


Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)


Data as reported by the CCSA mid-day press briefing


20 May 2021

WHO Thailand Situation Report


119,585
(+2,636)
Confirmed


703
(+25)
Deaths


42,246
Hospitalized


76,636
(+2,268)
Recovered

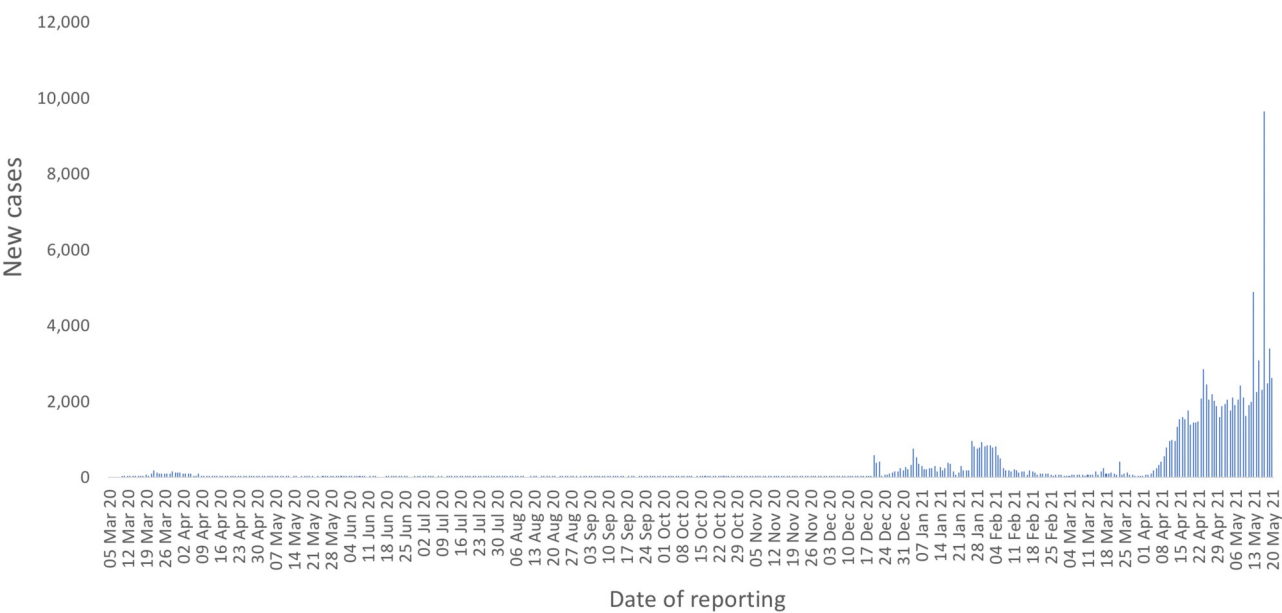


**THAILAND
SITUATION
UPDATE**
No. 182

SPOTLIGHT

- Today, 2,636 new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. 25 new deaths were reported today. In addition, 1,213 patients are considered to have serious illness, of which 405 are currently receiving ventilatory support.
- Of the cases reported in Thailand to date, 64.1% (76,636) have recovered, 0.6% (703) have died, and 35.3% (42,246) are receiving treatment or are in isolation: (17,645 are in conventional hospitals and 24,601 in field hospitals).
- The 2,636 laboratory-confirmed cases reported today include
 - ◇ 671 cases at prison facilities.
 - ◇ 1,385 cases detected through the routine surveillance system: (testing of people presenting at a healthcare facility for a variety of reasons, including presence of COVID-19 symptoms, contact with a case, concern about a possible exposure).
 - ◇ 522 cases identified through active case finding: (testing of people in the community at the initiative of public health authorities).
 - ◇ 58 cases detected in quarantine after arriving in Thailand from another country.
- Between 1 April 2021 and 20 May 2021, 90,722 confirmed cases have been reported, of which 1,385 were detected through the routine surveillance system, 522 through active case finding, 58 are individuals who entered Thailand from other countries, and 671 are inmates and officials at prison facilities. 609 cases have died.
- The 10 Provinces reporting the greatest number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases today are Bangkok (1,001), Phetchaburi (124), Nonthaburi (99), Pathum Thani (89), Chonburi (65), Samut Prakan (61), Samut Sakhon (57), Nakhon Patom (38), Ayutthaya (30), and Songkhla (28).

