

# COVID-19 Situation, Thailand

## 2 February 2022

**2,456,551 total confirmed cases**

**22,207 total deaths**

**Daily average reported from 27 January to 2 February 2022 (compared to week prior)**



**7,984 new cases (7,465) ↑ 7%**



**19 deaths (15) ↑ 27%**



**7,963 people recovered (7,744) ↑ 3%**



**296,417 vaccinations (349,911) ↓ 15%**  
(25 – 31 January - 2022)

### Main messages

| **Omicron cases reported from all provinces** |

| **RTG encourages COVID-free settings and booster vaccinations** |

| **Get vaccinated, maintain universal precautions and stay informed** |



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*All data from the RTG MoPH unless otherwise stated*

# Situation Analysis

- The average number of new COVID-19 cases reported per day only increased by 6.7% in the past 7 days compared to the previous week. Although average case numbers are increasing week on week, the steep rise in cases seen in other countries due to the importation of the omicron COVID-19 variant has not been seen in Thailand. This is likely due to previously introduced public health and social measures, strong adherence to personal protective measures by members of the public and increasing vaccination rates.
- Bangkok continues to report the highest daily number of COVID cases. However, the average number of new COVID-19 cases reported per day for Bangkok in the past week (1,354) is only 3% higher than the week prior (1314).
- The average daily number of all currently 'active' COVID-19 cases (83,624) over the last seven days increased by only 1% compared to the previous week. This number reflects the overall burden of COVID19 cases for the healthcare delivery system since even people isolating at home are being actively monitored by healthcare workers
- An average of 19 daily deaths were reported in the past week, a 21% increase compared to the average number for the previous week (15).
- The average daily number of severe COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (542) represents a 0.7% decrease over the average number reported for the previous week (546). The average daily number of ventilated COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (105) represents a 9.5% decrease over the average number reported for the previous week (116).
- Although Thailand is not experiencing the big upsurge in laboratory-confirmed (PCR positive) cases being seen in other countries, the widespread use of rapid antigen tests (including those available 'over the counter') makes it difficult to accurately monitor the situation. However, the decrease in the number of severe and ventilated cases in hospitals is very encouraging and may reflect the lower levels of illness believed to be associated with omicron infection
- COVID-19 vaccination rates in Thailand are very likely to be significantly reducing levels of severe illness and deaths caused by circulating COVID-19 strains. High vaccination rates also help to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. However, vaccination rates are still low in some provinces and in some important risk groups.

# Global COVID-19 (total) cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases reported per week (1 February 2022)

**376,478,335** confirmed cases

**1,913,949** new cases in last 24 hours

In the past week **new cases increased 6.7%** a less than 1% decrease from the 7.4% increase previously

**5,666,064** deaths

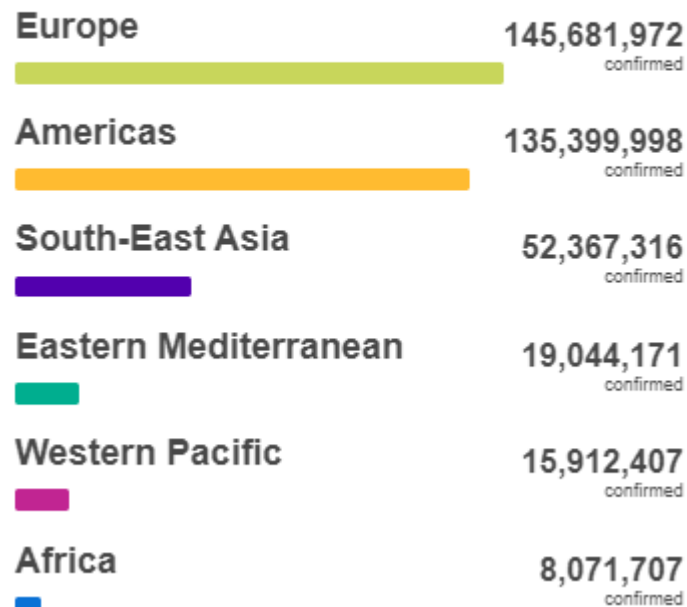
**6,331** new deaths in last 24 hours

In the last week new **deaths increased 9%** (24-30 January)

**9,901,135,980** vaccine doses administered (30 Jan)

**4,767,925,767** people fully vaccinated.  
Approximately **60% of the world population** (7.9 billion), an increase from 51% global full vaccination coverage of the previous week

