

COVID-19 Situation, Thailand

15 February 2022

2,622,600 total confirmed cases

22,489 total deaths

Daily average reported from 9 to 15 February 2022 (compared to the week prior)



14,679 new community cases (9,757) ↑ 50%



24 deaths (19) ↑ 26%



9,440 people recovered (8,363) ↑ 13%



361,419 vaccinations (262,610) ↑ 38%

(7 – 13 February 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 community-acquired COVID-19 cases reported per day increased by 50% in the past 7 days compared to the previous week. Although daily reported case numbers continue to increase, Thailand is still not seeing the steep rise seen in other countries due to the omicron COVID-19 variant. The total number of cases reported on 12 February (16,330) was the highest since 29 August 2021.

Bangkok continues to report the highest daily number of COVID cases. The average number of new COVID-19 cases reported per day for Bangkok in the past week (2,960) is 93% higher than the week prior. In addition, the number of cases reported on 12 February (3,237) was the highest number since 13 September 2021.

The average daily number of all currently 'active' COVID-19 cases (117,341) over the last seven days increased by 32% compared to the previous week. The number reported today (132,738) is the highest since 12 September 2021. This number reflects the overall burden of COVID-19 cases for the healthcare delivery system since even people isolating at home are being actively monitored by healthcare workers.

An average of 24 daily deaths were reported in the past week, compared to 19 for the previous week.

The average daily number of severe COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (617) represents a 17% increase over the average number reported for the previous week (527). The average daily number of ventilated COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (125) represents a 19% increase over the average number reported for the previous week (105).

It now appears that the rise in new COVID-19 case numbers is starting to cause an increase in the number of severe and ventilated cases in hospitals. However, the number of seriously ill COVID-19 cases remains much lower than the numbers seen at the peak in July / August 2021, and there is still significant capacity in the healthcare system to admit patients.

Although Thailand does not appear to be experiencing a big upsurge of COVID-19 cases as seen in some other countries, the widespread use of rapid antigen tests (including those available 'over the counter') continues to make it difficult to accurately monitor the situation.

COVID-19 vaccination rates in Thailand are likely to significantly reduce 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 some important risk groups.

Global COVID-19 (total) cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases reported per week (14 February 2022)

410,565,868 confirmed cases

1,655,116 new cases in last 24 hours

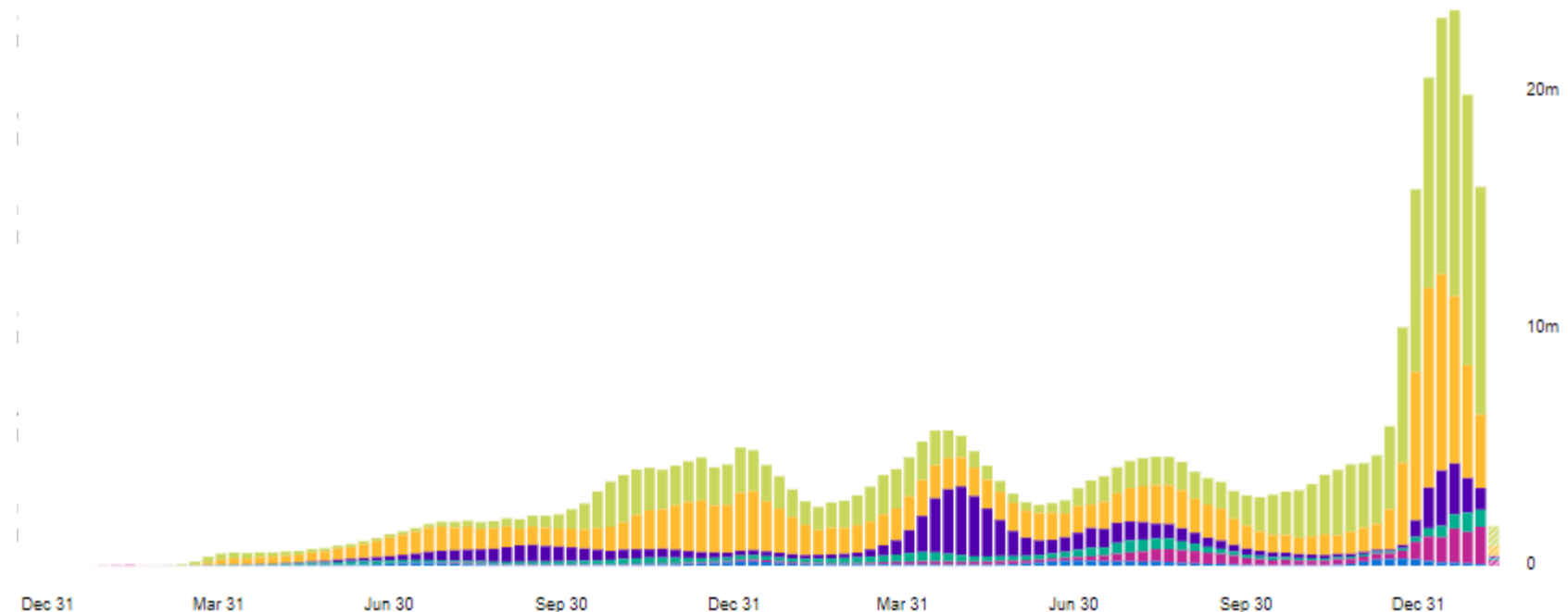
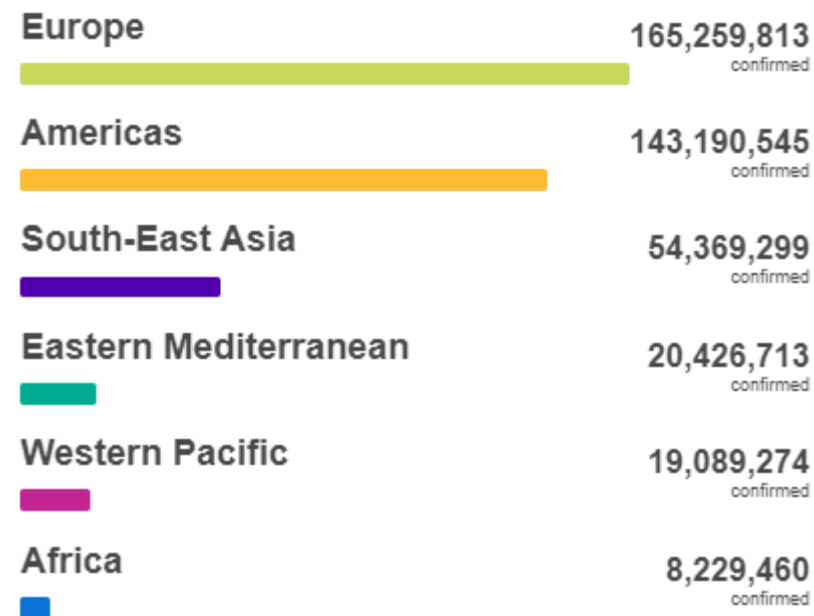
5,810,880 deaths

