Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as reported by the CCSA press briefing including a summary over the past week until 23 Sept

23 Sept 2021

WHO Thailand Situation Update

No. 202

SPOTLIGHT

- Today, 13,256 new cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and 131 new deaths were announced by the Thailand Ministry of Public Health. 3,422 patients are classified with serious illness with 747 currently receiving ventilatory support.
  - 478 of these new cases are in prison facilities and 15 were detected in quarantine after arriving in Thailand from another country.

- In the last week 13,353 community cases on average were reported per day, a 7% decrease from the average of 13,284 per day in the previous week. This continues the downward trend in community cases, though the rate of decreases each week continues to slow down (decreases week on week 15%, 9%, 8%, 7%).

- 133 deaths per day were reported on average in the last week, a 24% decrease from an average of 175 deaths per day in the week before. This continues the downward trend in deaths over the last three-weeks, with the rate of decline in deaths increasing week on week (14%, 21%, 24%).

- However while community cases, severe cases, ventilated cases and deaths all are decreasing, they all remain very high and much higher than in the previous COVID-19 waves in Thailand—see chart below.

- The last seven days has seen a small (2.3%) decrease though continuing reduction in the number of active cases, averaging 130,330 cases per day compared to 133,411 in the previous week.

- The 10 provinces reporting the most laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases today are Bangkok, Samut Prakan, Chonburi, Yala, Rayong, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Narathiwat, Songkhla, Samut Sakhon, Ratchaburi.

Vaccination in Thailand

- 598,216 people on average per day received either a first or second COVID-19 vaccination in the last week: a 2.5% decrease compared to the week before.

- 29,501,110 people have now received a first dose, representing 59% of the Government target; a 3.3% increase from 55.7% of the previous week.

- 15,899,158 people have received a second dose representing 31.5% of the Government target: a 4% increase from 27.3% the previous week.

- However, vaccination levels remain too low in some key risk groups, see orange bars in the chart to the right.
**SITUATION ANALYSIS**

- The number of laboratory-confirmed community COVID-19 cases reported is the lowest for more than two-months with the trend in declining cases continuing for nearly 6-weeks. This is welcome, however with an average of more than 13,000 case still being reported each day, there is a long way still to go with more than four-times higher number of cases currently reported on average than the average for the month of June (2,941 cases per day) during the height of the 3rd wave.
- The total number of ‘active’ COVID-19 cases who require direct medical care or medical supervision (representing the overall burden on the healthcare system) has stopped its steady decrease from the peak in August and in the last week has noticeably levelled off, with even slight increases on some days.
- Severe COVID-19 cases are continuing their decrease, though the rate at which severe cases are reducing has slowed down. A similar pattern, though with a more noticeable slowdown, has also occurred with cases requiring mechanical ventilation.
- Deaths are also declining and are at their lowest reported daily counts since the end of July. However, deaths lag behind the trend in severe and ventilated cases by a week or more and so time will tell if the downward trend will continue.
- These data are telling us that Thailand is over the worst of the 4th wave. The indicators in cases and deaths are decreasing and have decreased a good deal from their peaks. However, they all remain very high, considerably higher than the peak in the previous waves of COVID-19 in Thailand. The recent slowdown in decreases in cases may reflect the greater public mixing and gathering as Thailand started to re-open four-weeks ago.
- There remains considerable community transmission across Thailand and the need to diligently continue public health and social measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission. COVID-19 in Thailand still has a long way to go.

**EXPLAINER: VACCINES AND CHILDREN**

- WHO recommends COVID-19 vaccination rollout is prioritised beginning with those at greatest risk of severe disease and dying, this is mainly in adults. Children and adolescents tend to have milder disease compared to adults, so unless they are part of a group at higher risk of severe COVID-19, it is less urgent to vaccinate them than older people and those with chronic health conditions. As vaccination in adults increases and reaches most of those at risk, vaccination coverage can gradually expand coming down age-wise in the population until reaching children.
- Following the same prioritisation approach of vaccination in adults, vaccination in children should commence with those with underlying health conditions that place them at greater risk of severe COVID-19.
- Vaccination rollout in children will be in age groups based on the clinical studies that show the safety of using the vaccine, together with the vaccine effectiveness at reducing severe COVID, in that age group.
- Vaccine producers are undertaking clinical trials in children across different age groups. However, currently, the WHO has provided emergency use listing guidance only for the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 12 years and older. This vaccine has been found to be safe and effective in this age group. As with adults, it takes about two-weeks for the vaccine to generate protection against COVID-19, and full protection requires two doses.
- While the vaccines are safe, as with adults, COVID-19 vaccination in children can result in rare, generally mild, though they can be more severe, but fully recoverable side effects. Deaths in children following COVID vaccination can occur but are very rare.
- It’s important for children to continue to have the recommended childhood vaccines as they would ordinarily before COVID-19 came along. It’s advisable for a two-week gap between COVID-19 vaccinations and other vaccinations.

**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