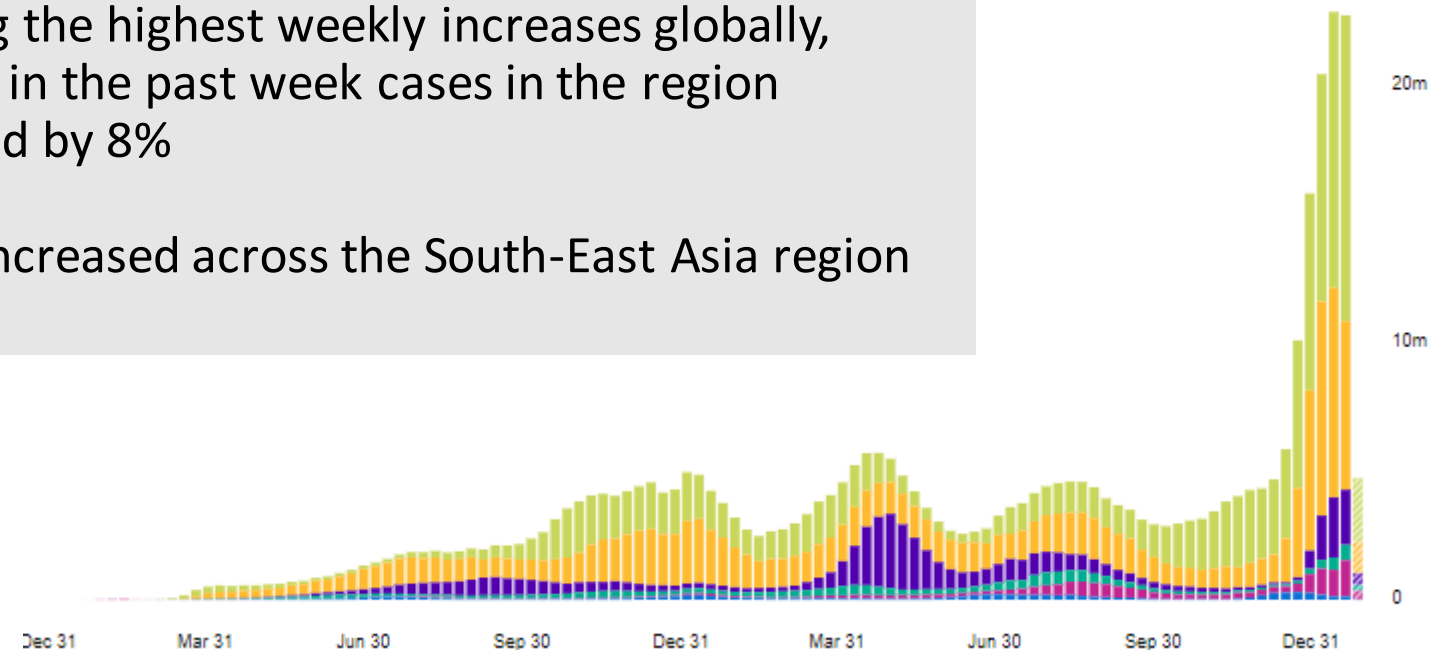
## Situation by WHO Region



<https://covid19.who.int/>

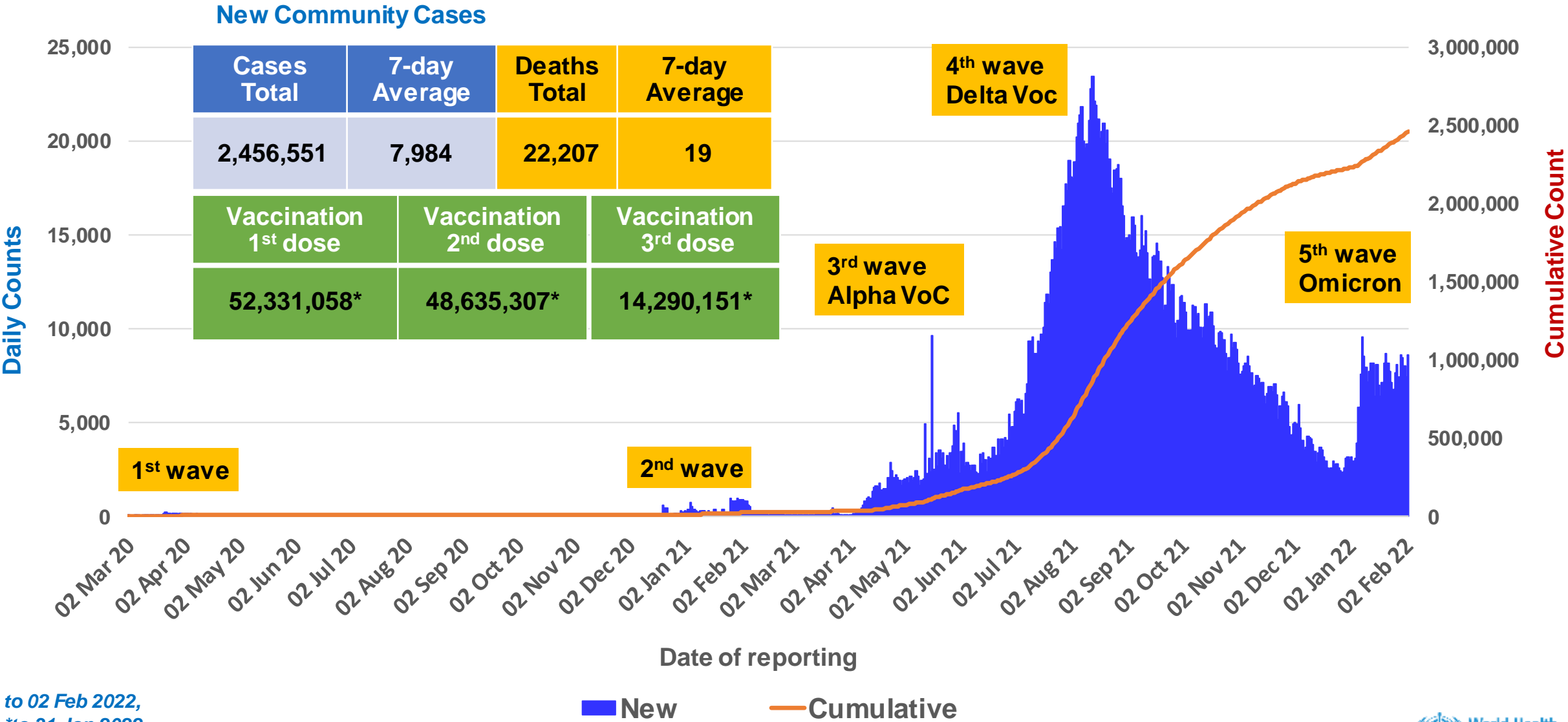
Previously the South-East Asia region had been reporting the highest weekly increases globally, however in the past week cases in the region decreased by 8%