8,654 new deaths in last 24 hours

10,101,955,700 vaccine doses administered (6 Feb)

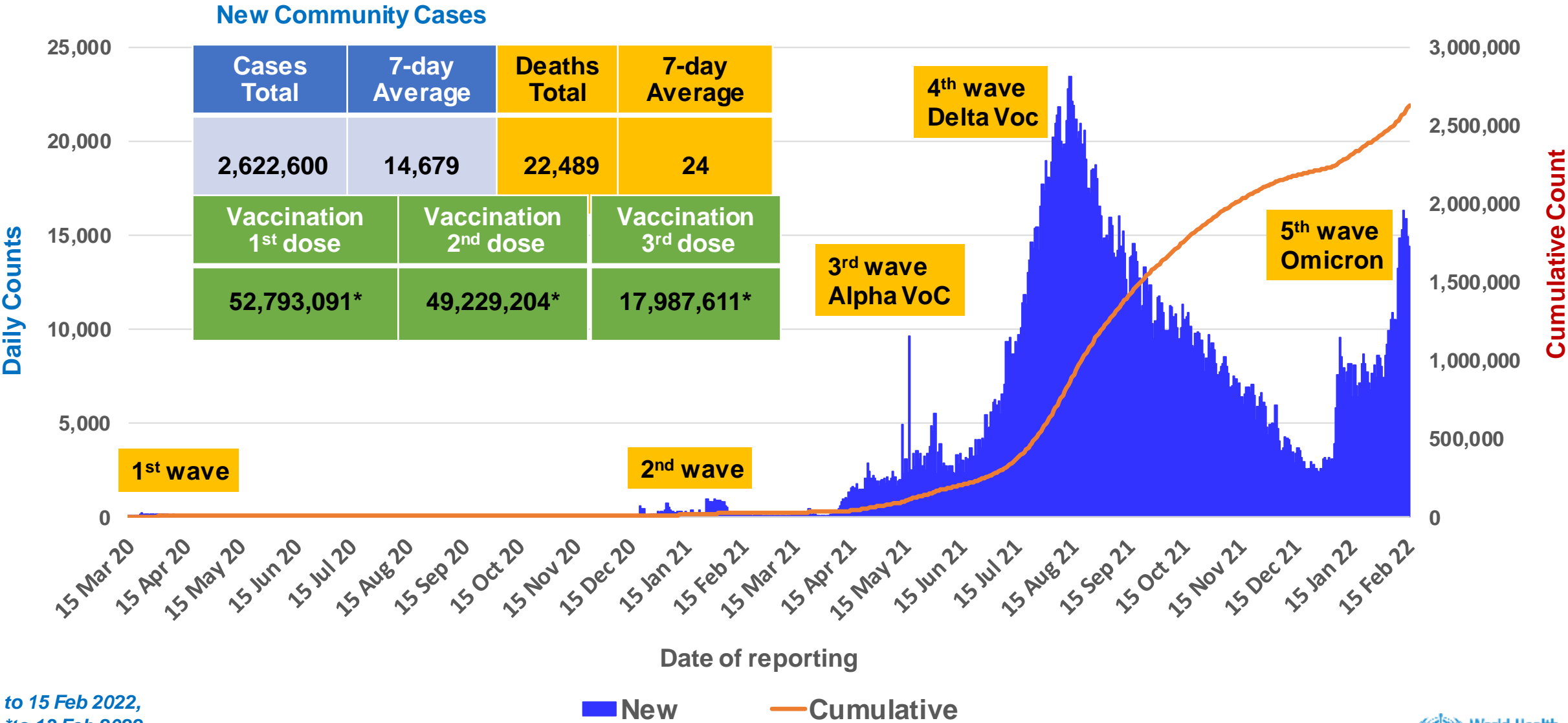
4,810,396,895 people fully vaccinated.
Approximately **61% of the global population** (7.9 billion), an increase from 51% global full vaccination coverage of the previous week

