

## Monastic Governance in The Situation of Covid-19

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### Abstract

In the present state, the monks' in buddhist lifestyle has undergone a significant transformation due to the coronavirus epidemic. Monks have to protect themselves, trying to take care of wearing masks. More distance with kin Need to be more careful Return from alms Must take care of the cleanliness before entering the temple. Another way is Let kith and kin come to the temple Use screening for safety and prevent monks from being at risk as well. And at this time, some monks also use self-quarantine as a practice in themselves. Kith and kin can go to make merit, but may have to change their course. There are officers of the Royal Thai

Police or the officers of various temples in the screening process before entering the merit. Or if laymen would come to discuss dharma with the Lord Should avoid meeting face to face Should use online media or use the telephone for consultation. Will be a good defense It is therefore necessary to have a responsible person and find a way to help the monks who have suffered in the situation that arise. It is a spiritual refuge of the people and is an important part of helping to alleviate suffering for people who have suffered such as donating food, drinking water, masks, etc. to make society live happily. Are generous for each other.

**Keywords:** Sangha; Governance; Covid-19

### Introduction

The world adventures heavily in the "disease war", which is to face the viral epidemic that started from the city of Wuhan (Province Hubei), China, or the coronavirus disease, later called "COVID-19," the COVID-19 disease that is currently spreading heavily. At this time, it is seen that it is comparable to the "World War" because it caused damage to property and human life throughout

the country. World: It has been noted that once in 100 years, there has been a major epidemic in the world. The outbreak of an epidemic is Clean (Clean sweep) the world, a period of 100 years, namely 1720 AD (1720 AD), the Black Death occurred. 1820 (1820) Cholera occurred in 1920 (1920), influenza occurred in 2020 (2020), COVID-19 (Corona) occurred. virus The outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) that has caused a large outbreak (Pandemic) throughout. World (Surachai Chokkhanchitchai, 2020)

Coronaviruses are the largest family of viruses found in both animals and humans. corona virus yet It causes a variety of illnesses, from the common cold to serious illnesses. such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). infected with the new coronavirus 2019 This will have the same symptoms as patients with respiratory infections. It will show symptoms ranging from mild severity, including nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, and fever. In some cases, symptoms Severe symptoms include pneumonia or It's also difficult to breathe. Some people can die, but this is rare. But if the elderly And people with underlying diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are at risk for severe illness if they get infected. new strain of corona virus

World Health Organization standards has recommended to the public Reduce exposure to factors risk and spread of infection in at various stages, this standard also recommends washing hands. Take care of respiratory hygiene When coughing or sneezing, use the crook of your arm. Cover your mouth or use toilet paper and throw it in the trash. Eat food that is cooked, clean, safe and avoid Coming into contact with people who have respiratory illnesses, such as people who are coughing or sneezing (Health Organization World, 2020)

After the government announced the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations 2005 to control COVID-19 virus outbreak It can be considered a time when people in society must adjust to live with the situation. At this time, Social Distancing is used in the system in both work and travel to prevent risks from Infection and adjustment of monks during the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition to the number of kith and kin Less, still at risk of contracting COVID-19 Monks are therefore another group that must adapt in various practices. To protect yourself from infection and not to put your kith and kin who enter the temple at risk as well (Thai PBS, 2020: online)

Therefore, guidelines for managing the role of monks in adapting to the COVID-19 situation Monks must know as much. Access the movement of emerging diseases and illnesses Let it be adjusted to your lifestyle. Especially the routine of Monks who perform their duties both linking,

coordinating, and contacting and meeting with laypeople all the time. It's a lot of people. You must be aware of the information all the time. It's better to prevent than to fix. Bringing health benefits to both monks themselves, as well as the lay people and their kith and kin, will have confidence in continuously upholding the religion.

