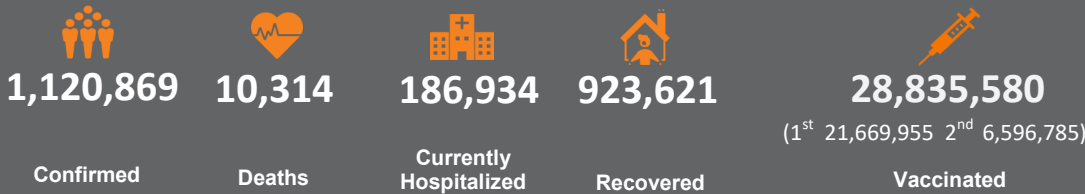


Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Data as reported by the CCSA press briefing including a summary over the past week until 26 August

26 Aug 2021

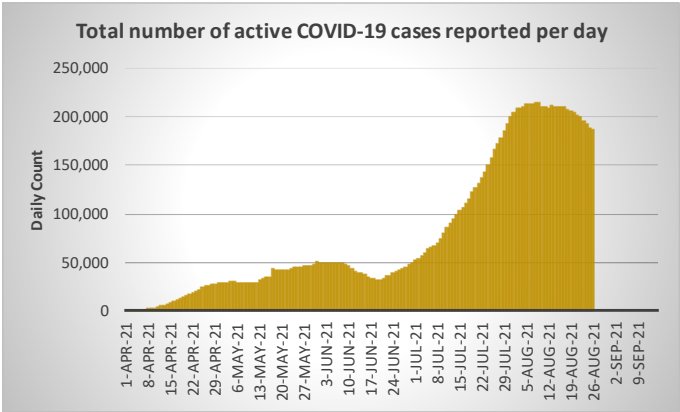
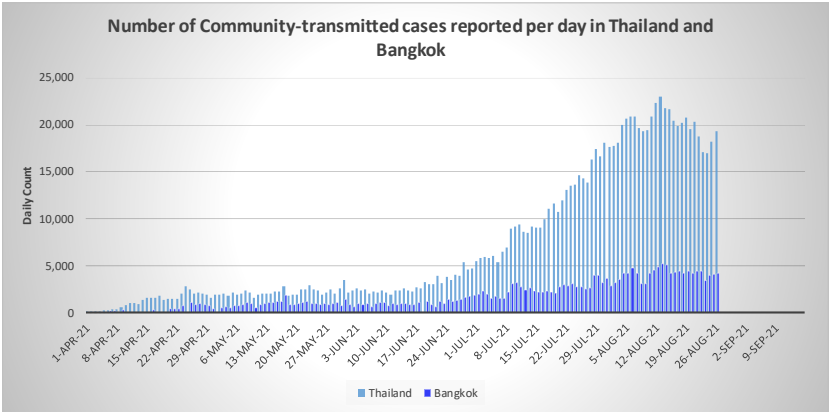
WHO Thailand Situation Update



THAILAND
SITUATION
UPDATE
No. 198

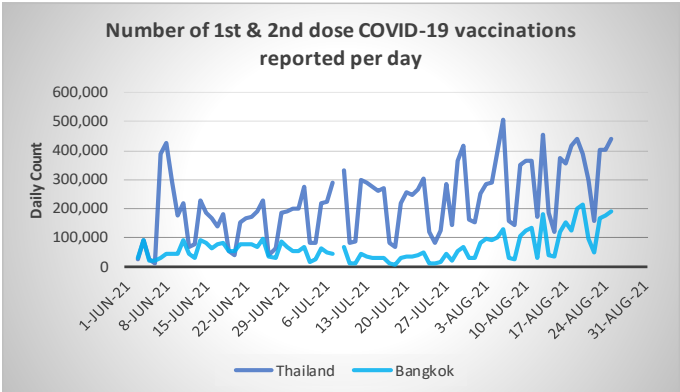
SPOTLIGHT

- Today, 18,501 new cases** of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and **229 new deaths** were announced by the Thailand Ministry of Public Health. 5,174 patients are classified with serious illness, of which 1,090 are currently receiving ventilatory support.
 - 139 of these new cases are in prison facilities and 12 were detected in quarantine after arriving in Thailand from another country
 - Cases due to transmission in the community include 15,944 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 2,406 cases who were identified through active case finding: (testing of people in the community at the initiative of public health authorities)
 - 186,934 cases are receiving treatment (active cases), including 25,654 in conventional hospitals and 161,280 in field hospitals/home isolation.
- In the last week** 18,616 community transmission cases on average were reported per day, a 12% decrease from the average of 21,112 per day in the previous week. The rate of increase in community transmission that has been slowing for four weeks has, in the last week, changed and has shown a decrease for first time since early June.
 - The proportion of cases in Bangkok this week, 22.1%, remains in the range of 20% to 25% of all cases; though has been slowly increasing over the last four weeks (19% 20%, 21%, **22%**); chart below left.
- 247 new deaths were reported on average per day in the last week, a 5% increase from the average of 235 deaths per day in the previous week. This is further slowing down in the rate of increase over the last 5-weeks: 31%, 27%, 17%, 28%, **5%**.
 - The trend in deaths tends to follow the pattern in cases (especially severe and ventilated cases) 5-7 day's later. This might mean that average deaths will decrease next week similar to the decrease in cases seen this week.
- The last seven days has seen a continuation in the reduction in the number of active cases averaging 195,948 per day from the 209,709 of the previous week (a 7% reduction). This is the lowest number of active cases since the end of July (chart below right).
- The 10 provinces reporting the most laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases today are Bangkok (4,178), Samut Prakan (1,887), Samut Sakhon (982), Chonburi (973), Nakhon Ratchasima (693), Nonthaburi (504), Ratchaburi (493), Rayong (472), Chachoengsao (459), and Buriram (432).