Situation by WHO Region



National Situation

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



to 15 Feb 2022,
*to 13 Feb 2022
source MoPH

Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in Thailand since April 2021

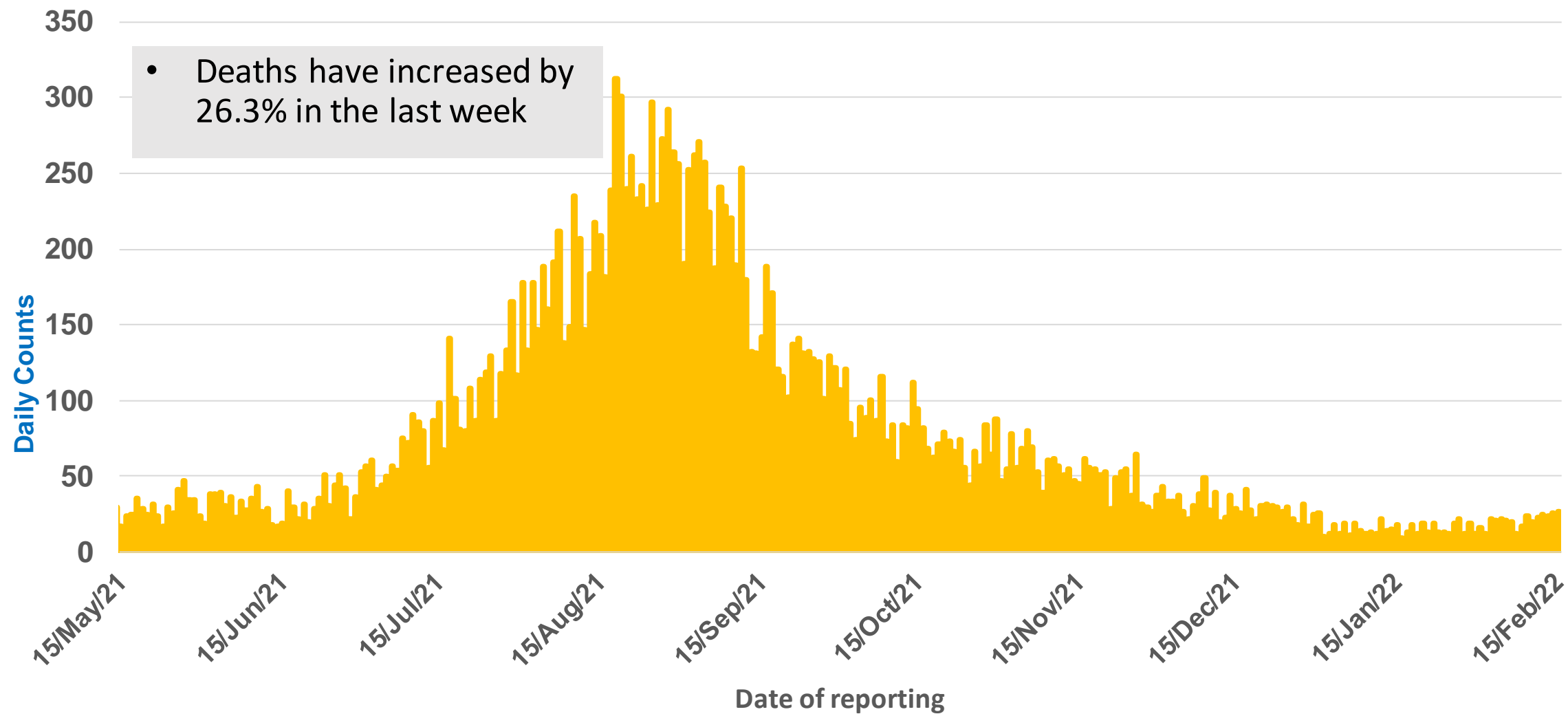


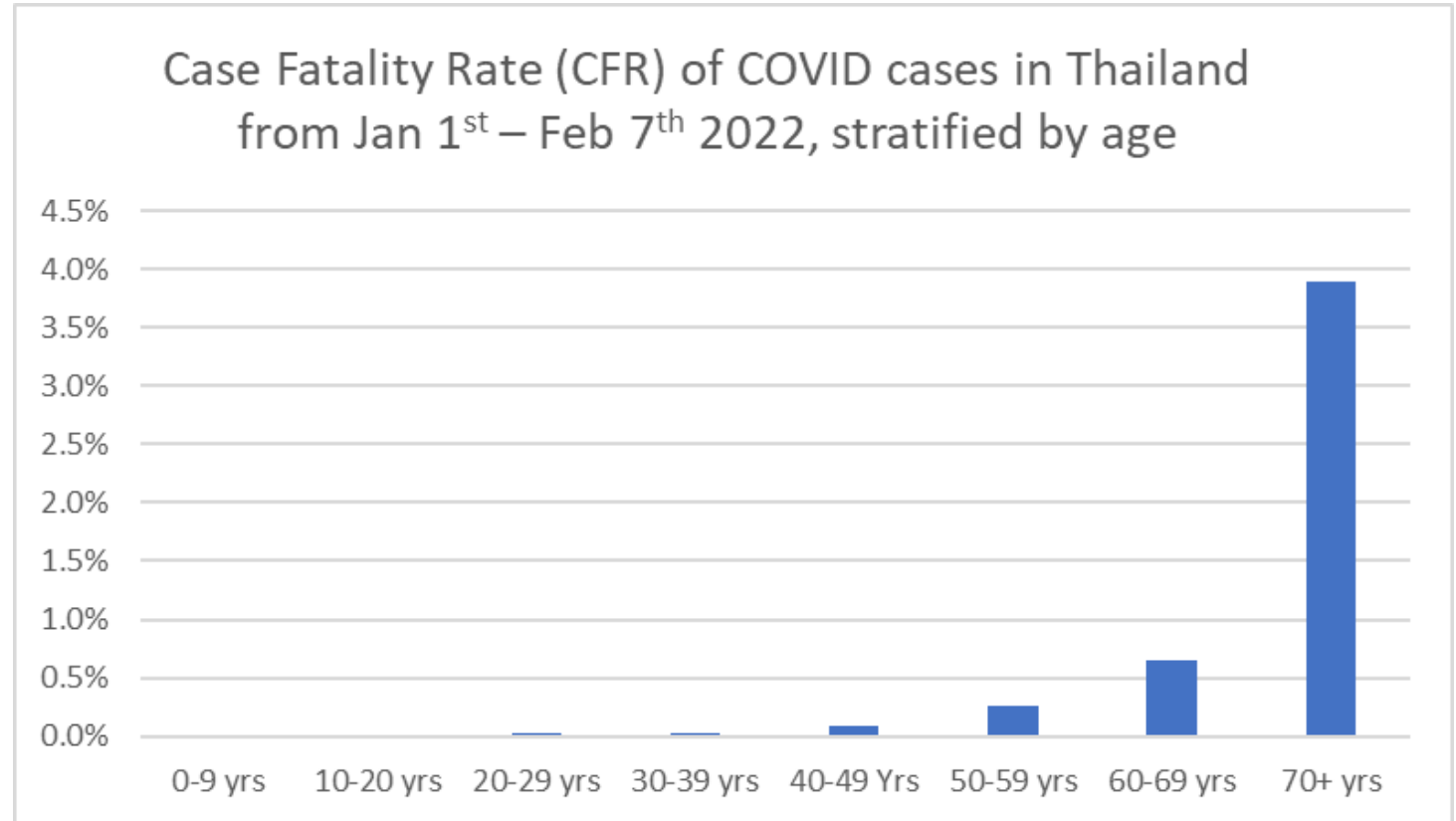
Table shows the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of COVID cases since Jan 1st – Feb 7th 2022, stratified by age

Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of COVID-19 cases in Thailand

The Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is the percentage of cases that die.

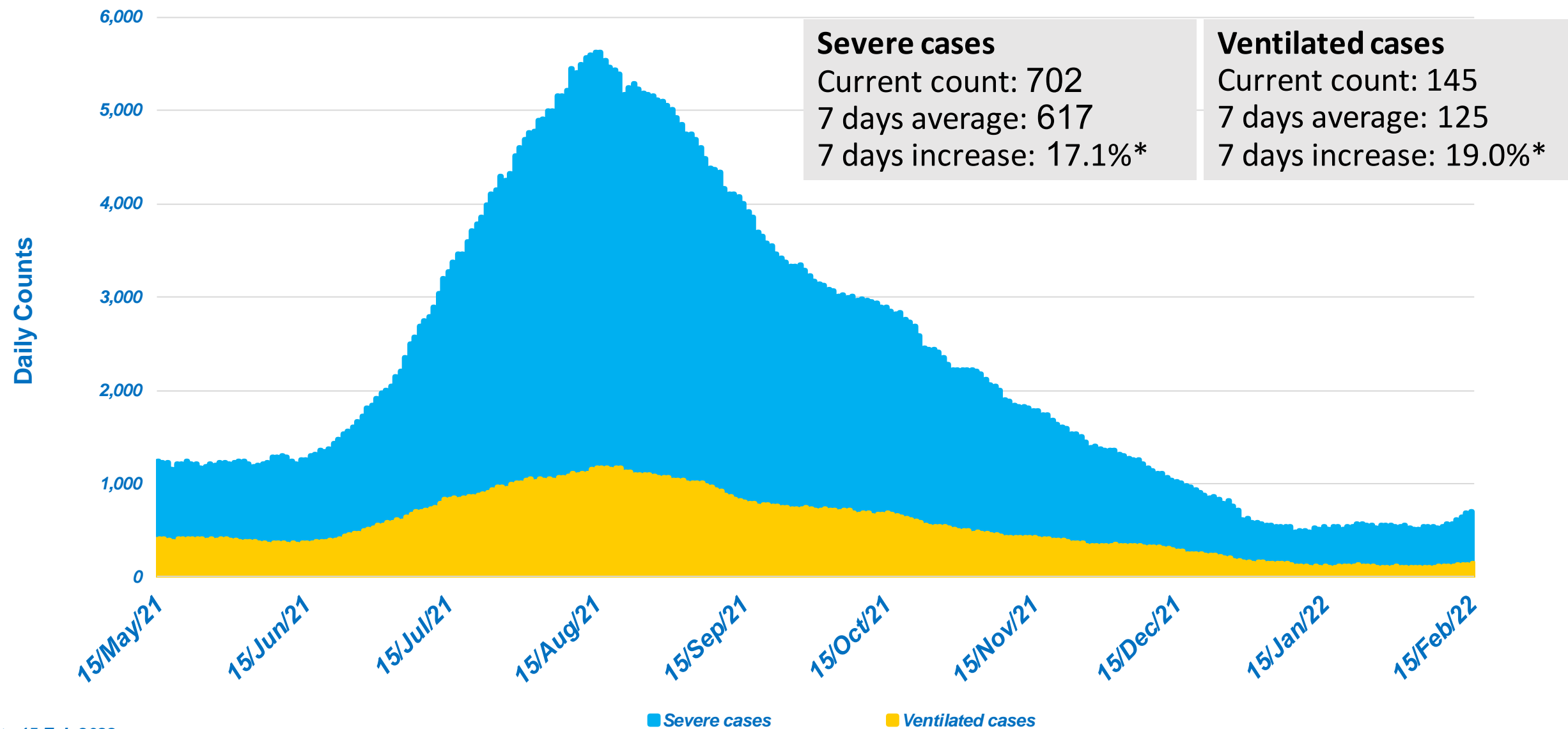
The bar chart and table show the available data on COVID cases in Thailand between 1 January and 7 February 2022 according to age group.