## **Monks and The Covid-19 Situation**

Current situation of COVID-19 disease It has had many impacts on Thai society. Looking at it from another angle is what we got. Come back and review yourself. Some things that we think are unnecessary can be learned from these situations. The monks must adjust. Whether it is an adjustment in the matter of practice As a result of the Supreme Sangha's resolution, 137/2020 on measures to control and prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). for monks novice practice and the Ministry of Public Health Announcement of measures for places of religious ceremonies (temples Churches, mosques, shrines) causing His Majesty to adapt and act in the same direction. which the monks had never encountered Things like this have happened before. Therefore, use mindfulness and reconsider taking care of yourself in a crisis like this. At least we saw An atmosphere of helping each other, kindness, fighting together to fight against things that cannot be seen, but we can fight against desires. There are two types of suffering in our bodies in Buddhism: physical suffering and mental suffering. Try to protect your body and be strong. If we look at the principles of Buddhism, we look at the Dharma side of the mind. How can we take care of our mental suffering?

The current situation allows us to revisit our suffering. The mental aspect that we have never been able to manage is also a good opportunity. We must be aware Use beliefs, beliefs, perspectives, ways of thinking, viewpoints A motto that we must bring back and use to encourage ourselves during this time" (Thai PBS, 2020)

Concepts of monks and the COVID-19 situation in helping the community There may be an argument that it is not an activity. Sangha has caused two criticisms: (1) Monks should head towards nirvana according to the path laid out by the Buddha. (2) Monks should not leave people and society behind. But when considering the concept of dāna, which means giving, the concept of cāga, the concept of sangha vatthu, it can be interpreted that Buddhism provides an opportunity for helping to synthesize one another in 2 ways. The place is to give principles and concepts called Dhamma offerings, giving ideas, methods, and principles for living life. Under the circumstances, Video 19 Monks came out to speak and encourage people to use tolerance. Use patience to get through the

crisis. These go together Teach to sacrifice and share alms (than-metta-jaka) To help each other through objects consumer goods consumption. If interpreted this way, it will be confirmed that It is not against the principles of helping people. Let's get into the tune of helping each other, everyone. It is considered beneficial to living together. When searching for work on the role of monks in public work There will be a lot of research work, such as “Project to study public welfare knowledge in the scriptures. Buddhism” (Wuttinan Kanthatian, 2020)

However, monks are considered to have 2 statuses: 1) Monastic status in Buddhism. Don't forget that monks still have physical bodies just like other laypeople. Therefore, it is necessary to have access to change and Adapt, including finding ways to prevent and correct according to the world situation.

## **Monastic Status and Practice**

The legal provisions for monks have two statuses: as citizens of the state, they must be subject to the law. of the state just like ordinary citizens. In addition to monks' rights being limited in some areas, their rights in others are not yet more than ordinary citizens As per the constitutional provisions in Chapter 3 regarding the rights and freedoms of the Thai people, Section 38 Monks are under the same protection of the constitution as ordinary citizens of all religions. It is stated that “a person has the freedom to follow religious commandments or perform rituals according to his wishes. own trust When it is not contrary to the duties of citizens and is not contrary to public order or good morals of people in exercising their rights and freedoms under paragraph one Individuals are protected from the state. Do any action which is a deprivation of rights or loss of benefits that should be received because of religion, religious sect, ideology In religion, or following religious commandments or performing rituals according to different beliefs. from another person” section The second position must be within the framework of the Sangha's Dharma and Discipline and must not violate Sangha law. which the citizens can Regulations to ensure orderly governance of the Sangha and to prevent people with dishonest intentions from relying on the shadows. Buddhism benefits itself which causes the loss of faith in the community and It's a promotion. The monastic institution is an important status for the survival of religion. Because monks are representatives of religion in The status of the Sangharatana who is revered Therefore, they are special and different from ordinary citizens. (Kitiyadisai, 2013)

