



Announcement of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)
Subject: Designation of Premises, Businesses or Activities which can be Opened
for Operations as Specific Cases for Organizing the Songkran Festival Activities
of the Year 2022

Reference is made to the promulgation of the Regulation Issued under Section 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2548 (2005) (No. 43) dated 30th March 2022. The spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) of the Omicron variant has quickly been scattering in large scale and it has become the main variant spreading in the country. Doctors and public health agencies have advised and encouraged the people in risk and vulnerable groups, especially the older persons to have the booster dose. Such act will reduce the risk ratio of death and alleviate the severity of disease. Additionally, the Songkran Festival is a period with long weekend, and it is expected that a lot of people will return to their hometowns and travel. Therefore, the Government, with the proposal of public health sectors, are in preparedness for designation of disease prevention and control measures in compliance with the situation to reduce risk of disease spread in clusters. The said act also carries on the Thai tradition and culture together with creating responsibility to families and the society to have the economic recovery and public health management efficiently operated.

Therefore, in order to comply with the said Regulation, by the virtue of Section 34 (6) 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) (No. 43) dated 30th March 2022, Governor of Bangkok, with the approval of the BMA Communicable Diseases Committee as stated in the Meeting Resolution No. 4/2565 dated 29th March 2022, shall have the order of designating the following premises, businesses, or activities which can be opened for operations as specific cases for organizing the Songkran Festival activities of the Year 2022 (between 10th April 2022 and 15th April 2022) as follows:

1. Organizing activities on the occasion of the Songkran Festival with public gathering no more than 1,000 persons, business owners, organizers or responsible persons for organizing such activities shall request for permission from the district office in charge. In case of public gathering more than 1,000 persons, the said persons shall request for permission from the BMA Health Department at least five days prior to organization for consideration of appropriateness in designating disease prevention and control measures and screening measures of attendees. Such activities should be organized in the open air with good ventilation. Organizing activities in limited areas or air-conditioned rooms should be avoided.

2. Premises ...

2. Premises granted permission to organize the Songkran Festival activities under Clause 1, business owners, organizers, or responsible persons for organizing such activities shall arrange the said premises and operate activities under prevention measures and reduction of risk of disease spread in clusters as well as COVID Free Setting prescribed by the Ministry of Public Health as follows:

a. Organizing activities in the form of splashing water or organizing cultural and traditional activities like bathing rituals for Buddha images, pouring water over hands of the revered elders, playing traditional games, displaying locally traditional shows, processions or musical performances can be operated;

b. Activities of powdering each other or activities of foam parties are not allowed;

c. Selling and consuming liquor or alcoholic drinks at organizing areas are not allowed;

d. Providing screening points at the entrance and exit and having registration before entering and leaving premises or organizing areas;

e. Controlling the number of attendees to avoid overcrowding. Such control shall comply with the size of premises or organizing areas, and the criteria is not less than 4 square meters per person. Permitted attendees are only those presenting evidence that they have been fully vaccinated under the criteria prescribed by the Government,

3. Splashing water, powdering each other, foam parties or any activities which are prone to risk of the disease spread are not allowed in the public areas and areas which are not permitted to organize activities.

Public areas under this Clause, excluding areas granted permission to organize activities under this Announcement which are specifically designated, can be used to organize the Songkran Festival activities.

4. The Songkran Festival activities in the areas of villages or communities can be organized. Persons who desire to organize activities shall request for permission from the district office in charge or the BMA Health Department, as the case may be. Such persons shall comply under disease prevention and control measures as prescribed under this Announcement and by the Government. This excludes organizing family get-togethers, which can be operated without asking for permission but shall comply with the prescribed disease prevention and control measures.

5. Premises or organizing activities which are prone to risk of disease spread, business owners or responsible persons shall also comply with safety measures under the criteria specially prescribed by the Government.

6. Apart from the case specified in this Announcement, premise owners, business owners, service users, attendees, and other relating persons shall still comply with the Announcement of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) on Order of Temporary Closure of Premises (No. 51) dated 14th March 2022.

Any persons who violate or fail to comply with this Order shall be guilty of an offense under Section 51 of the Communicable Diseases Act B.E. 2558 (2015) which shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand Baht, and 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).

This Order shall take effect from 1st April 2022 onwards

Announced on 31st March 2022

(Signature)

(Mr. Khachit Chatchawanit)

Permanent Secretary for BMA

Acting in the Position of the Governor of Bangkok