Deaths increased across the South-East Asia region by 41%



# National Situation

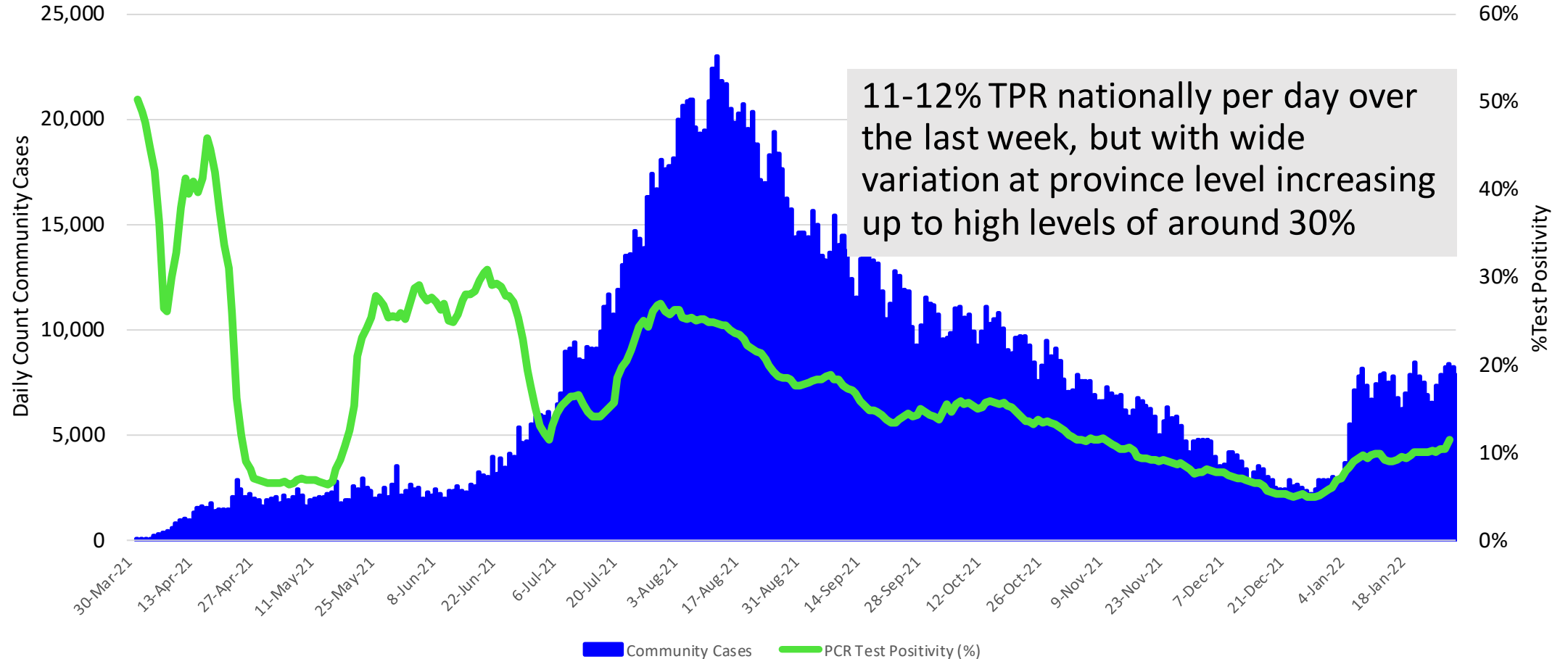
# Thailand COVID-19 cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases per day



to 02 Feb 2022,  
\*to 31 Jan 2022  
source MoPH

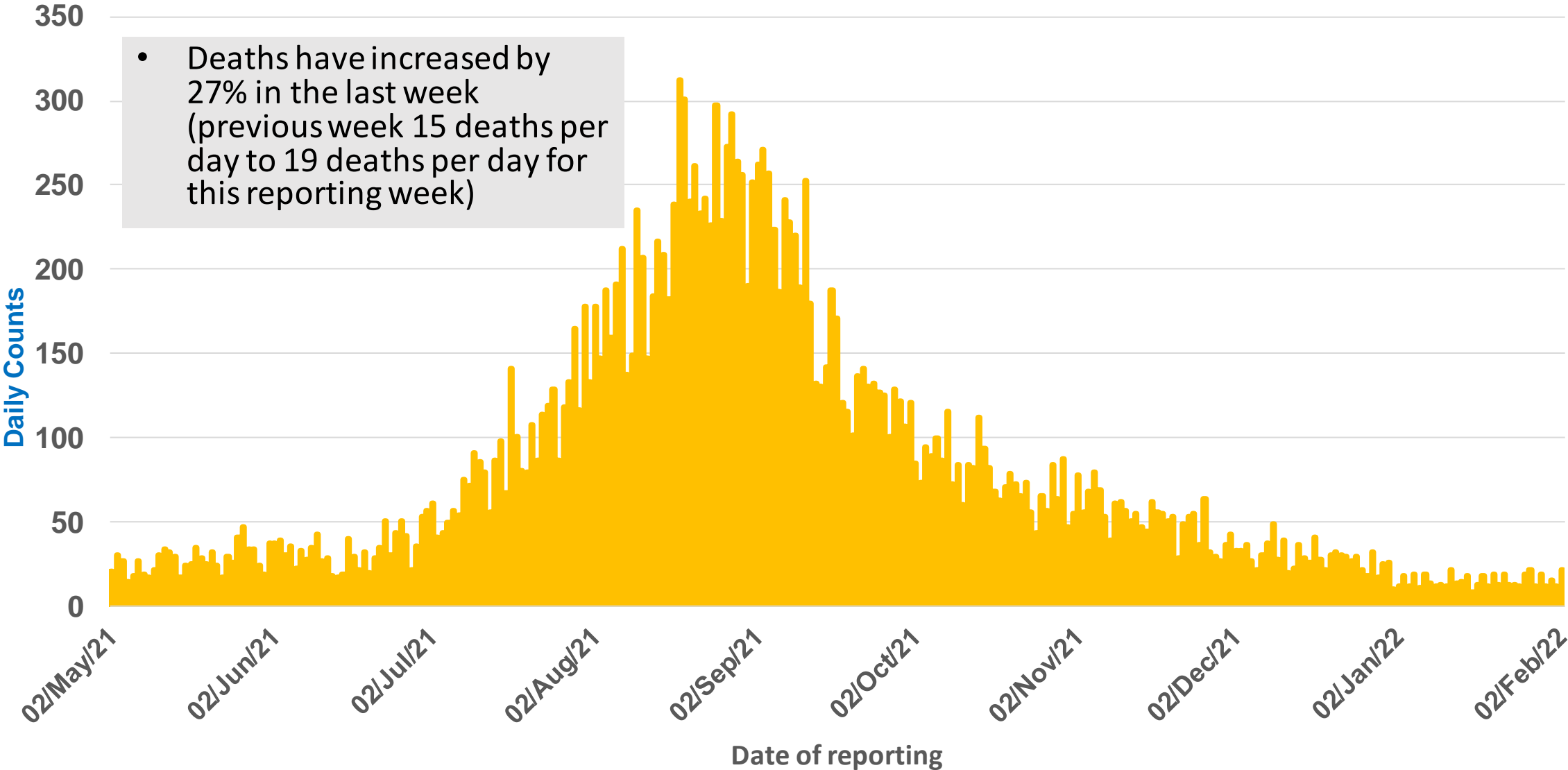
# Variation in 'Test Positivity Rate' (TPR) over time\*