The bar chart illustrates how much more likely people in older age groups are likely to die if they become infected with COVID-19. Many of these people were not vaccinated against COVID.



CFR* (%)	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.09%	0.26%	0.65%	3.89%
Age group	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
Deaths /Cases	2/ 22,825	4/ 31,041	15/ 69,461	15/ 52,855	32/ 36,649	68/ 26,199	106/ 16,339	329/ 8,452

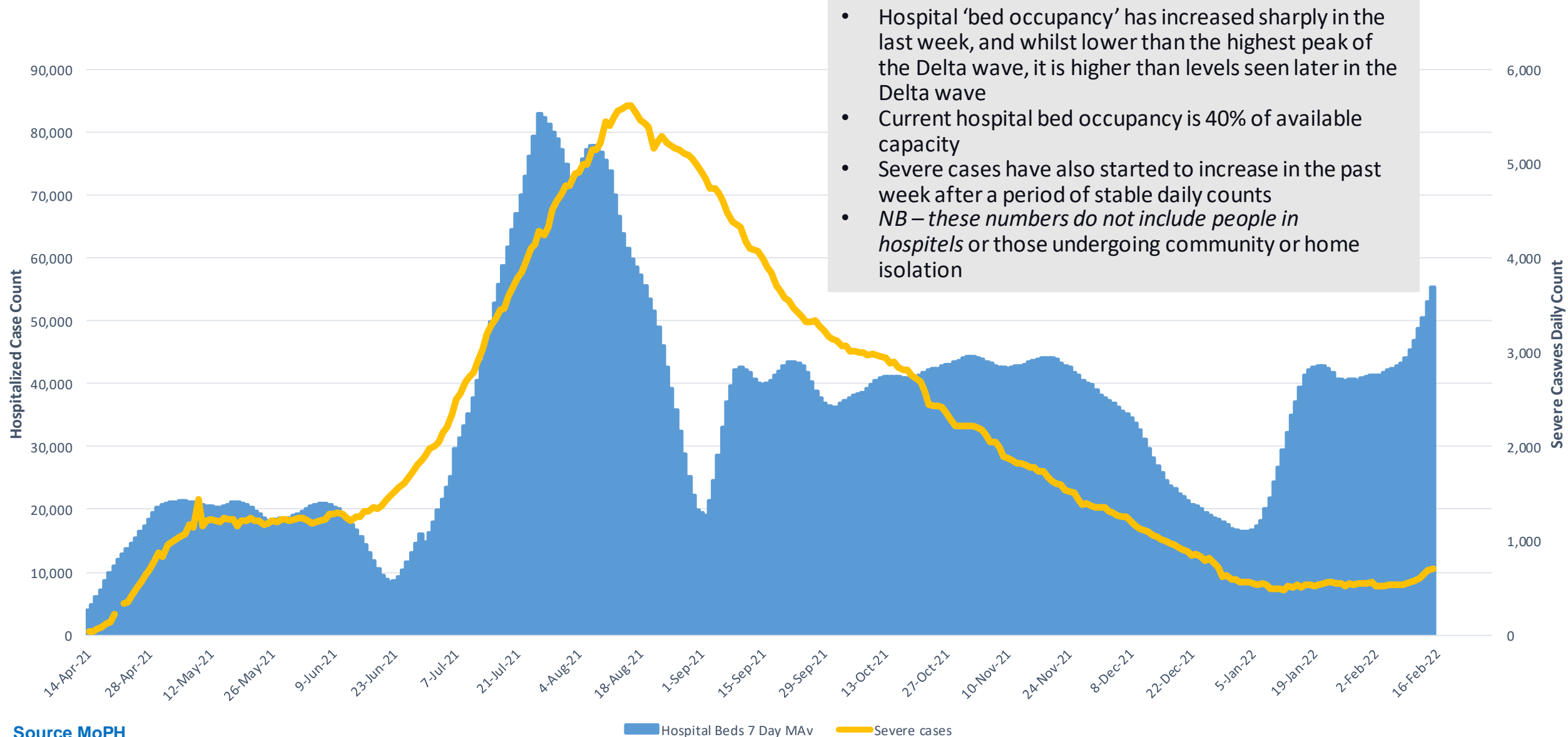
Daily severe & ventilated Covid-19 cases (bed occupancy)



