WEEKLY TRENDS

- The number of new community acquired cases continues to decrease, though the rate of decrease has slowed down decreasing by 5% compared to 11% of the previous week. Case counts remain high with an average of 10,445 per day for the last 7 days.
- The number of deaths continues to decrease with an average of 99 deaths per day compared to 120 per day of the previous week. How ever deaths remains high and 5 times greater than the average of 19 deaths per day during 3rd wave in April to June.
- Severe cases (decreasing by 7%), ventilated cases (2%) continue to decrease, though the rate of decrease has slowed down over the last few weeks and counts remain high.

VACCINATIONS

- 33 million people have now received a first vaccination dose, representing 67% of the Government target; a 3.7% increase from the previous week (almost half the previous week’s rate of increase).
- More than 22 million people have received a second dose, representing 43.6% of the Government target: an 7.7% increase from the previous week (almost half the previous week’s rate of increase).
- More than 1.6 million third doses have also been administered.
- While vaccination is increasing, the levels in the over 60s and those with comorbid conditions (both 60% first and 40% second doses) remains below the government target of 80%.

ANALYSIS

- Key indicators of COVID-19 in Thailand are decreasing and have reduced substantially from the peak in August. As vaccination continues to increase, Thailand may be over the worst, for now. However, there remains a long way to go, cases and deaths remain very high, many times greater than the previous peak in the 3rd wave in April to June. This includes the number of active cases including those that require direct medical care with an average of almost 111,000 active cases per day over the last week.
- Severe and ventilated cases, in particular, while decreasing the rate of decrease has slowed down a great deal and continue to present a high workload for front-line health care professionals.
- There are high and increasing case counts in some provinces with, in particular, 5-southern provinces amongst the daily top-10 reporting locations, including Phuket that has high vaccination rates. Songkhla has more than tripled the number of new cases from 200 per day of a few weeks ago to more than 600 reported yesterday. High daily counts are occurring in Pattani (309), Yala (447) and Narathiwat (513).
- It is now a month since the re-opening of malls and restaurants, and this may be contributing to the slowing down of decreases. Thailand is experiencing. Further re-opening of recreational activities including cinemas, and further relaxation of measures such as extending restaurant opening times occurred on the 1st October. Therefore, with significant transmission occurring in many communities and current levels of vaccination in Thailand still lower than needed to stop transmission, it is essential that public health and social measures continue to be rigorously adopted.
- Globally, there over 236 million cases and 4.8 million deaths. With the threat of new variants of concern ever present, the COVID-19 pandemic still has a long way to run. Even in countries with high vaccination rates, COVID-19 cases counts remain high—mainly in those unvaccinated. The vaccines available in Thailand are safe and continue to demonstrate high levels of protection against severe disease and death. Getting vaccinated should remain a priority for everyone. Vaccination is encouraged across all faiths.

DAILY AVERAGE (1-7 October)

- 10,689 new cases
- 849,062 vaccinations
- 1,678,297 total confirmed cases
- 11,598 people recovered
- 99 deaths
- 17,418 total deaths

**Source:** DDC, MOPH 07 Oct 2021

**Key indicators of COVID-19 in Thailand are decreasing and have reduced substantially from the peak in August.**

**Vaccination rates, COVID-19 pandemic still has a long way to go.**

**Key takeaways:**

- Case counts remain high and 5 times greater than the average of 19 deaths per day during the 3rd wave in April to June.
- Severe and ventilated cases, in particular, while decreasing the rate of decrease has slowed down a great deal and continue to present a high workload for front-line health care professionals.
- There are high and increasing case counts in some provinces with, in particular, 5-southern provinces amongst the daily top-10 reporting locations, including Phuket that has high vaccination rates. Songkhla has more than tripled the number of new cases from 200 per day of a few weeks ago to more than 600 reported yesterday. High daily counts are occurring in Pattani (309), Yala (447) and Narathiwat (513).
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EXPLAINER: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for 12-17 year old’s

- Thailand has started vaccinating 12-17 year old’s with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. So far approximately 130,000 doses of the 5 million doses allocated to young adults have been administered representing 2.6% of the 5 million in Thailand in this age group.

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine at providing protection against severe COVID-19 and death and has both WHO and Thai Food and Drug Administration emergency use listing. This vaccine is being administered to those aged 12-16 and above in many countries, with rollout across the European Union, the UK, the US, Australia and elsewhere.

- In Thailand, 2-doses will be administered to those 12-17 with the same underlying health conditions as in adults that indicate increased risks from COVID-19. Two doses will also be administered to females in this age group who have no underlying health conditions. Similarly for males aged 16-17. However, males 12-16 will be offered a single dose. As further information becomes available this may change.

- A single dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to boys 12-16 as a precautionary measure resulting from a rare AEFI reported in some countries in young males.

- As with adults those of all ages who are vaccinated, some may experience generally mild post-vaccination effects including a sore arm at the site of the vaccination, muscle ache, headache, chills, fatigue and fever. These generally clear up within a day or two. However, very rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the sac the heart sits in) has been reported in adolescents, and in particular boys, following the second vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

- In Thailand, 4 cases of myocarditis in children have been reported to date for a rate of 31 cases per million doses of vaccine or 0.003%. Thailand rates currently are lower than in countries where a greater proportion of adolescents have been vaccinated with rates of between 44 to 162 per million vaccination.

- As with the procedure for monitoring adverse events following vaccination (AEFI) in adults, the Thai Ministry of Public Health is closely following up all reports of all AEFI however mild, and even if not obviously associated with vaccination, to ensure that Thailand has the most up-to-date information on the outcomes of everyone, including young adults, who have been vaccinated in Thailand. Vaccine safety is central to the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Thailand.

- It is important to note that the benefits of vaccination outweigh these rare risks. While generally children experience mild COVID-19, children can experience the rare condition known as ‘multi-system inflammatory system in children (MIS-C)’ following COVID infection. MIS-C can occur among children of all ages.

- MIS-C inflammation can seriously affect the heart, blood vessels, kidneys, digestive system, brain, skin or eyes. MIS-C can be fatal. So far, Thailand has found 30-40 cases of MIS-C, none fatal.

- Treatment for MIS-C usually requires hospitalization including ICU. With appropriate treatment most cases fully recover.

- Therefore when offered children, as with adults, should be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Is the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine safe for teenage boys?

Yes, studies show that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is safe for those aged 12-18 years old. Very rare cases of myocarditis (heart inflammation) have been reported after the 2nd dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (including the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine) mostly in young males aged 12-15. The cases are often mild and respond well to treatment. The benefits of the vaccines greatly outweigh the risks.

Very rare cases of myocarditis and pericarditis following vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have been reported. The symptoms are:

- New and persistent chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Racing/pounding heartbeat

If you experience these symptoms within a few days of vaccination, contact your doctor immediately.

Most people recover completely with treatment and rest, and have no lasting symptoms. Get vaccinated as soon as it is your turn.

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