Thailand, COVID-19 Daily Test Positivity & New Community Cases, 3rd, 4th, 5th Waves,



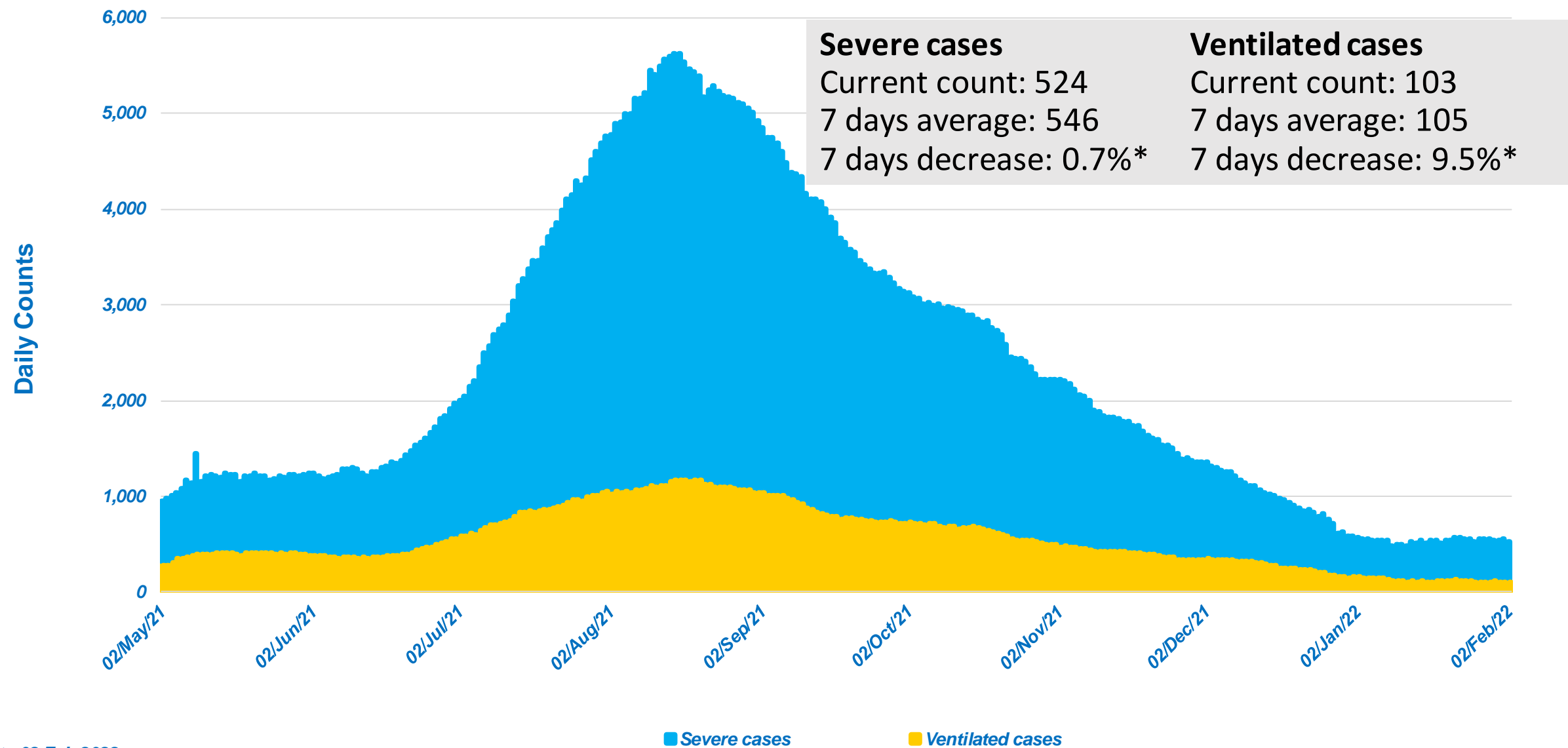
\*The Test Positivity Rate (TPR) is the percentage of all PCR tests conducted in a day that return a positive result

# Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in Thailand since April 2021





# Daily severe & ventilated Covid-19 cases (bed occupancy)



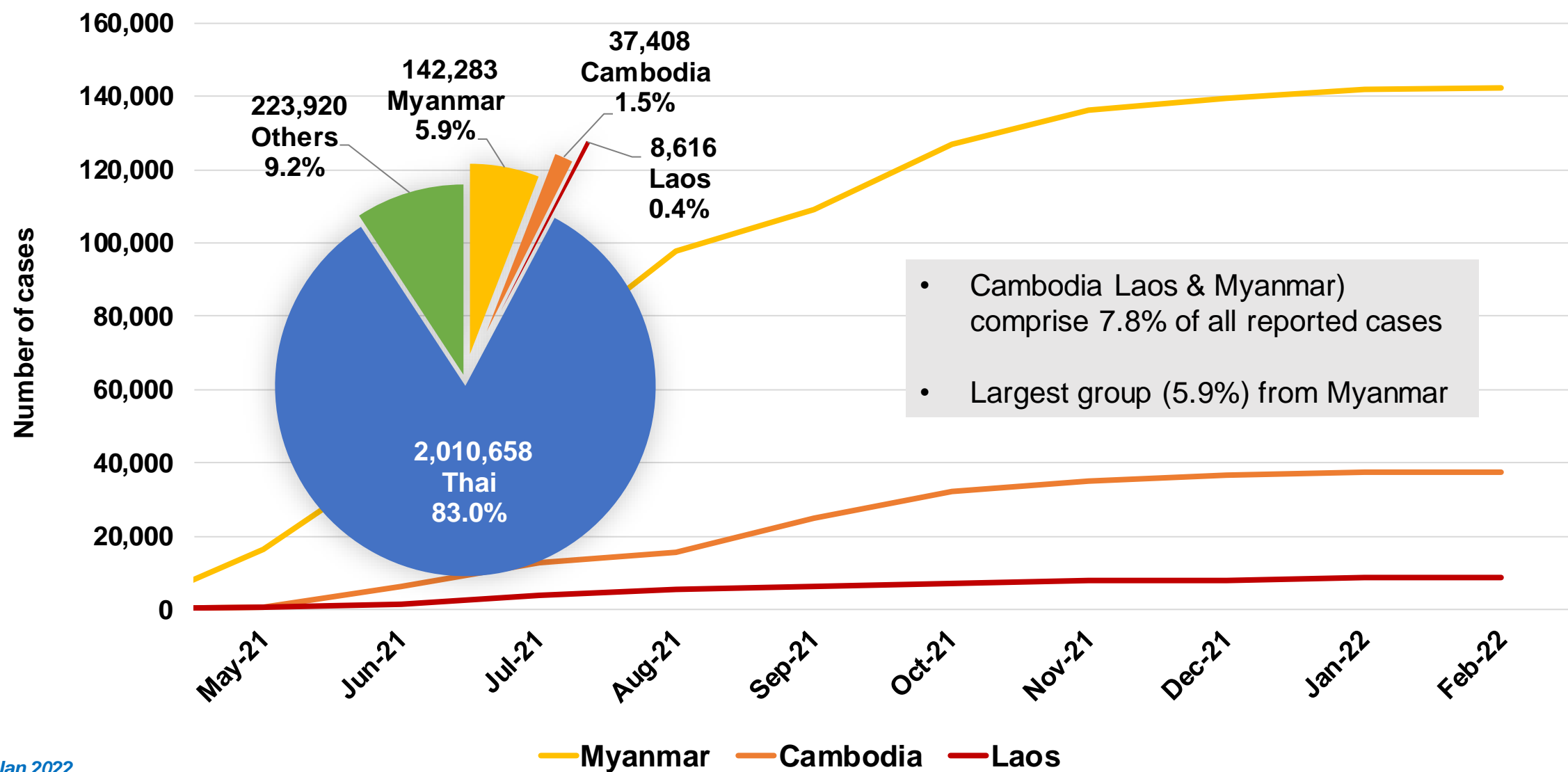
to 02 Feb 2022  
Source MoPH  
\* Compared to the week prior

