


Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)


Data as reported by the CCSA mid-day press briefing


15 February

WHO Thailand Situation Report


24,714
(+143)
Confirmed


82
(+2)
Deaths


1,749
Hospitalized


22,883
(+772)
Recovered



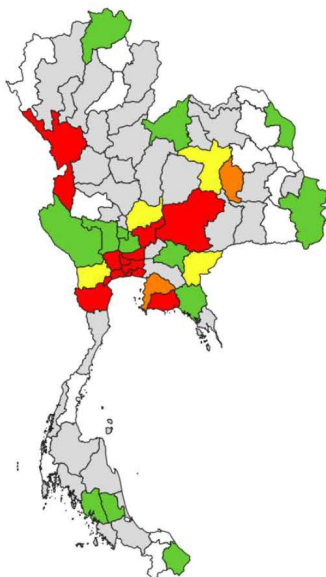
**THAILAND
SITUATION
UPDATE
No. 153**

SPOTLIGHT





- On 15th February, 143 new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand bringing the cumulative total number of cases to date to 24,714. Two new deaths were reported today.
- Of the cases reported in Thailand, 92.6% (22,883) have recovered, 0.3% (82) have died, and 7.1% (1,749) are receiving treatment or are in isolation (1,112 are in conventional hospitals and 637 in field hospitals).
- The 143 laboratory-confirmed cases reported today include
 - 11 individuals who arrived recently in Thailand and were diagnosed in quarantine facilities.
 - 64 cases detected through the routine surveillance system linked to occupational risk, visiting crowded places or contact with confirmed cases, in Samut Sakhon (27 Thais, 25 Myanmar, 1 Cambodian), Samut Songkhram (1 Thai), Nakhon Pathom (8 Thais), and Chonburi (1 Austrian, 1 Chinese).
 - 68 cases identified through active case finding in Bangkok (1), Petchaburi (1), Pathum Thani (50) and Samut Sakhon (16).
- There is a significant increase in new confirmed cases in several different Provinces - in comparison to previous weeks.
- During the new wave between 15 December 2020 – 15 February 2021, 20,477 confirmed cases have been reported, of which 5,614 were detected through the routine surveillance system, 13,990 through active case finding, and 873 are individuals who entered Thailand, detected through screening in quarantine. At present, 18,706 have recovered, 1,749 are receiving treatment, and 22 have died.
- Confirmed cases in the new wave in Thailand have been reported in 63 provinces.





COVID-19 infections in past 28 days



18 January - 14 February, 2021

Provinces with no new infections		จำนวน
	Never reported COVID-19 cases	14
	No cases reported for over 28 days	32
	No cases in past 15-28 days	13
	No cases in past 7-14 days	4

Reported infections in past 3-6 days		จำนวน
	Reported cases in past 3-6 days	2
	Reported cases in past 1-2 days	12

UPDATE FROM THE CCSA

First case of 'South Africa' variant of COVID-19 detected in Thailand

- On 14th February, 2021, the first case of the South African variant of COVID-19 in Thailand was reported in a 41-year-old Thai male who had returned from Tanzania. During his two-months in Tanzania, he had attended parties in which he and guests did not wear masks. He tested positive while under state quarantine.

Pathum Thani Cluster: linkage to Pornpat Market

- From 9 – 13 February 2021, 174 cases were found through active case finding. The index case was working in the centre of the market.
- Despite being an open air market, **ventilation was inadequate** especially during midday when temperatures soared. This resulted in some vendors removing their masks.



Protect yourself whenever possible from COVID-19. The simple habit of wearing a mask, especially in closed, crowded settings with poor ventilation can reduce the risk of spreading Of COVID-19.

EXPLAINER: SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus mutations and their implications for public health and vaccine effectiveness

Even in its original form, the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus was a major challenge to public health agencies, hospitals, businesses, and governments. This is because it is spread primarily by respiratory droplets, and people with few or no symptoms are able to transmit the virus. The virus spreads rapidly, especially in indoor environments where the air is recirculated and people are in close contact. As transmission increases in the community, the numbers of severe cases also increase, overwhelming healthcare systems and leading to many deaths.

Some variant viruses, like the "UK variant" develop the ability to transmit more efficiently. In December 2020, it out-competed the previous virus and caused a dramatic increase in the number of infections, leading to hospitals and intensive care units filled with COVID-19 patients. Variants with increased transmission rates mean that the speed and uniform application of public health and social measures (PHSM) must increase to be able to stop the outbreak. Some variants cause changes to the way our immune systems respond. This can mean that naturally acquired immunity to an earlier SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infection no longer provides protection, causing some people to suffer repeated infections. Similarly, variants can impact the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. For example, some COVID-19 vaccines have significantly reduced effectiveness against the "South African variant." Scientists call these escape variants for their ability to evade our immune responses. This means that COVID-19 vaccines will need to be updated to keep pace with the changing virus. Finally, some variants may cause more severe disease. On 12 February 12, the UK government announced that the UK variant is linked to an increased risk of hospitalization and death, putting additional pressure on its healthcare system.

Each new infection gives the virus new opportunities to mutate and, as vaccination campaigns expand, the virus may mutate in new ways in response to this immunologic "pressure". All of this means that global surveillance of viral mutations is very important, and the rigorous application of PHSM will remain necessary for the foreseeable future.

WHAT WHO IS DOING TO SUPPORT THAILAND

WHO Thailand supports the Royal Thai Government through the Ministry of Public Health, sharing information on 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

The Thailand COVID19 situation report is available in Thai and English, please [visit](#)
For regular updates on WHO's response in Thailand, please [visit](#)

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