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**Swiss Agency for Development** and Cooperation SDC

# Tips for Migrant Workers whose Job is Affected by the **COVID-19** Pandemic

Are you worried about COVID-19?

# Simple tips to reduce the risk infection



Avoid contact with anyone who has the following symptoms: cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath or a fever above 37.5 degrees Celsius.

Avoid touching your face.



Wash your hands frequently with soap for 20 seconds or clean your hands with alcoholbased hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol.



If you or anyone around you are having one or more respiratory symptoms mentioned above, please wear sanitary face masks. Distance yourself from the public. And please seek advice from healthcare professionals.

Provide information to others so they can also be informed of the situation and do not disseminate false information. For official updates on COVID-19, you can visit the Thai Ministry of Public Health website https://covid19.moph.go.th in Thai and English, World Health Organization website www.who.int/Myanmar in Myanmar language, Cambodian Ministry of Public Health website <a href="http://www.cdcmoh.gov.kh">http://www.cdcmoh.gov.kh</a> and Lao People's Democratic Republic Ministry of Health website www.covid19.gov.la.

## Are you considering going home?





Traveling across the borders to go home involves passing through crowded areas, which could lead to the transmission of the virus through coughing, sneezing and touching.





If you become infected, you may carry the virus back to your country and your loved ones at home.

Due to COVID-19, immigration checkpoints may be closed, which would affect your re-entry and employment in Thailand. Land border crossing points to Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Cambodia are all closed until further notice.

Some governments are advising their nationals not to leave Thailand. If you go back home, you might face mandatory quarantine for 14 days or other measures. For upto-date advice and information, please contact your embassy or consulate.



For migrant workers reentering Thailand after leaving, there is an official fee of THB 1000.



At this time of uncertainty, it is advisable to limit your travel and reconsider your travel plans until the situation improves to protect yourself and those around you.

# Are you a migrant worker whose job is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?



Are you insured through the Social **Security Fund?** 

Employees who lose their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be entitled to various compensation plans, including migrant workers who contribute to the Social Security Fund for no less than 6 months within the past 15 months. Detailed compensation plans are summarized below:

Employees (including migrant workers) of businesses which close during the applicable period are entitled to 50% of the basic salary, up to an amount not exceeding THB 7,500 per month, for a 6 month period. Employees (including migrant workers) of businesses suspended by the Royal Thai Government, such as pubs and entertainment venues, are entitled to 50% of the basic salary, up to an amount not exceeding THB 7,500 per month, for a 2 month period. Employees (including migrant workers) who are dismissed during the applicable period due to issues related to COVID-19 are entitled to 75% of the basic salary, up to an amount not exceeding THB 10,500 per month, for a 200 day period. Employees (including migrant workers) who resign for reasons related to COVID-19 impacts are entitled to 45% of the basic salary, up to an amount not exceeding THB 6,750 per month, for a 3 months period. Workers and employers should register

If so, you are entitled to receive severance pay upon termination of the contract by your employer after working at least 120 days in a row with the same employer

Do you work full time?

If you have worked with the same employer for 120 days but less than one year, you will receive severance pay equivalent to your regular wage of 30 working days, similarly:

- 1-3 years -> regular wage of 90 working days
- 3-6 years -> regular wage of 180 working days
- 6-10 years ->regular wage of 240 working days
- 10-20 years ->regular wage of 300 working days
- more than 20 years ->regular wage of 400 working days

at https://www.sso.go.th.



If you are unsure whether you are entitled to severance pay, you can contact the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare via the Ministry of Labour's Hotline 1506.

If you wish to speak to an operator in Cambodian, Lao or Myanmar languages, please press 2 when you reach the menu.

Are you a migrant worker holding a pink card or recruited through the memoranda of understanding between Thailand and your home country?

If you are an MOU worker from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam, and if your employer goes bankrupt or has to reduce business size due to COVID-19 pandemic, you are permitted to change employer.

You can submit a complaint through a labour inspector or the Labour Court in the area where you work, or where your employer lives if the court permits.

Please call the Ministry of Labour's Hotline on 1506, then press 2 to seek assistance in Cambodian, Myanmar and Laotian languages.

You may assign a Government official or a workers' association to take the case to the Court on your behalf without having to pay the court fee.



### Do you need to change employers?

- Get an official notification from your employer stating that they terminated your contract.
- Your new employer will use this document to register you with the Department of Employment Office.
- Present your passport and current work permit to register with the new employer.



Remember, you should have these personal identification documents with you at all times.



# Are you a migrant worker whose job is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?



If you hold a work permit that expires on or before 31 March 2020, the Royal Thai Government has granted an amnesty due to the COVID-19 virus situation for you to continue working and living in Thailand with your dependents until 30 June 2020 without any extra administrative fee on the condition that your employer has registered for an extension of your work permit by the end of March 2020.

If you are already registered, your employer



Are you sick and in need of medical care?

Please go to the hospital or medical center where you are registered. Present your social security or health insurance card if you have one. Every person who is sick from the COVID-19 virus will receive emergency medical treatment according to the Ministry of Public Health Announcement dated 3 March 2020.



Do you need additional information and assistance?

will have a name list issued by the DOE. You can present the name list to the authorities together with your passport and current work permit in order to work in Thailand until the end of June 2020.

There are a range of Government and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) providing information, services and support to those affected directly and indirectly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of them are listed below.



If you are a Cambodian, Myanmar or Lao worker in Thailand and you are looking for activities to do, please contact the PROMISE programme at promise@iom.int for information on skills training courses, such as Thai language, cooking, hospitality and IT skills. For reliable and up to date information, please check with your employer, your embassy or consulate, workers' association and civil society organizations such as the Migrant Working Group (contact@mwgthailand.org).





### Information on Services Available in Thailand

#### **1. Labour Attache, Royal Embassy of Cambodia**

Address: 518/4 Pracha Uthit Road, Wang Thonglang, Bangkok 10310 Tel: 02-957-5851-2

# 2. Labour Attache, Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Address: 520, 502/13 Soi Sahakarnpramoon, Prachauthit Road, Wang Thonglang, Bangkok 10310 Tel: 02-539-6679

#### **3. Labour Attache, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Address: 132 Sathorn Nua Road, Bangkok, 10500 Tel: 094-884-5484

#### 4. Migrant Working Group

Email: contact@mwgthailand.org

#### **5. Ministry of Labour Hotline**

Call 1506 and press 2 to speak to an operator in Cambodian, Laotian and Myanmar languages.

IOM Thailand, 18th Floor, Rajanakarn Building, 3 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120, Thailand Tel: (+66) 2 343 9300 (Main Office) | Email: ThailandLHD@iom.int