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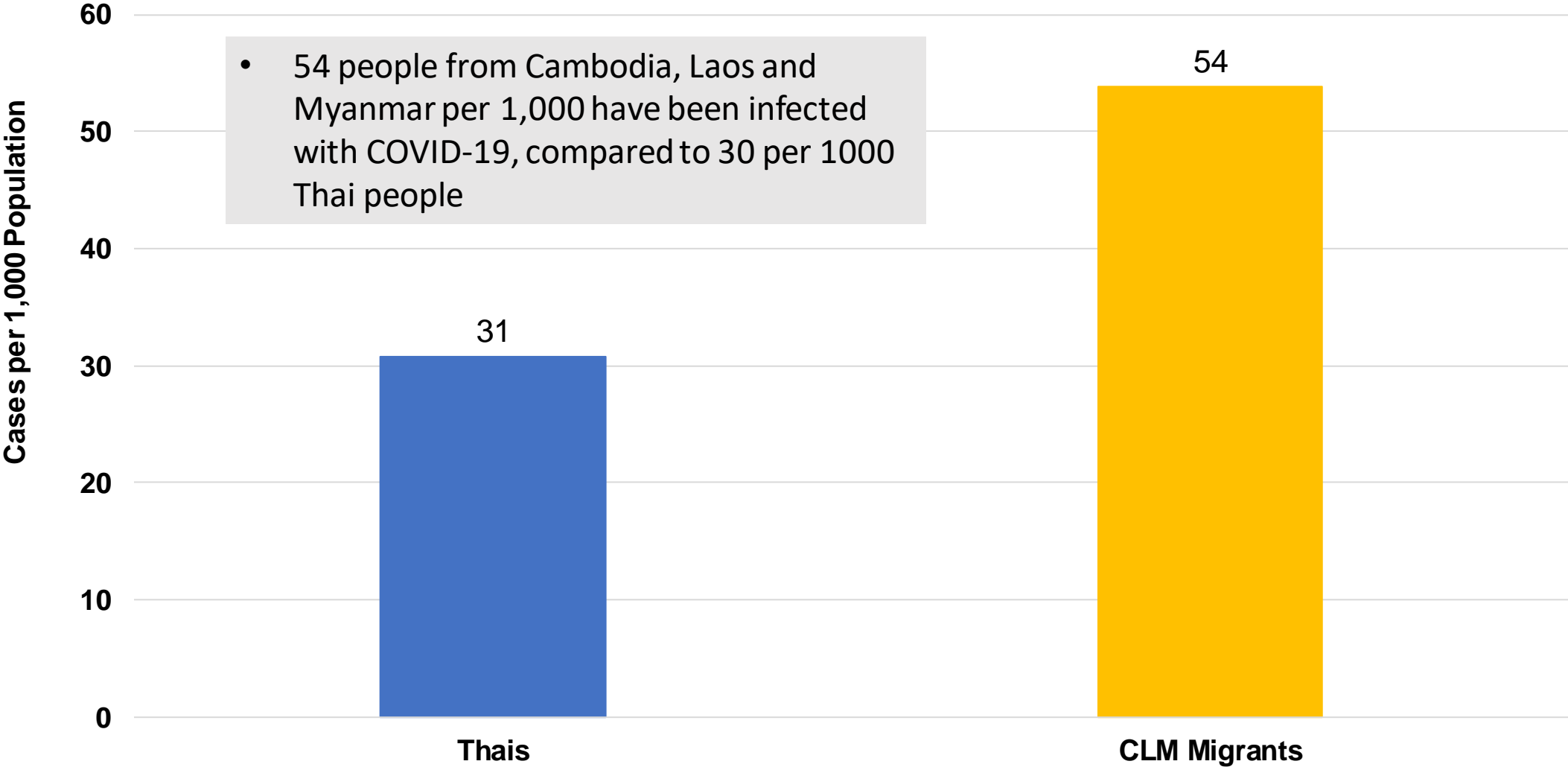
# COVID-19 burden on vulnerable population groups

# Cumulative COVID-19 Cases reported to date by nationality

(30 January 2022)

