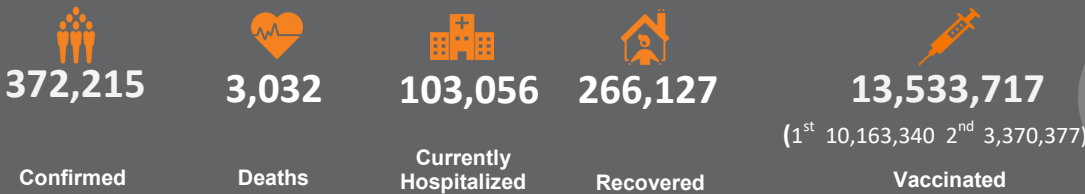


Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Data as reported by the CCSA press briefing including a summary over the past week until 15 July

15 July 2021

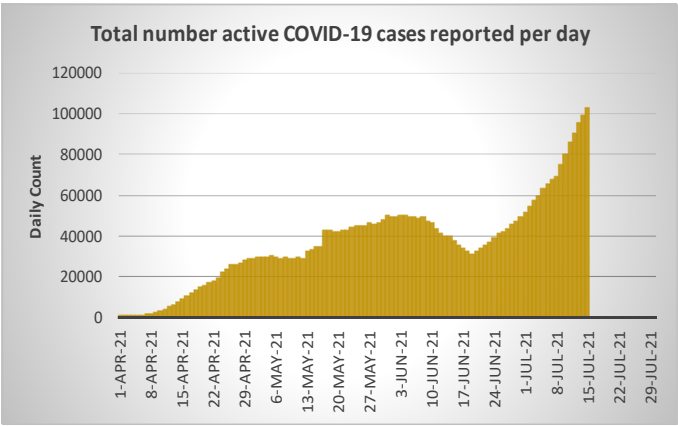
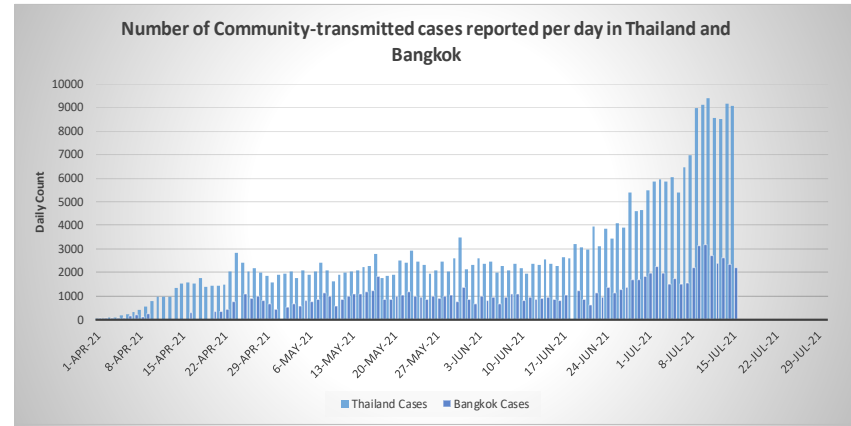
WHO Thailand Situation Update



THAILAND
SITUATION
UPDATE
No. 192

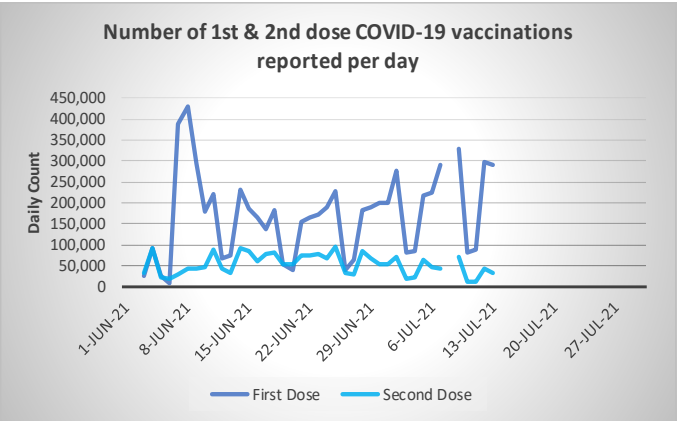
SPOTLIGHT

- **Today, 9,186 new cases** of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and **98 new deaths** were announced by the Thailand Ministry of Public Health. 3,276 patients are classified with serious illness, of which 839 are currently receiving ventilatory support.
 - ◇ 79 cases of these new cases are in prison facilities and 22 were detected in quarantine after arriving in Thailand from another country
 - ◇ Cases due to transmission in the community include 7,481 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 possible exposure) and 1,604 cases were identified through active case finding: (testing of people in the community at the initiative of public health authorities)
 - ◇ 103,056 cases are being monitored / receiving treatment (active cases).
- **In the last week** 8,980 community transmission cases on average were reported per day; a 48% increase from the average of 6,078 per day in the previous week.
 - ◇ Community cases in Thailand increased with repeated highest daily counts but have remained stable for the last few days (chart lower left below). In Bangkok cases have lowered slightly from the previous week but remain above daily counts seen earlier in the 3rd wave
- Over the past week, 81 new deaths were reported on average per day: a 47% increase from an average number of 55 deaths per day reported in the previous week
- The last seven days also saw a daily increase in active cases - continuing a trend that started on 19th June (chart lower right below).
- The 10 provinces reporting the most laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases today are Bangkok (2,224), Samut Prakan (846), Samut Sakon (640), Chonburi (523), Nonthaburi (355), Nakhon Pathom (291), Pattani (269), Pathum Thani (233), Chachoengsao (188) and Songkhla (181).