The role of Buddhism in relation to the way of life and living conditions of Thai people. A temple is a place. Live and practice Dhamma and perform the religious duties of monks. They

have ties with the villagers and have related roles. Very related both in terms of arts, culture and good traditions. It helps to refine the mental life of Thai people to be bright and clean. And has always been peaceful. Thailand under the shadow of Buddhism is therefore peaceful. Be happy, prosperous, and maintain independence. Sovereignty and freedom. The people are living well. Proud of the nation and have unity. Respect and love each other as brothers. Buddhism is a religion. It is one of the most important religions that has existed in the world and has been around for more than two thousand years. Buddhism has gained stability. And it is sustainable because Buddhists who are heirs of the religion have continued to practice and preserve it. Both aspects of moral conduct. Because they saw that it was a religion that could be taken as their own refuge. By relying on the Dhamma and Vinaya from the Tripitaka. It is a guideline for practicing and living in society in peace. (Phra Phrom Kunaporn (Prayut PayutTo), 2010)

For that reason. It can be seen that temples or religious institutions are the main institutions and play a high role at the national level. Thai social class has always been. Because temples are still religious institutions that hold the hearts of Thai people very well. Thai society, whether it is a rural society or an urban society. Therefore, temples are important institutions of society. Every village has one. The temple is the common property of the local people. People in each village have strong relationships. measure is a place that provides kindness, warmth, and knowledge to the community both intellectually, mentally, and materially, which is a treasure. The unique characteristic of this relationship is that the monks truly have access to the people (PhrakruPhalatSomchai Nissapho and group, 2020)

## **The Main Duties of Monks in Buddhism**

The main duties of monks In Buddhism, it is the study of Buddhist doctrines and then practice. Follow and bring the doctrine to propagate. For the people, Thai monks have duties and roles that they must take responsibility for which have been directly appointed and whose duties must be performed include:

- 1) Sangha administration, including the management of monks and novices, which monks with knowledge Ability to be appointed as the head of various religious orders. The position of Patriarch is the highest position, followed by the Abbot. Regional Abbot, Provincial Abbot, District Abbot, Subdistrict Abbot, Abbot, Assistant Abbot and Secretary. Each head monk is the final position. The Sangha Supreme Council is considered to be the body. The highest governing body of the Sangha of both sects.

2) Providing education for monks and novices and the general public, including administration and teaching. Taught at monastic educational institutions, including monastic universities. Phrapariyattidhamma School Department of Dhamma-Pali and General Education Department

3) Propagation of Buddhism, including teaching, training, sermons, and sermons. Write textbooks and disseminate Dhamma practices through various media such as radio, television, and newspapers, etc.

4) Construction Constructing and restoring temples means taking care of the construction of temples and maintain and repair

5) Providing public benefits to society, including participation in making benefits to society in the field such as providing education for underprivileged children, combating drugs, donating funds to various agencies and the promotion of various professions, etc. (Jiarajit, 2015)

### **Guidelines for Managing the Role of Monks in Adapting to The Covid-19 Situation**

As the COVID-19 virus outbreak spreads around the world, it affects every sector, including the Sangha. It is necessary to adapt. Regarding the management of religious affairs through online media With the author being a full-time teacher Mahachulalongkorn University Royal College (CMU) as a government agency Therefore, various measures have been announced to prevent and take action. To be in accordance with the policy of the Maha Sangha State. and Ministry of Public Health As a control center and prevent Spread of the Covid virus (CCPO.19) Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Measure 5 has been issued. Measures to prevent and stop the COVID-19 virus are as follows:

1) Measures for the performance of university personnel so that personnel of all departments can Working from home and arranging an agenda for alternating working days for personnel with It is necessary to work in the office, reducing congestion. and prevent risks that may occur, including Seminar meeting via online system which has been communicated to all departments Both central and regional agencies comply with Policies and measures must be in the same direction. In addition, he urged MCU personnel to take care of their health. strict self