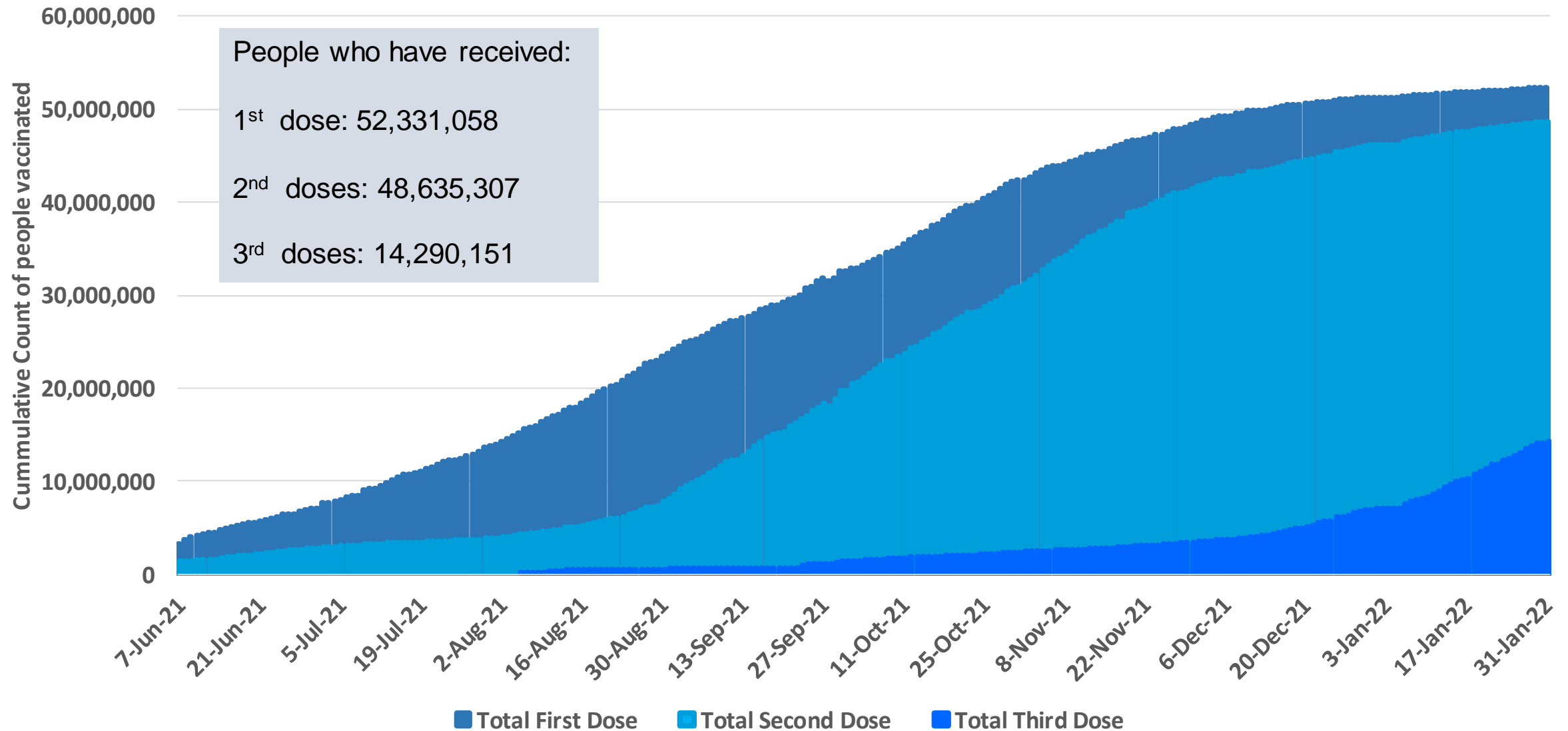


# Cases per 1,000 population in Thailand from CLM Migrants (Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar)

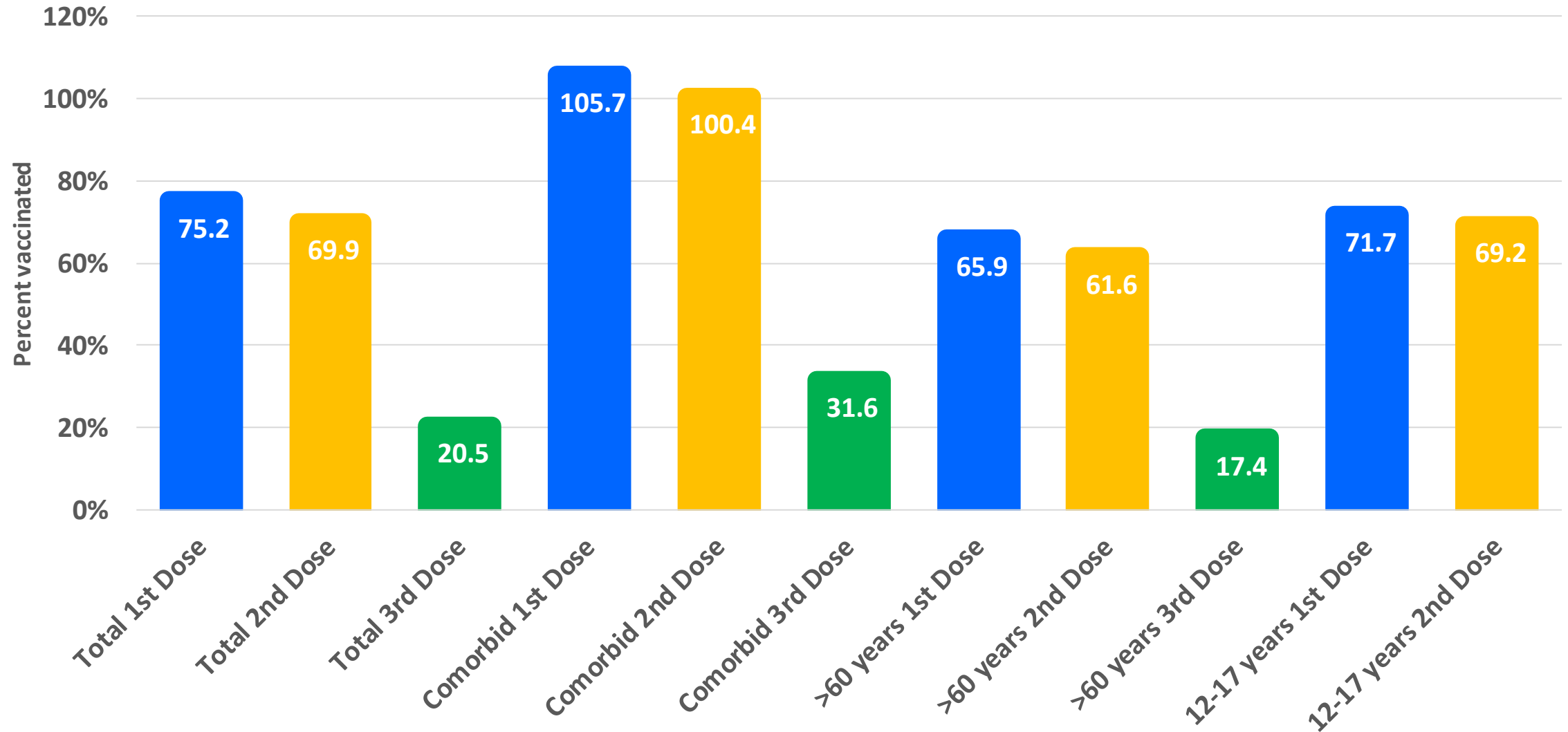


# Vaccination

# National COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage



# Vaccination coverage among high risk groups & adolescents (1st dose, 2<sup>nd</sup> doses, 3<sup>rd</sup> doses)



To 31 Jan 2022

Source: MoPH (rates created using updated population figures)

# Policy Update



# COVID-19 Vaccination in 5 to 11 Year Old's

- Pfizer's paediatric formulation dose (orange cap) will be administered.
  - Currently, Pfizer is the only vaccine approved by the Thai FDA for use in children
- **Vaccination started on 31 January at the Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health**
- Vaccination will occur in hospitals and schools

hospital-based	school-based
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>7 underlying conditions (same criteria as adults)</b></li><li>• <b>+ genetic diseases e.g. Down Syndrome</b></li><li>• <b>Children in homeschool system</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children enrolled in grades 1-6 (in normal school system)</li><li>• Other children not enrolled in schools e.g. non-formal education and other children in this age group.</li></ul>