Vaccination in Thailand

- More than 220,000 people on average per day have been vaccinated with either a first or second dose in the last 7 days.
 - ◇ 10,163,340 people have received a first dose, representing 20.2% of the Government target (70% of the population), and an increase from 16.8% the previous week.
 - ◇ 3,370,377 people have received a second dose and so have completed vaccination, representing 6.7% of the Government target (70% of the population), a 0.5% increase from 6.2% the previous week



SITUATION ANALYSIS:

The number of active COVID-19 cases reported today (103,056), the number of these cases classified as serious (3,276), the number requiring ventilatory support (839) and the number of deaths (98) are all the highest ever reported in Thailand. Because large numbers of new cases continue to be reported, healthcare facilities will continue to experience a very high burden of COVID-19 cases in the forthcoming days and weeks.

We can help our families and communities AND protect the healthcare system by getting vaccinated, and helping others - especially older people and individuals with serious medical problems - to register for and travel to vaccination sites. It is even more important than before that every single person in Thailand applies the simple, basic protective measures that will break chains of transmission.

If we do this, we protect ourselves, the vulnerable members of our family and those in the communities where we live. By flattening the curve, we relieve the burden on hospitals and protect our healthcare workers. Stay at home if possible, avoid crowded places, wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol gel, wear a face mask and if you have a cough, practice respiratory hygiene by coughing into a tissue or a folded elbow, disposing of the tissue safely and washing your hands after. If we all follow these measures, it WILL make a difference.

EXPLAINER: COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing

Antigen tests for COVID-19 (often referred to as rapid diagnostic tests or RDTs) involve swabbing your nose or throat. These tests are less expensive than PCR tests and don't require sophisticated equipment, so they can be used at the bedside, in communities, or even in your home.

One advantage of antigen tests is the speed with which they can produce results. For example, if a report is received about an upsurge of serious 'unknown' respiratory infections in a community, then disease detectives in public health rapid response teams can use these tests to very rapidly confirm or rule out COVID-19 infection as a cause.

However, the main problem with antigen tests, especially when they are used in hospitals or at home, is that they are not as accurate as RT-PCR tests. This means that these tests can sometimes indicate that people are infected when they **don't** have COVID-19 (called a false positive). In addition, they will sometimes indicate that people are not infected, when they **do** have COVID-19 infection (called a false negative).

Both situations can cause problems. If a person were to test positive with a Rapid Antigen test and be admitted to a healthcare facility, but they don't have COVID-19, they might receive treatment that they don't need, and in some settings they could even potentially mix with other COVID-19 infected patients and risk acquiring infection. For this reason, it is normally recommended that all people who show positive with a rapid antigen test are then re-tested with a RT-PCR test (the 'gold standard') to confirm the diagnosis.

If a person tests negative with a Rapid Antigen test, they may still be admitted to hospital if they are very unwell. But if they are not admitted and they are infected with COVID-19, one serious concern is that they might delay coming back to hospital if they become more unwell. In addition, unless they take appropriate precautions, they could also spread infection to others in their family and their community. For this reason, it is normally recommended that anyone who tests negative with a Rapid Antigen test undertakes strict self-isolation and is retested after 3-5 days.

It was recently announced that COVID-19 rapid antigen tests are likely to become available to members of the public for 'home' self-testing through locations where pharmacists can offer appropriate guidance. If individuals undertake self testing at home, it is important that they follow closely the guidance provided by the pharmacist as well as following the instructions on the test kit itself. It is also important to know in advance that if you take a nasopharyngeal swab properly, it can be very uncomfortable. If you test positive, you must report to a clinic or hospital. If you test negative you should re-test after 3-5 days, and in the meantime, follow the instructions provided for self-isolation at home.

EXPLAINER: Mixing and Matching Vaccines

At present, WHO has provided interim guidance only on the use of a combination of Astra Zeneca and Pfizer vaccines - based on available evidence. Studies on other vaccine combinations are being undertaken in some countries. If any country or any public health institution is considering adopting the use of COVID-19 vaccines in combination, WHO strongly encourages that policy decisions are made in the context of robust, well-designed studies - together with careful analysis of the results looking at both effectiveness and safety.

Wherever possible, the results of such studies should be also made available to the global public health community



WHO COVID-19 Technical Lead, Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, stresses the importance of 'flattening the curve'

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 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](#)

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