number	Percentage
Under 18	222	69.38%
18-23	66	20.63%
24-35	12	3.75%
35-49	8	2.50%
More than 50	12	3.75%
Total	320	100.00%



**Figure 2:** Age Distribution of Respondents

**Table 3:** Residence Distribution of Respondents

Distribution	Number	Percentage
Bangkok metropolitan region	51	15.94%
Central	13	4.06%
Southern	243	75.94%
Northern	7	2.19%
Eastern	3	0.94%
Northeastern	3	0.94%
Total	320	100.00%



**Figure 3:** Residence Distribution of Respondents

**Table 4:** Is COVID-19 likely to have a positive effect on your daily basis?

Pros/cons	Number	Percentage
Pros	34	10.66%
Cons	16	5.02%
Both	269	84.33%
Total	319	100.00%

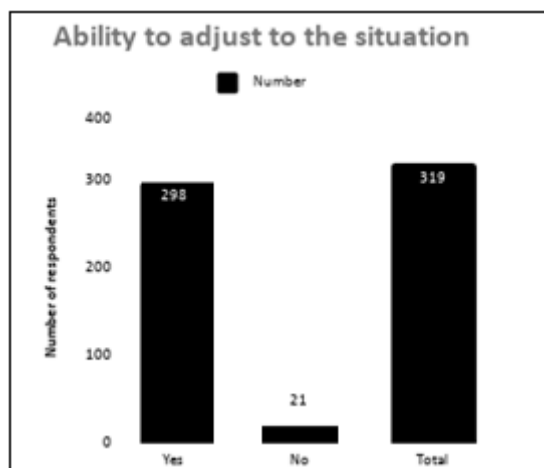
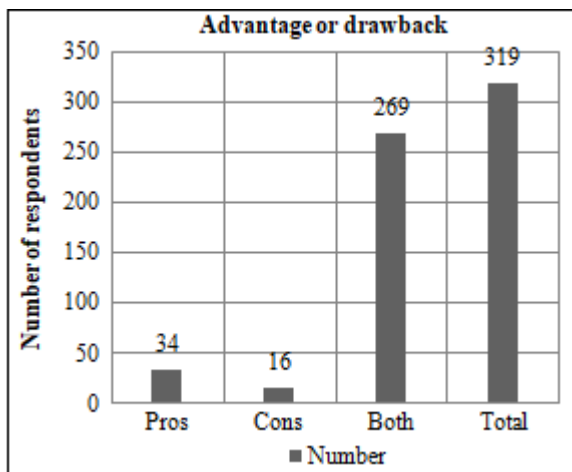


Figure 5

Table 5: Have you been able to adapt to the new environment?

Able to adapt	Number	Percentage
Yes	298	93.42%
No	21	6.58%
Total	319	100.00%

Table 6: Questionnaires

Have you ever practiced ...	Number	%
More frequently ordering for take-away / requesting a delivery from merchants in your city	196	61.06%
Deliberately/Alternatively purchasing products or services online instead of offline	235	73.21%
Practicing Social or Physical Distancing, to Stay at least 6 feet from Other People	226	70.40%
Temperature Screening Applied to You when Visiting an Operating Site and/or Building	271	84.42%
Work and Study from Home	265	82.55%
Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility	198	61.68%
Saving Money During COVID-19 / Making a Financial Plan B	117	36.45%
Having a Chance to Find Part-time, Remote, and Work-from-home Opportunities.	43	13.40%
Wear Face Coverings; medical and fabric face masks, When Close to Other People	289	90.03%
Experiencing Several Health Strategies Implemented by Restaurants and Bars	121	37.69%
Using the Thai Chana Mobile Application to Coincide with Resuming Outdoor Activities.	223	69.47%
Washing Your Hands Often with Soap and Water When Available; if not, Using an Alcohol-based hand sanitizer	239	74.45%
Others (please give a specific example)	3	0.93%
Total	321	

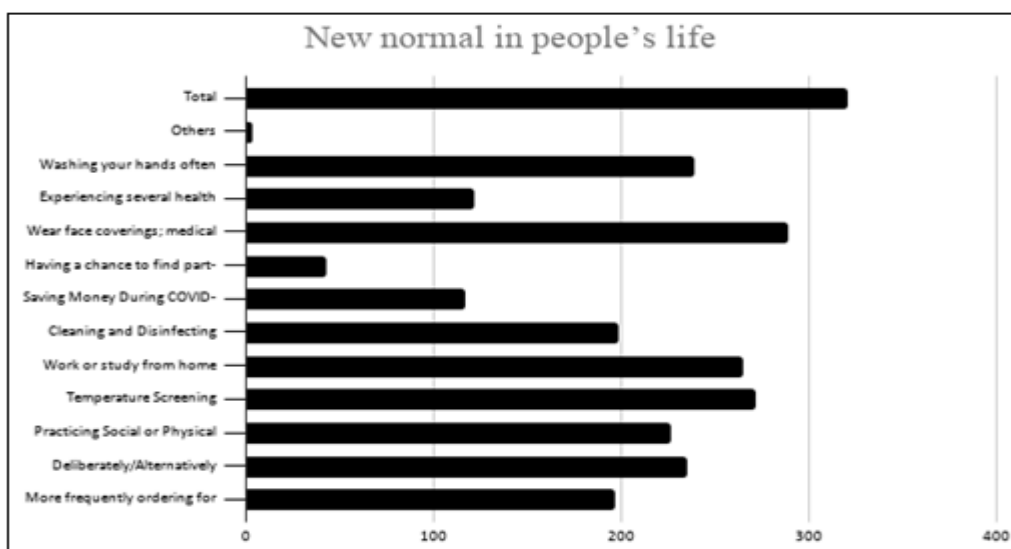


Figure 6

According to the data from July's survey, female participants far more participated in the survey than male participants; 79.41% takes up the portion while nearly a quarter, male portion, makes up the gender distribution. Two-third of the participants says they are under the age of 18 while only 12 respondents answered 'more than 50' to the question. Out of 100 portions of this number, an estimated amount of 76 portions resides in the south of Thailand. On the other hand, only a few they live in the north of Thailand.

From the first question, most of respondents say they find the COVID-19 outbreak as a joint of positivity and negativity reflecting on their everyday life.

From a task to measure their ability to adapt to the ever-changing situation. Preferably to say, respondents were able to change their daily activities, complying with the community and official health protocols.

From the last questionnaire on the survey, most applies more than one health safety protocols. Covering the external airways with face masks is number one priority when comes to mind, following by participating in temperature-screening when enter or exit the building. Nearly 200 participants say they have worked / studied online. One-sixth of the participants had a chance to find part-time, remote, and work-from-home opportunities..

#### 4. Conclusion

According to the result from the sample group, we find that there is a possibility for us to conclude that Thai citizens have acknowledged the ongoing urgent situation in their area and received a sufficient amount of needed information. For example, Thai citizens have a tendency to comply with the community and official laws according to the safety protocols during the COVID-19 outbreak, as seen by the sample group majoring in wearing face coverings in their everyday life [according to the official emergency declaration of laws, it is a must for all in the country to wear face masks]. Therefore, this is a strong evidence that Thailand is ready for the next phrase of the pandemic; the post-control period.

#### 5. Future Work

All the information, statistics, and statements seen in this paper are allowed to be used for academic purposes and further paperwork associated in the field of business, education, medicine, economy and others related to the changes in the system due to outbreaks of virus.

Conflicts of Interest: Nil

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