

# Letter to the Editor: COVID-19 in a Thai Boxing Area in Thailand

*Leserbrief: COVID-19 im Thai-Boxen in Thailand*

## Letter to the Editor

The new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an important global public health problem, which affects more than 140 countries around the world. The wide outbreak of the disease occurs in several countries such as China, South Korea, Iran and Italy (4). The sport activity related disease transmission is an important consideration in sport medicine. In general, unnecessary sport competition is postponed and the audience is usually not allowed.

Regarding Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games, it is still under decision by Olympic Committee that the completion will be postponed or not (1). The reason that any big sport match should be postponed or cancelled is the increased risk of COVID-19 spreading (2). This is the same reason for cancellation of many international conferences (3).

Here, the authors would like to share the situation from Thailand, the second country in the timeline of COVID-19 pandemic. The infection occurs since early January 2020 and there are overall 82 COVID-19 cases at present (15<sup>th</sup> March 2020).

Of these cases, there is a case of male patient, who is both Thai boxer and owner of Thai boxing training camp. The source of infection in this case is unknown. The patient had mild symptom and diagnosed by molecular diagnosis. Since the patient has several activities in Thai boxing area, the spreading of disease might occur. Nevertheless, there is no official report on the local transmission from this case.

Thai boxing is a sport that boxers have to closely contact to each other and the crowded environment by audience in Thai boxing area is common, the occurrence of COVID-19 becomes a big challenge in disease control.

According to our best knowledge, this is the first report on COVID-19 on boxing related person. ■

## Conflict of Interest

*The authors have no conflict of interest.*

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## LETTER

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