

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)



World Health
Organization
Thailand

18 November 2021
WHO Thailand Weekly
Situation Update
No. 210

Based on data as reported by the CCSA

DAILY AVERAGE (12- 18 November 2021)



6,520 new cases



7,509 people recovered



622,614 vaccinations



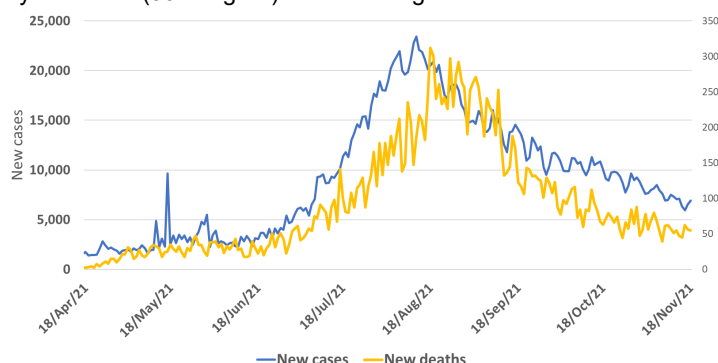
53 deaths

2,044,125 total confirmed cases

20,254 total deaths

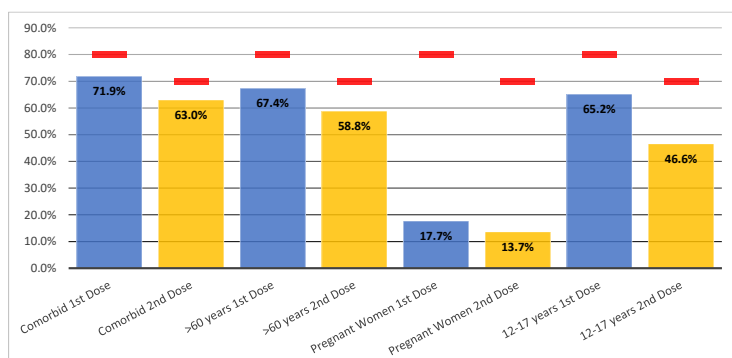
WEEKLY TRENDS

- Total laboratory confirmed cases in Thailand have now surpassed 2 million. The average number of cases reported per week continues to decrease, though at a reduced rate of 9% in the last week. All of the last seven days have reported daily case counts below 7,000 with one day reporting below 6,000, the first time since early July.
- Total deaths in Thailand have surpassed 20,000. The average number of deaths in the last week decreased by 12% (53) compared to the week before (60 deaths per day). Average weekly deaths have decreased considerably and are now more than 80% lower than they were at the peak in Thailand. However, deaths remain at a high level, at nearly two-times (190%) greater than the average daily deaths reported in the third-wave.
- The number of severe cases decreased by 11% over the last week compared to a decrease of 10% in the week before. Whereas the rate of decrease for ventilated cases slowed down, with a 5% decrease compared to an 11% decrease the week before. While the rate of decrease of ventilated cases has slowed in the past week they are close (30% higher) to the average in the third-wave.



VACCINATIONS

- Over 46 million people have now received a first vaccination dose, representing 91% of the government target.
- Nearly 38 million people have received a second dose, representing 75% of the Government target.
- Nationally vaccinations have reached RTG targets of 80% 1st dose and 70% 2nd dose (red bars in chart below), but remain lower for vulnerable groups, (especially pregnant women) and adolescents.



SITUATION ANALYSIS

- The number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases on a daily basis continues to decrease. Today, the total number of active COVID-19 cases (90,672); which reflects the overall burden of COVID-19 on the healthcare delivery system, is just 43% of the number of active cases seen at the peak (210,943) reported on 16th August.
- The number of severe COVID-19 cases reported today (1,742) is only 31% (less than 1/3rd) of the highest number (5,626) ever reported, also on 16th August. The number of ventilated cases reported today (406) is 35% of the highest number (1,172) ever reported on 15th August.
- However, COVID-19 infections are still widespread across Thailand, indicating ongoing transmission in communities. Infection rates are slowly coming down in Southern Thailand, but cases per head of population in many Provinces are still higher than any other part of the country. Meanwhile, countries in Europe with high levels of vaccination that previously established good control of COVID are also seeing high levels of cases and deaths due to relaxation of Public Health and Social Measures.
- Low vaccination rates in pregnant women in Thailand continues to be significant cause for concern. Unvaccinated pregnant women who are concerned about vaccine safety are strongly encouraged to consult with a medical practitioner to receive the best possible advice. Until they receive vaccination, pregnant women and their families should adhere to all preventive measures and if they become unwell, access medical care as soon as possible for assessment and if necessary, COVID-19 testing and treatment.
- Individuals and families celebrating Loy Krathong should also continue to apply all the basic personal protective measures that we know will break chains of COVID-19 transmission.

Keep up protective measures for yourself, your family and loved ones.



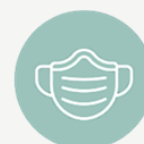
Keep physical distancing



Avoid crowded and enclosed places



Get vaccinated as soon as it's your turn



Wear a mask



Cover coughs and sneezes



Keep hands clean



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EXPLAINER: Air Pollution & COVID-19

- From December to February, air quality is typically the worst in Thailand. Air pollution is a complex mixture of solid particles, liquid droplets as well as gases. It can come from household fuel burning, industrial chimneys, power generation, traffic exhausts, open burning of waste, agricultural practices and many other sources.
- The most important impact on human health comes from fine particulate matter, known as PM 2.5, which are smaller than the width of the human hair. They can easily enter our bodies, even making their way through the bloodstream affecting all major organs.
- Air pollution can have both a direct and indirect impact on COVID-19 disease. Firstly, we know that breathing polluted air will exacerbate any acute respiratory condition, (for example asthma), and so it will also cause problems for anyone with an acute respiratory infection. In addition, long-term exposure to air pollution is a risk factor for the development of many of the chronic medical conditions that are then associated with increased risk of severe COVID-19 infection. And studies have already shown that levels of COVID-19 infection are higher in places where there are high levels of ambient pollution. This is just another reason why we all need to take air pollution more seriously by advocating for and investing in a greener future.
- WHO's new [Air Quality Guidelines](#), released in September, provide clear evidence that air pollution inflicts human health at even lower concentrations than previously understood. The guidelines therefore recommend new air quality levels that are lower than the previous recommendations, aiming to protect the health of the general population. This can be done by reducing levels of key air pollutants, including PM 2.5 particles.

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](#)

What is the relationship between air pollution and COVID-19?



Bad air quality increases the risk of developing heart disease and lung disease. And when you have these diseases, you are at a greater risk of developing severe symptoms of COVID-19.

- There are many free Apps that will show you the Air Quality Index in the area you live. When the air quality in your area is unhealthy, you should reduce your exposure to air pollution by doing the following:
 - ⇒ Stay indoors with the windows closed in an area with a dedicated air purifier, or a filtered air conditioner.
 - ⇒ Keep your activity levels low. Avoid exercising outside, which makes you breathe more intensely.
 - ⇒ Wear an N-95 mask if you have to be outdoors for an extended period of time. An N-95 mask will protect you against both COVID-19 **and** air pollution, but surgical masks and fabric masks that protect you from COVID-19 cannot trap tiny particles like PM 2.5.



Click the image to watch Dr Maria Neira, WHO's Director of Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, discuss how air pollutants are harming your health.

World Health Organization Country Office for Thailand

4th Fl., Permanent Secretary Bldg.3 Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi, Thailand, 11000. sethawebmaster@who.int



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