Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Data as reported by the CCSA mid-day press briefing

World Health Organization Thailand

13 January 2021

WHO Thailand Situation Report

10,991 Confirmed | **67** Deaths | **3,981** Hospitalized | **6,943** Recovered

THAILAND SITUATION UPDATE

SPOTLIGHT

- On the 13th of January 2021, **157 new cases** of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand (MoPH), bringing the total number of cases to date to 10,991.
- Of these, 63.2% (6,943) have recovered, 0.6% (67) have died, and 36.2% (3,981) are still receiving treatment or under isolation. **No new deaths were reported today**.
- The 157 laboratory-confirmed cases reported today include 4 individuals who arrived recently in Thailand and were diagnosed in quarantine facilities and 21 individuals who entered Thailand through the land border[1].
- The 157 new cases reported today also included the following
  - 90 cases classified as 'local transmission' (linked to occupational risk, visiting crowded places or contact with confirmed cases), in Chiang Mai (2), Phetchaburi (4), Bangkok (24), Nonthaburi (2), Pathum Thani (2), Samut Prakan (15), Chonburi (9), Samut Songkhram (1), Samut Sakhon (25), Ang Thong (3), Phitsanulok (1), Trang (1) and Nong Khai (1).
  - 42 cases in migrant workers (19) and in the Thai population (23) linked to the Samut Sakhon event identified through contact tracing and active case finding in Pathum Thani (13), Samut Sakhon (10), Rayong (12), Chonburi (5), Samut Prakan (2). This brings the cumulative total in this group to 3,006 cases.
- **Locally transmitted COVID-19 cases have now been reported in 60 provinces**. **One additional province – Phitsanulok – reported new cases (1) today**.
- During the new wave (between 15th December 2020 and 13th January 2021), 6,754 confirmed cases have been reported, of which 3,317 were classified as local transmission, 3,041 were detected through active case finding and 396 were in invididuals who entered Thailand from other countries. At present, 3,003 have recovered, 2,240 are in conventional hospitals, 1,511 are currently in field hospitals or other facilities and 7 have died.
- Of the 60 provinces with active cases, 10 provinces reported more than 50 cumulative cases, 12 provinces reported between 11 and 50 cumulative cases, and 38 provinces reported between 1 and 10 cumulative cases. The remaining 17 provinces have not reported cases during this new wave.
- The 10 provinces reporting more than 50 cumulative cases are Samut Sakhon (3,391), Chonburi (620), Rayong (541), Bangkok (512), Samut Prakan (298), Chanthaburi (212), Nonthaburi (147), Nakhon Pathom (75), Ang Thong (84), and Pathum Thani (67).
- An analysis of 4,048 confirmed cases reported between 15th Dec 2020 and 12th Jan 2021 showed the following

44% were found through active case finding:	3% reported exposure in gambling dens
40% are migrant workers	2% were family members of cases
40% reported exposure in public places and markets	1% reported exposure in cockfighting grounds
11% are contacts of confirmed cases	<1% reported exposure in restaurants
4% reported exposure in entertainment venues	<1% reported exposure in crowded places

UPDATE FROM CCSA

- Relief measures: The Cabinet yesterday approved COVID-19 relief measures including, but not limited to, a cash handout of 3,500 Baht per month for individuals working in an informal sector for two months, expansion of co-payment subsidy schemes, electricity and water subsidies between February and March and small soft loans for individuals plus small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

[1] crossed the land border from Myanmar to Tak Province (21 Thais).

- Vaccines: The Prime Minister has instructed the Food and Drug Administration to accelerate the registration process for COVID-19 vaccines, especially the AstraZeneca vaccine. The Ministry of Public Health has developed a vaccination plan in which priority groups are identified based on risks i.e. medical personnel, older persons, people with underlying health conditions, and people living in areas where transmission rate is high.

EXPLAINER: LABORATORY TESTING FOR COVID-19 (2)

The most commonly used laboratory tests for a person infected with COVID-19 detect either 1.] a component of the virus itself, or 2.] they detect a specific component of the infected persons immune system – that responds to the virus.