to 15 Feb 2022
Source MoPH
* Compared to the week prior

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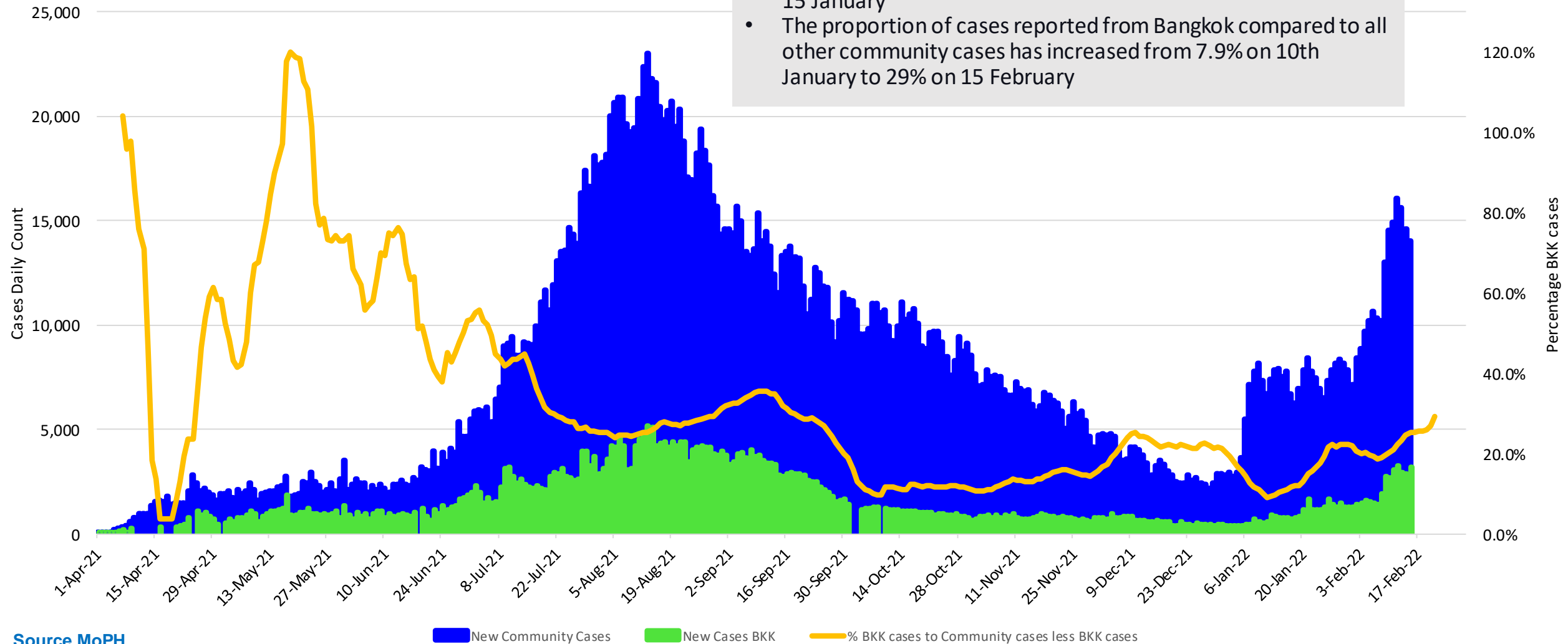
Daily hospital bed occupancy & daily severe cases



Provincial situation

Daily Cases in Bangkok

- Daily cases in Bangkok have increased from 408 reported on 1 January, to 1,255 reported on 1 February, to 3,182 reported on 15 January
- The proportion of cases reported from Bangkok compared to all other community cases has increased from 7.9% on 10th January to 29% on 15 February