2) Educational management measures The university has determined to organize classes. Teaching and examinations Online evaluation of all subjects and all levels of education. At the same time, there are also measures to Help students reduce their tuition fees. Provide scholarships and other assistance measures

3) Measures to take care of personnel and students staying at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, which are in place About 400 photos / person, most of them are students from overseas who are unable to return to their own country. The university has issued strict regulatory measures. Students are strictly not allowed to leave the area. Manage hygiene Arrange medical equipment, hand washing gel, and face masks. Check for fever and measure body temperature. Spray disinfectant in every area and keep students spaced apart. Eating food using one's own utensils Separately, sit me aside. Strict measures have also been put in place to prevent entry and exit of both personnel and outsiders. From the entrance–exit, up and down Student dormitory building

4) Communication measures to the public as KMUTT is a higher education institution and The Sangha University has therefore taken steps to communicate concepts based on Buddhist principles. so that Buddhists can Applied in life in every communication system There is a center to control and prevent the spread of the virus. University Covid 19 It is the centerpiece in bringing the principles of Buddhism to propagate through the mass media. Every branch at all times from the beginning until the present.

5) Management measures within the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University area. Established the Center for Control and Prevention of the Spread of the Covid–19 Virus (CCOC.19) and established control measures. and to strictly prevent the spread of the Covid virus, Big Cleaning has been carried out. and spray disinfectant in the entire area along with requiring screening of personnel, students, and the general public who will enter Everyone who goes within the university area must have their body temperature checked. And if you are an outsider, you must wash it. Detailed travel history and history records Entry will not be allowed if the body temperature is abnormally high. Internally, these policies and measures are for use by campuses, monastic colleges, classrooms, and academic service units throughout the country. Follow the same guidelines.

From the management guidelines that appear, it is found that in managing Prevention of Covid 19 Buddhist University It is consistent with the Buddhist concept as the Buddha said: “Monks, those who consider Seeing their own benefit as truly appropriate in order to carry out their activities with carelessness or that the person considering Seeing the benefits of others as truly appropriate in order to carry out the activities of others with carelessness or the person who considers Seeing the benefits of both sides, it is truly appropriate to carry out the activities of both sides with carelessness” “All monks, who consider Seeing their own benefit as truly appropriate in order to carry out their activities with carelessness or that the person considering Seeing the benefits of

others as truly appropriate in order to carry out the activities of others with carelessness or the person who considers Seeing the benefits of both sides, it is indeed appropriate to carry out the activities of both sides with carelessness" (Suttantapitaka Anguttara Nikaya Satta Nipat Thai Volume 23, page 40), Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University book, From the concept which the Buddha's words reflect worker Or do Buddhists have to prepare themselves to Support upcoming changes or to be consistent with the situation (Sonsa-at, Yawrungruang, 2019) or is happening under the concept "Impermanence" Buddhism teaches us to be aware of it. To be afraid or paranoid to the point of not daring to do anything. But prepare yourself to accommodate what will happen. Understand, be aware, know each other, know how to fix it, make it a "technique" or administrative guidelines that are consistent with the missions of the Sangha University Status as an educational institution of the Sangha which is used in the education of religious personnel to have Ready and responsive to workloads in all 6 areas as well, as shown in the Sangha University as a model under Covid-19 situation, etc. (Phrakhru Kovitbunkhet, Tapin, 2020)

### **Monks Must Change According to The World Situation.**

When studying the COVID-19 virus situation in Thailand, information was found as of May 4, 2020 confirmed that there are 2,987 people infected and 2,740 people have been cured and the number of deaths is as follows.