## Guidelines for vaccination in children:

- Orange cap Pfizer, with 3-12 weeks interval between doses (the longer interval for children in hospital in which it is clinically advisable to have an increased interval between doses)
- If children turn 12 years old after receiving the first dose the second dose should be the purple cap (for  $\geq 12$  years old)

# Traveller's Journey

## Exemption from Quarantine (TEST & GO)

start on 1 February 2022

### Before arrival

- All Travellers from all countries/territories.
- Everyone 18 years of age and older must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 with an approved vaccine at least 14 days before travelling to Thailand.
- Travellers 12-17 years of age unaccompanied must get vaccinated at least 1 dose of an approved vaccine. Those travelling with parents are exempt from this requirement.
- A Medical Certificate with an RT-PCR lab result indicating that COVID-19 is not detected issued no more than 72 hours before travelling, except children aged under 6 travelling with parents.
- Those previously infected must have received 1 dose of an approved vaccine at least 14 days before travel and a medical certificate of recovery.
- A confirmed payment for Day 1 and Day 5 stay at SHA Extra Plus (SHA++) or AQ including 2 RT-PCR tests on Day 1 and Day 5 and a prearranged transfer from the airport to the hotel.
- An insurance policy with coverage no less than US\$50,000. (Thais and foreign expatriates under Thailand's national healthcare coverage are exempt from this requirement.) However, in case of positive test or High-Risk Contact, the expenses of Hospital / Hospitel / Hotel Isolation / Home Isolation must be covered by travellers.







# EXPLAINER: COVID-19 Vaccination Risks in 5-11 year olds

## Are young children at risk from COVID-19?

**Yes.** As with adults, children infected with the Omicron strain of the COVID-19 virus may not be particularly unwell with few or no symptoms. However, children can still get sick from COVID-19 either from the Omicron or other strains of the virus. Countries experiencing widespread Omicron COVID-19 outbreaks have recently been reporting high rates of hospital admissions in the 5-11 age group.

COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be safe and effective at preventing severe disease and death in adults, and more recently, in those aged 11 years old and above. With increasing vaccination coverage in those age groups, attention is now turning towards vaccinating younger ages, those from 5 to 11. Do these younger age children need to be vaccinated? And is it safe to do so? This is the second part explainer looking at COVID-19 vaccination risks in children aged 5-11 years.

There are three import questions when considering vaccination in any age group, including young children: Is there a need for the vaccination? is the vaccine safe? how effective is the vaccine? The first-part explainer last week established the need for vaccinating 5-11 years old's based on the risks of infection to children (especially those more vulnerable to severe COVID-19) as well as their role in possible transmission to others. So what are the risks associated with COVID-19 vaccination in children?

The Thai FDA has authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech (BNT1622b2) mRNA pediatric formulation dose for 5-11 years old's as currently the only vaccine for this age group. Thailand commenced vaccination of 5-11 years old's on the 31st January 2022 at the Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health (Children's Hospital). In due course, the roll-out of vaccination of 5-11 years old's will occur across the country in hospitals and schools. As with older age groups, children be required to stay at the vaccination centre for 30 minutes after receiving the shot to monitor for symptoms or clinical signs of a reaction to the immunization.

As with the ongoing vaccination programmes in Thailand for adults and adolescents, COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for 5-11 years old's as a safe, effective and needed immunization as a key part to combat COVID-19. Similarly, with older age groups, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has shown in clinical trials and real-world studies to be a safe and well-tolerated vaccine. However, as with all vaccines and vaccinations in all age groups, a spectrum of rare mild to very rare but more serious adverse

reactions can occur. Monitoring for adverse events following immunization (AEFI) is central to Thailand's vaccination programme.

In reports of vaccination using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in children, AEFI were mostly non-severe and went away within a few days without requiring medical treatment. In the US preauthorization clinical trials of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine administered to 3,109 children aged 5-11 years, no serious AEFI were reported.

Non-severe AEFI that were reported were similar to those observed in older age groups and typically included: Fever and shivering, pain at the injection site, headache, body ache and fatigue.

In the subsequent roll-out of the vaccine in the US, 4,249 events were reported\* among 8.7 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine administered to children aged 5-11 years. Of these reports, only 2.4% were serious. The median age of children reporting serious AEFI was 9 years, with the majority, 61%, in males. The most common serious events were fever (29%) and vomiting (21%). 11 cases of myocarditis were verified, all of whom had recovered or were recovering at the time of the report. The risk of AEFI occurring in children increased in those with underlying medical conditions, with reports indicating high blood pressure, chronic lung disease and blood disorders as key risk factors.  
[\\*https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm705152a1.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm705152a1.htm)

Next week will look at severe AEFI in 5-11 years olds following vaccination.



Click on the image to hear Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's COVID-19 Technical Lead, describe potential future scenarios on COVID-19 and Omicron, and what we can do to turn the tide.

## 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](#)

### World Health Organization Country Office for Thailand

4th Fl., Permanent Secretary Bldg.3 Ministry of Public Health,  
Nonthaburi, Thailand, 11000. [sethawebmaster@who.int](mailto:sethawebmaster@who.int)



[www.who.int/thailand](http://www.who.int/thailand)



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**The more COVID-19 circulates, the more opportunities the virus has to change to variants such as Omicron and Delta.**



**World Health Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**Europe**



**We know we can all reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants through:**



**Hand Cleaning**



**Physical distance of at least 1 meter**



**Wearing a well-fitting mask**



**Contact tracing**



**Testing, isolation & quarantine measures**



**Opening windows, avoiding crowded places**



**Full vaccination**