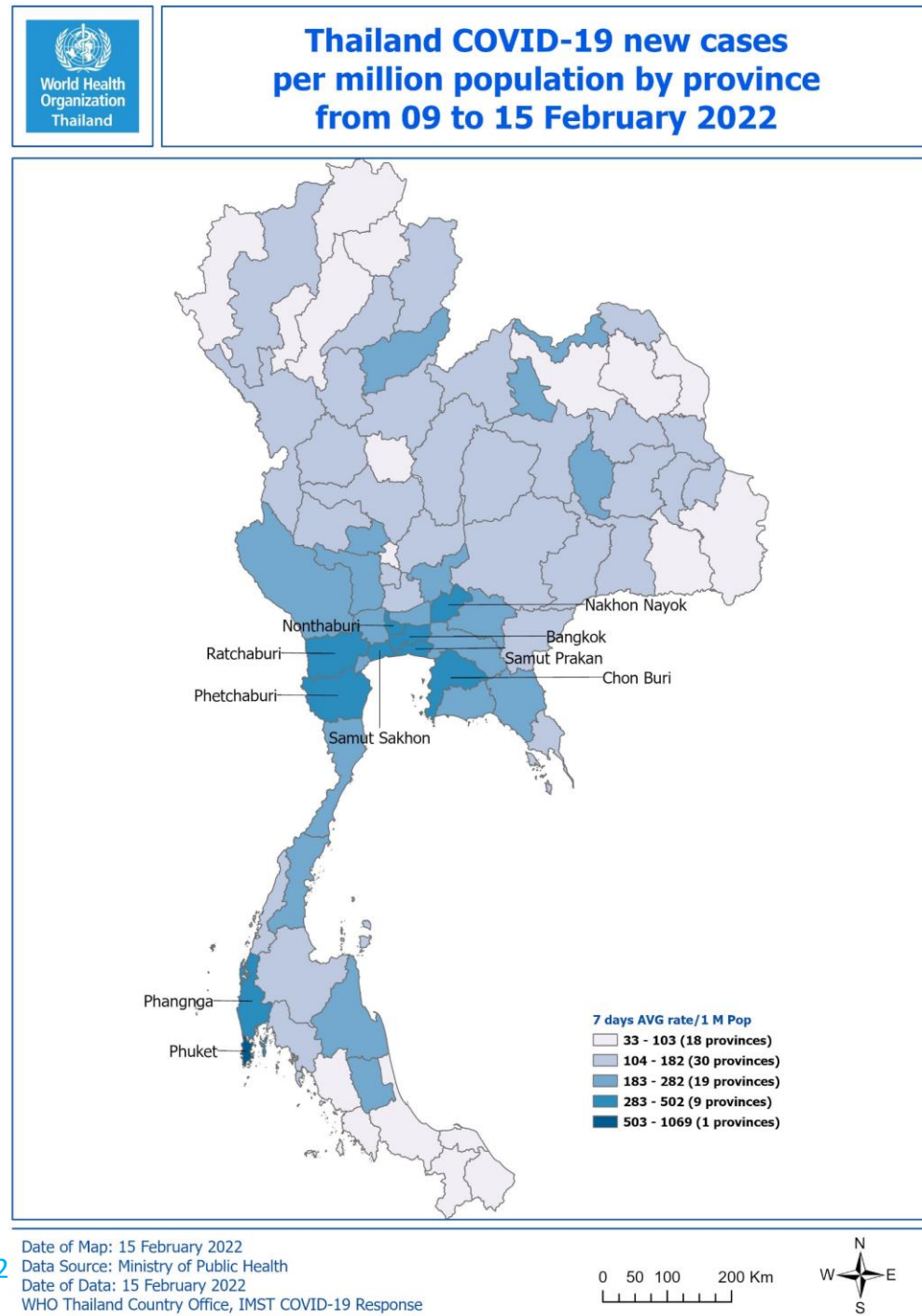
Source MoPH

Map of new COVID-19 cases per million population by province

9 – 15 February 2022

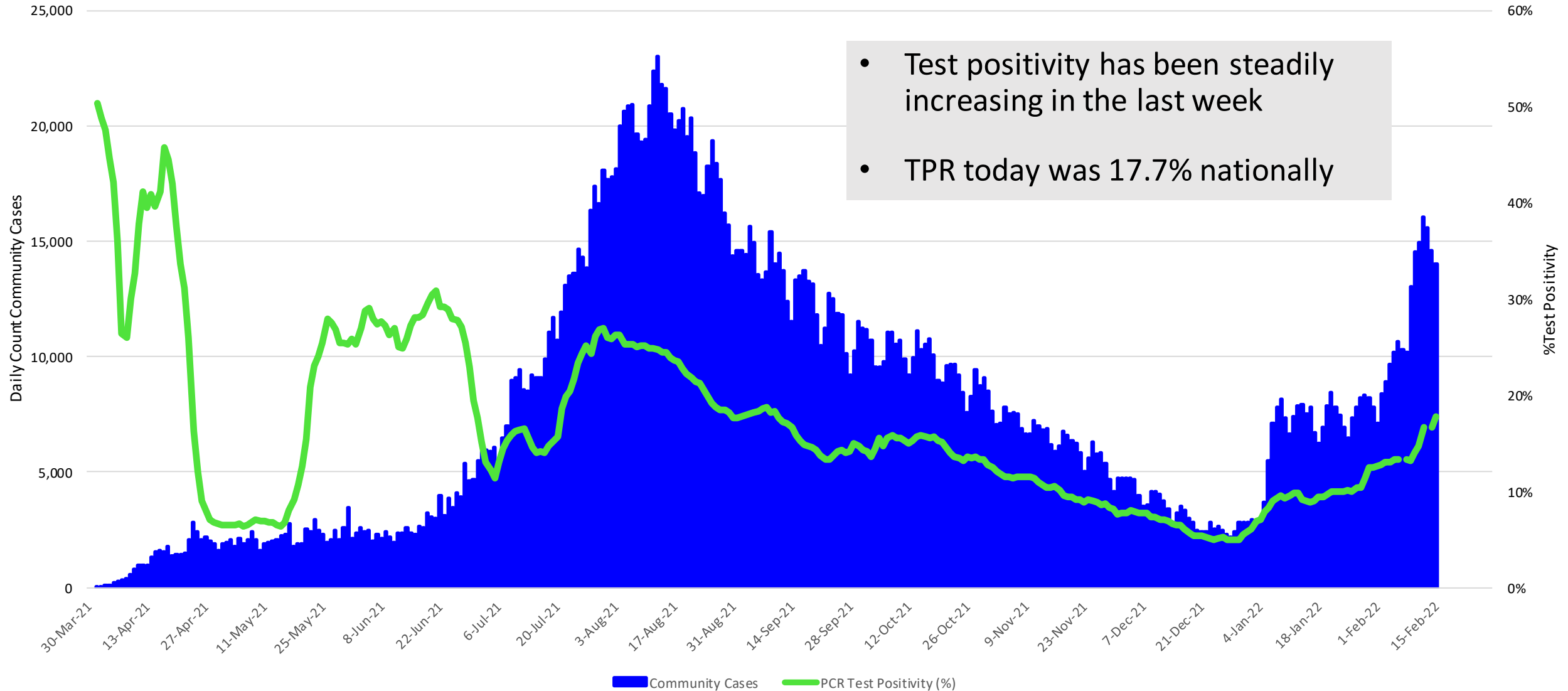
- There is a wide variation in the rate of new cases ranging from 33 to 1,000 cases per million population
- The highest rate of new cases was reported in Phuket, reporting over 1,000 cases per million population
- Lower rates of cases (182 cases per million or less) were reported in 62% of Thai provinces (48 of 77) across most of the north, north-east, central, upper western and the southernmost provinces of Thailand
- Higher rates of cases were mainly found in provinces in and around Bangkok and in the upper and middle southern provinces