When studying the situation of the COVID-19 in Thailand, information found that May 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 confirmed that there are 2,987 people infected and 2,740 people have been cured and the number of deaths is 2,987. 54 people It is ranked 54th in the world in terms of the total number of infected people around the world. 3, 422, 608 people are being treated 2,094,032 people, 1,085, 263 people have recovered. The total number of deaths worldwide is 243, 313 people, which is the number 1 statistic. The world is in the United States with a total of 1,177,784 people. and 68,442 people died, ranking 2nd in Spain The total number of infected people is 218, 011 and the deaths are 25, 428 people, and in 3rd place Italy, the total number of infected people is 211, 938 people. and 29, 079 people died, overall from statistics and research on the situation of the spread of the Covid 19 . Being in an abnormal situation As shown in the research on "Report of patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): The first patient in Thailand and outside China."

However, at this time the temple must take precautions due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Asked about the practices of the monks. Has it changed or not? There are still parts that remain the same. But it must be adjusted to suit the situation. Because the way of life of monks must be

conducive to People still have to go out to collect alms. Because giving alms is a form of self-care for monks, but During a crisis like this, it is a risk of bringing germs into the temple. Therefore, some temples may go out to collect alms. Go out sometimes, but during this time it is recommended to stay put and follow government orders. If it is necessary to give alms, you must take precautions. I myself try to take care of wearing a mask. Keep more distance from kith and kin. You have to be very careful about this Up, returning from alms. You must take care of cleanliness before entering the temple. Another way is Let kith and kin come to the temple. Use screening. Filter for safety and to prevent monks from being at risk. And at this time, some monks are also using self-quarantine. It is a practice of Dhamma within yourself. Some things are not forbidden to practice because they are Dhamma and discipline in practice. Kith and kin can make merit but may have to change their ways. There are officers Village Health Volunteers (VHV.), Subdistrict Health Promotion Hospital or officials of various temples in Screening before coming to make merit The temple now has masks and hand washing gel before entering the temple. Distance

As for invitational activities during this period, they need to be reduced: merit-making events, weddings, ordination events, and human events. A lot at present, the Sangha Sangha Announcement to suspend monastic activities that involve large groups of people and are Avoid risks For events that truly cannot be canceled, there must be a good protection system. For example, an event that cannot be canceled is a funeral. We really need to reduce the number of people, including only relatives, and set fewer days for the ceremony.

At this time, the role of monks has changed. Monks have begun to adapt to using online media more, such as listening. country teaching books It is one thing that helps the kith and kin. People and monks themselves, reducing the risk of meeting each other in the management of temples There is always cleaning of things in the temple such as The green and red carpet in the church is this. It's dangerous for us to enter it while paying respects to the Buddha or meditating. Need to be taken out and disinfected. Every temple should have a place to manage. It is safe and gives peace of mind to kith and kin who enter the temple.

Temples have been the center of the community along with Thai society since ancient times until the present. A temple is not only a place of residence. of monks and novices But it is also a public place. which is of benefit to the community as well Therefore, it is appropriate to have a temple that has Sufficient potential to help those experiencing difficulties during the epidemic situation. Use a place to practice Dhamma. It's a quarantine place. Quarantining here is quarantining with Dhamma. If we talk about the place of the community and the villagers. measure is a place

where everyone comes together to make merit as a community. If there are any problems, we will use the temple as an appropriate place to Let's meet. Sometimes we have a place to practice Dhamma too. But during this time, due to the crisis People who come to practice Dhamma will Decrease and decrease. When there is a cancellation, this place is an empty place. This makes this place potentially a place to accommodate people who are sick and sick here. That is, if you're mentally ill, if you're mentally ill, the hospital won't be able to take care of you. We should bring those patients to train their minds. There may be a whole group that they think is Sick or not sick. If you are at home and the situation is too stressful, you want to revise yourself. Temples are another place that opens space for people. Let's review these things for ourselves during this crisis. It also helps the mind to reflect more on itself. We can Relying on temples is a meditation practice that helps to relax the mind and reduce stress. Helps the mind to adjust to different attitudes. It also helps to purify the mind within. But when coming, there must be screening, checking people coming in, using management in The community came to help the temple in managing it. At least I believe that practicing meditation during this time of crisis will help those who are sick. or people who are not sick Makes us see in all directions, be mindful, and reflect on ourselves, turning the current crisis into an opportunity. Consciousness and wisdom come to solve problems and provide immunity for oneself and society. Let's get through this crisis together. (Thai PBS, 2020)

