Today, 4,108 new cases (3,865 community transmission) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and 31 new deaths were announced by the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. 1,564 patients are considered to have serious illness, of which 445 are currently receiving ventilatory support (see chart lower right).

- 229 cases are in prison facilities and 14 cases were detected in quarantine after arriving in Thailand from another country.
- 2,835 cases were 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 1,030 cases identified through active case finding: (testing of people in the community at the initiative of public health authorities), see the chart below lower left.
- 39,517 cases are receiving treatment or are in isolation, 13,320 in conventional hospitals and 26,197 in field hospitals.

In the last week 3106 community transmission cases on average have been reported per day since the last Situation Update, a 31% increase from the average of 2,357 per day in the previous week. Community cases in Thailand and Bangkok have increased over the last week, see the chart lower left below, with an average rate of positive results from testing of increasing to 5.8 (from 4.7%) nationally and 8.7% (from 6.3%) in Bangkok, see table below.

- 31 new deaths have been reported on average each day of the past week: a 24% increase from 25 deaths reported in the previous week.
- The last five days have also seen an increase in active cases—see the chart lower left below.
- The 10 Provinces reporting the most laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases today are Bangkok (1,359), Samut Prakan (297), Samut Sakon (259), Chonburi (254), Songkhla (216), Nonthaburi (170), Pathum Thani (157), Yala (119), Rayong (92), and Nakhon Pathom (91).

Vaccination in Thailand

- 200,000 people on average per day have been vaccinated with either a first or second dose in the last 7 days.
  - 6,017,424 people have received a first dose, 11.9% of the Royal Thai Government target (70% of the population).
  - 2,382,896 people have received a second dose and have completed vaccination, 4.7% of the Royal Thai Government target (70% of the population).
UPDATE FROM THE CCSA

- The current situation
  - 67 provinces reported new COVID-19 cases today with most cases coming from the central and southern regions.
  - 3 new clusters were discovered in Bangkok, in Bangkapi, Bangrak, and Bang Khun Tian districts. There are now 99 clusters in 42 districts of Bangkok that are being closely monitored.
  - New COVID-19 clusters were reported in 1.] a rubber products manufacturing factory and a shrimp factory in Samut Sakhon, 2.] a childcare facility in Pathum Thani province and 3.] in a seaweed-producing factory in Nonthaburi province.
  - The following observations were reported:
    Cases in northern and southern regions were mainly from social gatherings.
    Cases in northeastern region were in those who travelled from other risk areas.
    Cases in the central and eastern regions were found within business establishments—factories, markets, and workers’ camps and surrounding communities. Authorities have applied the “bubble and seal” measure in these communities to contain the spread of the virus.

- Bed capacity
  Due to limited bed capacity and medical personnel, some private hospitals have offered to provide more beds for new patients.

- Economic alleviation
  The government will send out 1,000 mobile grocery vans providing consumer products that are 20-40% cheaper to help alleviate economic hardship for local communities. It is hoped that this move will help to stimulate household consumption and avoid unnecessary travel.

SITUATION ANALYSIS:

Although the total number of current active COVID-19 cases reported today (39,517) is lower than the peak number reported on the 4th June (50105), the number of these cases that are classified as being in a serious condition (1564), and the number of these cases requiring ventilatory support (445) are the highest recorded in Thailand since the beginning of the pandemic. In addition, the number of cases reported through the routine surveillance system (sometimes described as walk-ins) has been steadily increasing (see table below) and the number reported today (2835) is also a record high. Because a proportion of these new cases being detected are likely to have progressive illness, it can be expected that the number of serious and ventilated cases will unfortunately continue to increase before the situation improves. As previously reported, the majority of new cases are being detected in Bangkok and surrounding provinces, so that the burden on healthcare facilities in these areas is also the highest.

It is therefore more important than ever before that every single person in Thailand applies all the basic protective measures that we know are effective in breaking chains of transmission. If we break chains of transmission we protect ourselves, and the vulnerable members of our family and those in the communities where we live. By flattening the curve, we relieve the burden on hospitals and protect our healthcare workers. Stay at home if possible, avoid crowded places, wash your hands with soap and water of 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.

In this episode of Science in 5, WHO’s Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, Dr. Kate O’Brien, explains why vaccines are effective against severe disease and hospitalization and against new variants.

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.