Vaccination in Thailand

- 517,041 people on average per day have been vaccinated with either a first or second dose in the last 7 days a 31% increase over the previous week.
- 21,669,955 people have received a first dose, representing 43% of the Government target; an increase from 38% of the previous week.
- 6,596,785 people have received a second dose and have completed vaccination, representing 13.1% of the Government target (70% of the population), an increase from 10.9% the previous week.



SITUATION ANALYSIS

Although confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the number of people occupying hospital beds are reducing for the first time since early June, the daily number of cases classified as serious, the number being treated on a mechanical ventilator and the number of people dying has remained very high. In addition, the proportion of people in Thailand who have immunity from COVID-19, either through vaccination or natural infection is much lower than the level needed to attain 'herd immunity'. We must all avoid complacency and continue to apply basic preventive measures. 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 break chains of transmission, flatten the curve, protect healthcare workers and save lives

EXPLAINER: COVID-19 and pregnancy

Pregnant women do not appear to be at greater risk of getting infected with SARS-CoV-2, but studies have shown that they have an increased risk of developing severe COVID-19 if they do become infected. In addition, pregnant women who are older, overweight or who have pre-existing medical conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes are at particular risk of serious outcomes of COVID-19.

In Thailand, from 1 April to 21 August there have been 2,491 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in pregnant women, including 1,700 Thai nationals and 791 non-Thai women. Unfortunately out of these cases, 53 pregnant women and 24 infants died due to COVID-19. According to the Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the mortality rate of pregnant women with COVID-19 is almost twice as high as that of the general population.

Pregnant women should take exactly the same precautions to avoid COVID-19 as other people. You can protect yourself by following all the precautions that are listed above.

In consultation with their healthcare providers, pregnant women can and should also get vaccinated against COVID-19. The same guidance also applies to women who are planning to get pregnant and women who are breast feeding. In a situation where infection with COVID-19 is a significant risk, the benefits of vaccination strongly outweigh any possible risks.

According to data presented in the CCSA briefing on 25th August, a target has been set for 500,000 pregnant women to be vaccinated against COVID-19. From 28 February until 24 August a total of only 27,519 pregnant women (5.5% of this target) have received a first dose and 2078 (0.4%) have received a second dose. It is critically important that all pregnant women are provided with information to facilitate an informed choice about vaccination, and that families and communities support them in their decisions.



Dr. Ozge Tuncalp, talks about pregnancy and COVID-19.



Should women who are breast-feeding infants get vaccinated? How about women who are pregnant or planning to get pregnant? Dr Soumya Swaminathan gives us the details.

EXPLAINER: Home use of rapid antigen test kits

Rapid Antigen Test Kits for COVID-19 (sometimes referred to as ATKs, or rapid diagnostic tests / RDTs) are now widely available 'over the counter' in Thailand. These tests usually involve swabbing your nose or throat.

ATKs for COVID-19 can produce results quickly, but they are not as accurate as the 'gold standard' PCR tests that are used by most healthcare facilities to confirm a diagnosis of COVID-19. This means that these ATKs can sometimes indicate that you are infected when you don't have COVID-19 (a false positive). In addition, ATKs will sometimes indicate that you are not infected, when you do have COVID-19 infection (a false negative).

Both situations can cause problems. If you test positive with a Rapid Antigen test but you don't have COVID-19, you may receive treatment that you don't need. In addition, in some settings you could also mix with other people who are infected with COVID-19, and so risk acquiring infection. For these reason, current guidance in Thailand is as follows

- 1.] Anyone testing positive with an ATK who has signs and symptoms that require admission to a healthcare setting where COVID cases may stay together should have the diagnosis confirmed with an RT-PCR test
- 2.] Anyone who tests positive with an ATK and is suitable for home isolation should strictly follow any guidance provided, and ensure they don't have contact with any other person, including anyone else who may have current infection with COVID-19.

If you test negative with a Rapid Antigen test, you may still be admitted to hospital if you are very unwell. In this situation you will almost certainly have the diagnosis (re) confirmed by RT-PCR. But if you are not admitted and you *are* infected with COVID-19, one serious concern is that you might delay going back to hospital if you become more unwell. In addition, you could also spread infection to others in your family and their community. For this reason, it is normally recommended that if you test negative with a Rapid Antigen test, you should still undergo strict self-isolation and get retested after a few days

The usual way to be tested with an ATK involves swabbing the back of the nasal cavity (aka a nasopharyngeal swab). Unfortunately, if the test is done properly it can be quite uncomfortable. WHO's interim guidance on antigen detection can be found [here](#)

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](#)

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

Media queries sethawebsmaster@who.int



For latest updates and resources, please visit:

www.who.int/thailand [@WHO Thailand](https://twitter.com/WHO_Thailand) [WHO Thailand](https://facebook.com/WHO Thailand) [WHO Thailand](https://youtube.com/WHO Thailand)