- ***Detection of the COVID-19 virus itself***

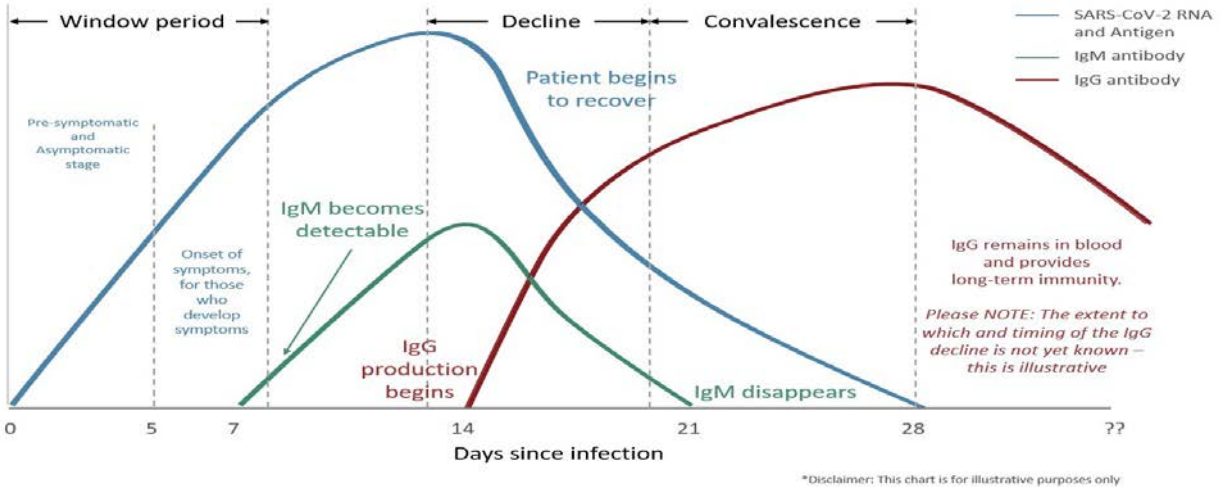
The genetic material inside COVID-19 is known as RNA. This RNA can vary very slightly between COVID-19 viruses infecting different people, but it is always significantly different from the RNA of any other virus. PCR tests are used to detect RNA. Viruses also have proteins on their surface that are arranged in ways that are unique to COVID-19 and different to other viruses. These proteins are the same ones that are detected by our immune system, and are referred to as antigens. The second type of test used to directly detect the presence of COVID-19 is an antigen test.

- ***Detection of COVID-19 based on our immune response to infection by the virus***

Our immune system is quite complicated, but normally if we fall ill with any infection, our immune system becomes activated and after a few days, we begin to produce proteins called antibodies. These antibodies work together with other components of the immune system to fight the bugs making us unwell. The third type of test used to diagnose infection with COVID-19 is an antibody test and it relies upon the fact that the antibodies we produce against COVID-19 are also unique to this virus. We also produce different types of antibody: the first type to appear is called IgM, and later we produce IgG.

- ***Natural history of COVID-19 infection and the immune response: why this is important in understanding lab tests***

Because the genetic material and the surface proteins / antigens are intrinsic parts of a virus, they both appear at the same time, increase in amount in parallel and will begin to disappear at the same time. It takes a while for the levels of both to become detectable, so PCR and antigen tests will not detect infection straight away. Also, because it takes a while for our immune system to kick in, antibody tests become positive later on, so they will typically be negative in the early stages of infection - when PCR and antigen tests will be positive. In addition, although levels of antibodies may reduce over time, they usually remain positive for long after virus has gone. So they can be a marker of 'recovery' and for many infections they are also a sign of protective immunity (protection from re-infection with that virus)



Sorce of chart: World Bank

WHAT WHO IS DOING TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THAILAND

WHO Thailand supports the Royal Thai Government through the Ministry of Public Health, sharing information on key developments, guidelines and scientific updates. WHO also supports the wider UN response, including working with key partners to support migrant populations in Thailand. WHO also provides information and advice to staff of the UN system in Thailand.

USEFUL LINKS

- The Thailand COVID19 situation report is available in Thai and English, please visit.
- For regular updates on WHO's response in Thailand, please visit.
- For global figures and technical advice from WHO, please visit.

World Health Organization Country Office for Thailand
4th Fl., Permanent Secretary Bldg.3 Ministry of Public Health,
Nonthaburi Thailand, 11000

Media queries sethawebmaster@who.int and kanpirom@who.int

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