New COVID-19 cases in Thailand, by date of reporting



Source: MoPH, 20 May 2021

UPDATE FROM THE CCSA

• The current situation

- ◇ The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has implemented three public health measures against COVID-19
 1. Active case finding at major or developing “clusters” and nearby areas.
 2. Personal hygiene measures, such as encouraging people to wear masks, maintaining distancing and closure of public spaces.
 3. Seeking cooperation from camp owners to strongly encourage workers to practise basic public health and safety measures.
- ◇ Ratchaphiphat 2 Field Hospital became the sixth field hospital to be established in Bangkok and is located at Srisudaram Temple. The hospital can accommodate 200 patients who are either asymptomatic or exhibit mild symptoms.
- ◇ Until further notice, domestic travelers who wish to board flights to Phuket must present either a vaccine certificate or negative results for COVID-19 PCR / rapid antigen testing conducted within 72 hours prior to arrival or they will not be allowed to fly.
- ◇ Japan has temporarily barred entry of travelers from many countries including those who have visited Thailand within the last 14 days starting 21 May. Travelers will be allowed entry only under special circumstances. Japanese nationals wishing to return home are exempted.

• Vaccination

- ◇ 94,000 doses of vaccines were administered on 19 May. Overall, over 2.5 million doses have already been administered. More than 1.6 million people received a first dose and 890,000 have received both doses.

EXPLAINER:

How can we be sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe: monitoring for adverse events

Although evaluating safety is one of the first stages in vaccine development, it's important to continue to look for possible side effects throughout the whole process, including when a vaccine is delivered to large numbers of people in a community setting.

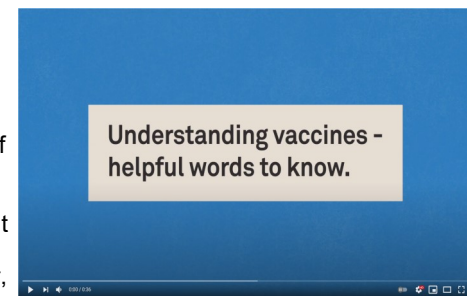
When something unexpected happens after a vaccine is given, it is typically referred to as an 'Adverse Event Following Immunization', although more commonly the acronym 'AEFI' is used. Most countries, including Thailand, already have well developed systems in place to detect these events; this is referred to as an AEFI surveillance system. These systems run all the time because of routine vaccination programmes but are most important whenever a new vaccine is introduced. However, there are some important differences with the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines. Firstly, whereas most vaccines are given to infants and children as part of well-established programmes that have been running for years, COVID-19 vaccine is being targeted at much older people, including those with medical conditions. In addition, the scale of COVID vaccination needs to be much greater, because of both the number involved of people and the need to roll out the programme as quickly as possible. Lastly, a significant issue with COVID-19 is the so-called 'infodemic', including concerns and anxiety that can be generated by people spreading unhelpful and inaccurate reports.

When something adverse does happen after a vaccination is given, it can generally be placed into one of three categories; 1.] it can be something related to the vaccine itself, 2.] it can be something related to the process of vaccination, 3.] it can be something that was going to happen anyway. An AEFI can also be classified as mild, moderate or severe in nature.

Mild side effects related to process of vaccination are quite common and can occur quickly – typically irritation and pain at the site of the injection. Another phenomenon occasionally seen, occurs when an individual or a group of individuals experience an anxiety attack. When this happens, it frequently causes physical symptoms, such as faintness, nausea, or weakness as a result of over-breathing or hyperventilation.

The most important function of an AEFI surveillance system is to detect a serious event related to the vaccine itself. These events typically occur infrequently exactly because if they were more common, we can be confident they would have been detected earlier during the vaccine development and testing phase. Whenever any unusual event is reported through the AEFI surveillance system, it will trigger an investigation to establish whether there is a genuine link to the vaccine or the vaccination process.

The third category of 'coincidental' events are also common and can understandably generate significant concern. But we know that every single day people will normally fall ill due to a wide range of causes, and whether or not they receive a vaccination, some people will unfortunately die. In addition, the more people receive a vaccination, the more likely it is that one of these coincidental adverse events will occur. But when they do happen, the individuals and families who are affected may firmly believe the vaccination to be the cause. This is also when a strong AEFI surveillance system, linked to a rapid investigation of the circumstances plays a vital role in establishing whether or not there is a genuine causal link.



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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