Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Data as reported by the CCSA press briefings including a summary over the past week from Friday to Thursday





SPOTLIGHT

- **Today, 2,310 new cases** of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and **43 new deaths** were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. 1,295 patients are considered to have serious illness, of which 359 are currently receiving ventilatory support.
 - ◊ 102 cases in prison facilities.
 - 1,467 cases were 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 possible exposure).
 - 0 703 cases identified through active case finding: (testing of people in the community at the initiative of public health authorities).
 - 0 38 cases detected in quarantine after arriving in Thailand from another country, including 37 from Cambodia
 - 0 46,876 cases are receiving treatment or are in isolation, 18,327 in conventional hospitals and 28,549 in field hospitals.
- 2,296 cases on average have been reported each day of the last week since the last Sitrep, with an average of 33 deaths each day
- Of the cases reported in Thailand to date, 74% (139,287) have recovered, 0.7% (1,375) have died.
- The 10 Provinces reporting the greatest number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases today are Bangkok (788), Pathum Thani (308), Samut Prakarn (209), Nonthaburi (132), Prachuab Khiri Khan (94), Samut Sakhon (89), Chonburi (81), Pranakorn Si Ayutthaya (43), Ratchaburi (43), Yala (42)

SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VoC) in Thailand

- Variants of Concern (VoC's) are more easily transmitted than earlier versions of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Because the VoC's are more transmissible more people more quickly can be infected. VoC surveillance helps understand the changing geographic distribution and progression of the COVID-19 pandemic in Thailand
- Variants of Concern are identified from a sub-set of COVID-19 positive samples and examining parts of the 'genetic fingerprint' of the virus particle to look for specific changes to the genetic material of the virus that identify the mutations as being a VoC

| VoC Name | Number (% of all samples sequenced) | Where the VoC has been detected in Thailand |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Alpha (B.1.1.7) | 3,703 (88.5%) | 63 (out of 77 provinces) |
| Beta (B.1.351) | 28 (0.7%) | Narathiwat province only (province bordering Malaysia) |
| Delta (B.1.617.2) | 348 (8.3%) | First detected in constriction camp in Bangkok and later found in an- other 10 provinces including Phitsanulok, Nonthaburi, Saraburi, Sam- utsakhon, Khonkean, Roi-et, Udonthani, Chaiyaphum, Burirum, Ubon- ratchathani |
| Non-VoC | 106 (2.5%) | |
| Total | 4,185 | |

Vaccination in Thailand

- 5,443,743 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Thailand to 9th June,
 - ◊ 3,966,901 with a first dose, 55 per 1,000 population
 - ◊ 1,477,652 with a second dose, 20 per 1,000 population
- 2% of the population in Thailand have been fully vaccinated

UPDATE FROM THE CCSA

Preparation for School re-opening on 14 June 2021

0 60% of the teachers and other personnel at educational establishments have been vaccinated.

OThe Thailand Ministry of Education has divided Thailand provinces in three categories of risk:

- 1. Maroon Maximum and strict control area: 4 provinces
 - Schools in this area can open at the same time as other schools across the country.
 - On site learning is prohibited. Online remote learning is permitted.
- 2. Red Maximum control area: 17 provinces
 - Schools in this area can open at the same time as other schools across the country.
 - On site learning is prohibited. Online remote learning is permitted.
 - Four types of learning are available: On Air, On Demand, Online, and On Hand (materials delivered via post)
- 2. Orange Controlled area: 56 provinces
 - Schools must complete and pass 44 items of readiness assessment
 - After the assessment, schools must obtain approval from the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee to conduct on site activities.
 - Once approved On Site learning is one of the means available in addition to the four above

EXPLAINER

COVID-19 Vaccination in Thailand: What is 'herd immunity'

'Herd immunity', also known as 'population immunity', is the indirect protection from an infectious disease that happens when a population is immune either through vaccination or immunity developed through previous infection. WHO supports achieving 'herd immunity' through vaccination, not by allowing a disease to spread through the population as this would result in unnecessary cases, suffering and deaths. In addition, even though COVID-19 has spread globally and outbreaks are ongoing, the vast majority of people in most countries remain susceptible to this virus. Seroprevalence surveys suggest that in most countries, less than 10% of the population have been infected with COVID-19. Therefore, in addition to preventing unnecessary illness and deaths and reducing the strain on health services to manage hospitalized cases, it is not practical to wait or aim for herd immunity from natural COVID-19 infection.



Herd immunity against COVID-19 should be achieved by protecting people through vaccination, not by exposing them to the pathogen that causes the disease. Mass vaccination will also reduce risk from variants of concern and reduce risk of future VoC's as there will be fewer opportunities for the virus to mutate and fewer susceptible people to propagate transmission.

The WHO strongly supports Thailand's plan to vaccinate 50 million people by the end of the year. The vaccination campaign is the best hope to kick-start the recovery, improve the economy (including tourism) and a return to pre-COVID-19 work and school routines. Vaccinating as many people in Thailand as possible is the best strategy for ending the pandemic in this country.

WHAT WHO IS DOING TO SUPPORT THAILAND

@WHO 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.



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

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