

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)



World Health
Organization
Thailand

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WHO Thailand Weekly
Situation Update
No. 205

Based on data as reported by the CCSA

DAILY AVERAGE (8-14 October)



10,355 new cases



10,556 people recovered



741,683 vaccinations



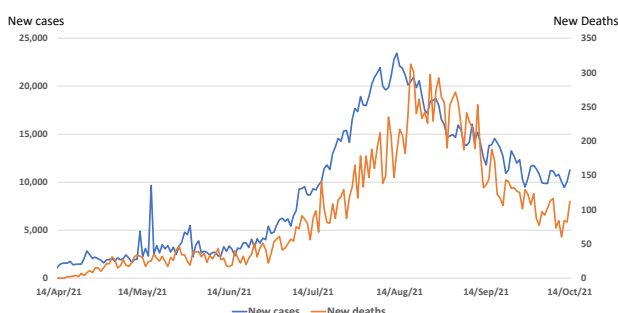
87 deaths

1,730,364 total confirmed cases

17,835 total deaths

WEEKLY TRENDS

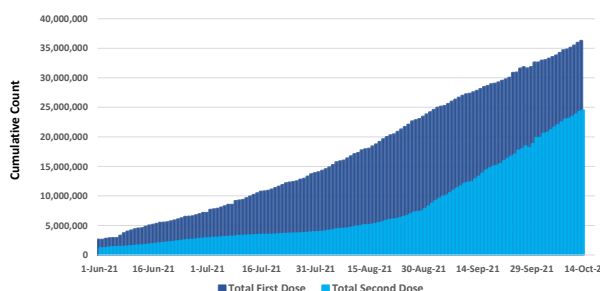
- The number of new community acquired cases continues to decrease, although the rate of decrease has slowed down reducing by just 1% from the 5% decrease of the previous week. Case counts remain high with an average of 10,355 per day for the last 7 days.
- The number of deaths continues to decrease with an average of 87 deaths per day compared to 99 per day of the previous week, a 12% decrease. In the third wave from April to late June there was an average of just 19 daily deaths.
- Severe cases (decreasing by 3%, 7% last week), ventilated cases (5%, 2% previously) continue to decrease, though the rate of decrease is slow and counts remain high. In the last 4 weeks severe cases have decreased by 28% and ventilated cases by 20%



Source: DDC, MOPH 14 Oct 2021

VACCINATIONS

- More than 36 million people have now received a first vaccination dose, representing 72% of the Government target; a relatively large 6% increase from the previous week (3.7%).
- More than 24.5 million people have received a second dose, representing 48.6% of the Government target: an 9.1% increase from the previous week.
- More than 1.7 million third doses have also been administered, averaging nearly 32,000 per day
- While vaccination is increasing, the levels in the over 60s and those with comorbid conditions remains below the government target of 80%.



ANALYSIS

- Key COVID-19 indicators including new cases, total active cases, severe cases, ventilated cases and deaths in Thailand are decreasing and have reduced substantially from the peak in August. However their rates of decrease have slowed, with low single digit decreases for all except deaths: although changes in deaths tend to lag behind these other counts (deaths decreased by 12% this week, but the previous week the decrease was 18%, a slowing down by a third).
- These indicators remain high and many times greater than the previous peak in the 3rd wave from April to June. This includes the number of active cases, including those that require direct medical care, that remain high (over 109,000 cases per day on average last week) with the rate of decrease slowing down to 1.5% over the previous week.
- As vaccination rates increase, internationally evidence shows that most new cases of COVID-19 are in those unvaccinated. While in Thailand second dose (complete) vaccination increased by 9% on average last week there remain many disparities in rates of vaccination across the country. Nine of the 19 maximum controlled area provinces have 50-69% of those 60 and over vaccinated, but only three of the southern provinces. Only 2 of the southern provinces have up to 49% of the general population vaccinated. These areas continue to report high new daily cases.
- Ministry of Public Health COVID-19 investigations in southern provinces have indicated low vaccination and continued population gatherings including those related to religious and cultural customs and behaviors. It is essential that at all times rigorous adoption of public health and social measures including maintaining physical distancing, correct mask wearing, hand washing and avoiding unventilated spaces is practiced, particularly when in the company of older people.
- COVID-19 vaccination is safe and effective and is encouraged by all faiths in Thailand.

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a bent elbow. Wash hands after.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Keep 1m distance away from others.



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EXPLAINER: The Future of COVID-19 Pandemic

- It's unlikely that COVID-19 will be completely eradicated, even with high levels of population vaccination. As vaccination coverage improves and with case counts falling globally, countries are increasingly looking at ways to 'live with COVID-19'.
- However, the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over and there still remains a long way still to go. In many countries including Thailand there are areas and populations with low vaccination coverage. While the pandemic continues with high case counts and deaths being reported, public health authorities will continue to prioritise vaccination to those most at risk as well as encouraging the adoption of public health and social measures that are known to be effective at limiting person-to-person transmission.
- In the longer term, it is possible that COVID-19 will become an endemic disease with SAR-CoV-2 virus infections, (including new mutations and variants), occurring from time to time in different places. This is similar to other diseases such as measles—which with good vaccination coverage is seldom found, but in populations with low vaccination will appear and cause outbreaks. However, unlike the single course of vaccination for measles it may be that protection against future COVID-19 outbreaks requires regular vaccination. This is more similar to seasonal influenza vaccination, which because of the high rate of influenza virus mutations requires annual vaccination to keep you protected against the predominant circulating strains.
- If COVID-19 does become endemic in this way and does require regular top-up vaccinations it is expected that hospitalisation and deaths from COVID-19 will be low, much lower than in the current pandemic, if people continue to be vaccinated.
- However, the question of whether the virus will become endemic will depend upon a number of different factors. Chief

Can we completely eradicate COVID-19?



No, it's very unlikely. But with more and more people having immunity, COVID-19 will likely become endemic, meaning the virus will circulate in pockets of the population. Importantly, with high levels of vaccination there should be low rates of hospitalisation and deaths.

among them is the level of immunity in a community, both through vaccination and previous infection.

- The evolution of the virus and the emergence of new variants will also play a role. It remains to be seen if vaccines continue to be effective against new, emerging variants. This makes it even more important to reduce transmission so that the virus has fewer chances to mutate.
- Everyone should get vaccinated. Even if vaccinated, everyone should also continue practising preventive measures.
- WHO will consider declaring the end of the 'pandemic' as the situation stabilises. This includes reaching far higher global levels of vaccination than currently. A WHO committee of experts meet regularly to assess the situation. The pandemic will be called off when it is no longer a public health emergency, as determined by the numbers of seriously ill and dying from COVID and level of global vaccination.



Click on the image to see Dr Mike Ryan, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, answer questions including "What's the criteria for calling off the pandemic and are we close to that point?"

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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