Department of Medical Services by Buddhist Hospital Suggestions on how to care for the health of monks during the COVID-19 situation New Normal model by providing medical services through the Telemedicine system and delivering medicine by mail. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection Dr. Somsak Akkasin, Director-General of the Department of Medical Services, revealed that from The situation of the new outbreak of COVID-19 infection, which has a large number of infected people and is spreading continuous outbreak In the outbreak of this disease causing many hospitals to prepare To deal with the COVID-19 situation To reduce the spread of disease Therefore, there is a new way of providing medical services using The digital system comes in to manage. In this case, the Department of Medical Services through the Buddhist Hospital provides medical services in a new way. To the sick monks For the safety of monks and medical personnel

Chamni Jittriprasert Director of Buddhist Hospital Added that During the outbreak of COVID-19 virus, Buddhist hospitals provide new medical services through the Telemedicine system and offering medicine via Post office with a 4-step service process as follows: 1. The nurse will check the monk's basic information. Illness, medical history, taking medicine and will call the sick monk about 1 week before the appointment date by The date and time of the Video-call will be informed

to the sick monks. 2. When the appointment day arrives, the doctor will video–call and ask about symptoms. with sick monks and issuing prescriptions 3. Pharmacists check prescriptions according to professional standards. and type the address together Delivering medicine to sick monks (If you have questions about the use of video–call medicine, consult a pharmacist) and 4. Check postal parcel delivery information. Therefore, monks should refrain from going to high–risk places. Wear a mask. social distance I eat hot food Use your own spoon To strengthen the body and keep it safe from COVID–19 disease (Department of Medical Services, 2021)

In summary, monks must change according to the world situation. You must protect yourself because The COVID–19 outbreak and the way of life of monks Must be generous to the people Will have to go out to collect some alms. because of Alms are a form of self–care for monks. But during a crisis like this, it is a risk of bringing germs into the temple. And sometimes laypeople have mental problems and must consult with the monks at the temple. Guidelines for managing monks Yourself, protect yourself. If it is a matter of giving Dhamma to laypeople, it is appropriate to use online media or by telephone. have avoided meeting each other It is considered very good protection.

## Conclusion

COVID–19 is a contagious disease that is spreading quickly and is serious. Easy to contact from person to person During the Buddha's time, there was a Buddhist method. Happened like in the case of the disease that had occurred during the Buddha's time. At present, it must be combined with administrative science. In modern times, services have been applied with the goal of managing monastic affairs. To be able to proceed Continuous guidelines for managing the role of monks in adapting to the COVID–19 situation: They must protect themselves. Try to take care of wearing a mask. Keep more distance from kith and kin. Must be more careful about this. Back From alms, you must take care of cleanliness before entering the temple. Another method is Let your kith and kin come to the temple. Use filtering to Safety and to prevent monks from being at risk. And at this time, some monks also use self–quarantine as a practice. Dhamma in itself. Some things are not forbidden to practice because they are Dhamma and discipline in practice. kith and kin You can go make merit but you may have to change your ways. There are officials from village health volunteers, Subdistrict Health Promotion Hospitals, or officials from various temples. Screening before coming to make merit. Now the temple has masks and hand washing gel. Before entering the temple, keep a distance. Monks must know as much. Access the movement of emerging diseases and illnesses Let it be adjusted to your lifestyle. Especially the routine of the monks, which is both

responsible for connecting with village health volunteers (VHV) and the sub-district hospital. and contact and meet with laypeople all the time. It's always a large group of people. Therefore, you must be knowledgeable about information. It's better to prevent than to fix. To benefit health both to the monks themselves As well as the lay lay people and their kith and kin, they will have confidence in continuously upholding the religion.

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