Source MoPH



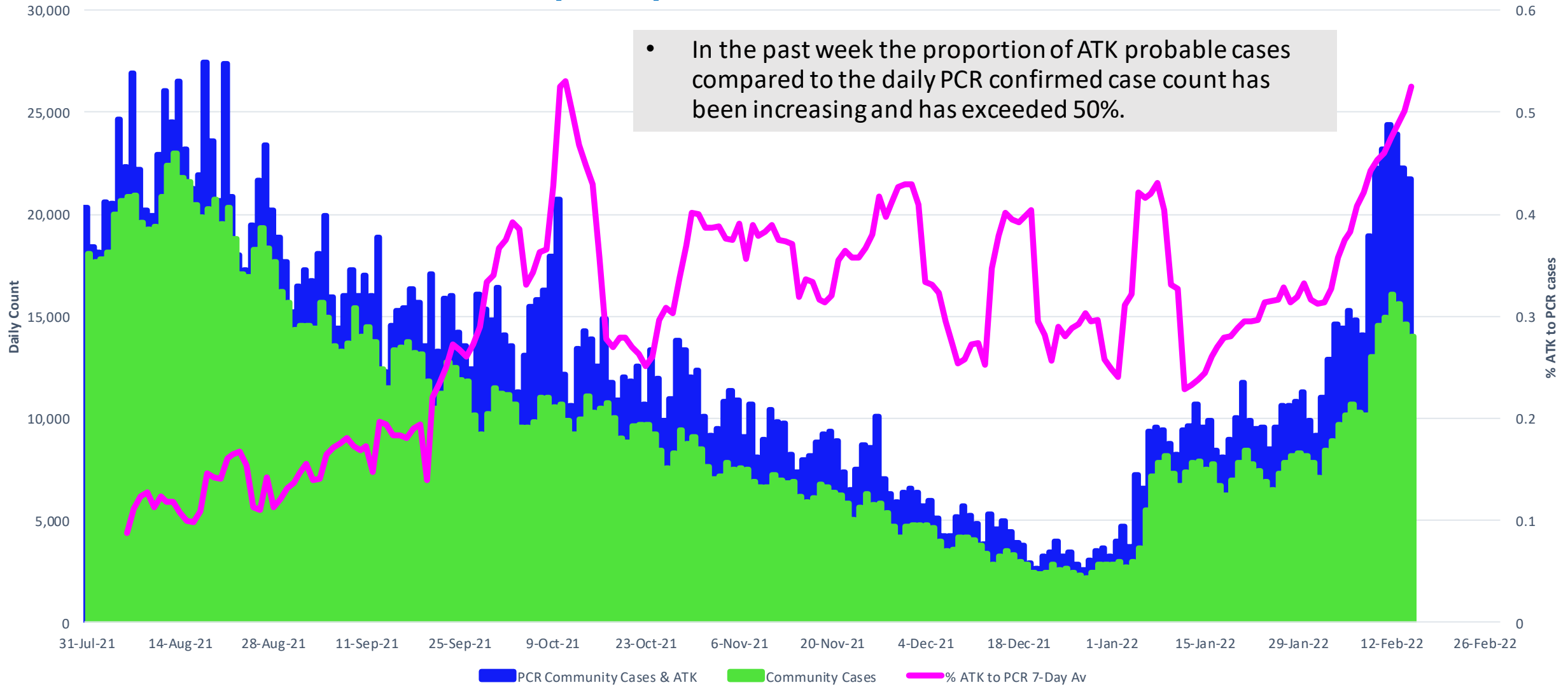
COVID-19 Testing

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



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

PCR Confirmed Community Acquired Cases and Antigen Test Kit (ATK) Positive Cases



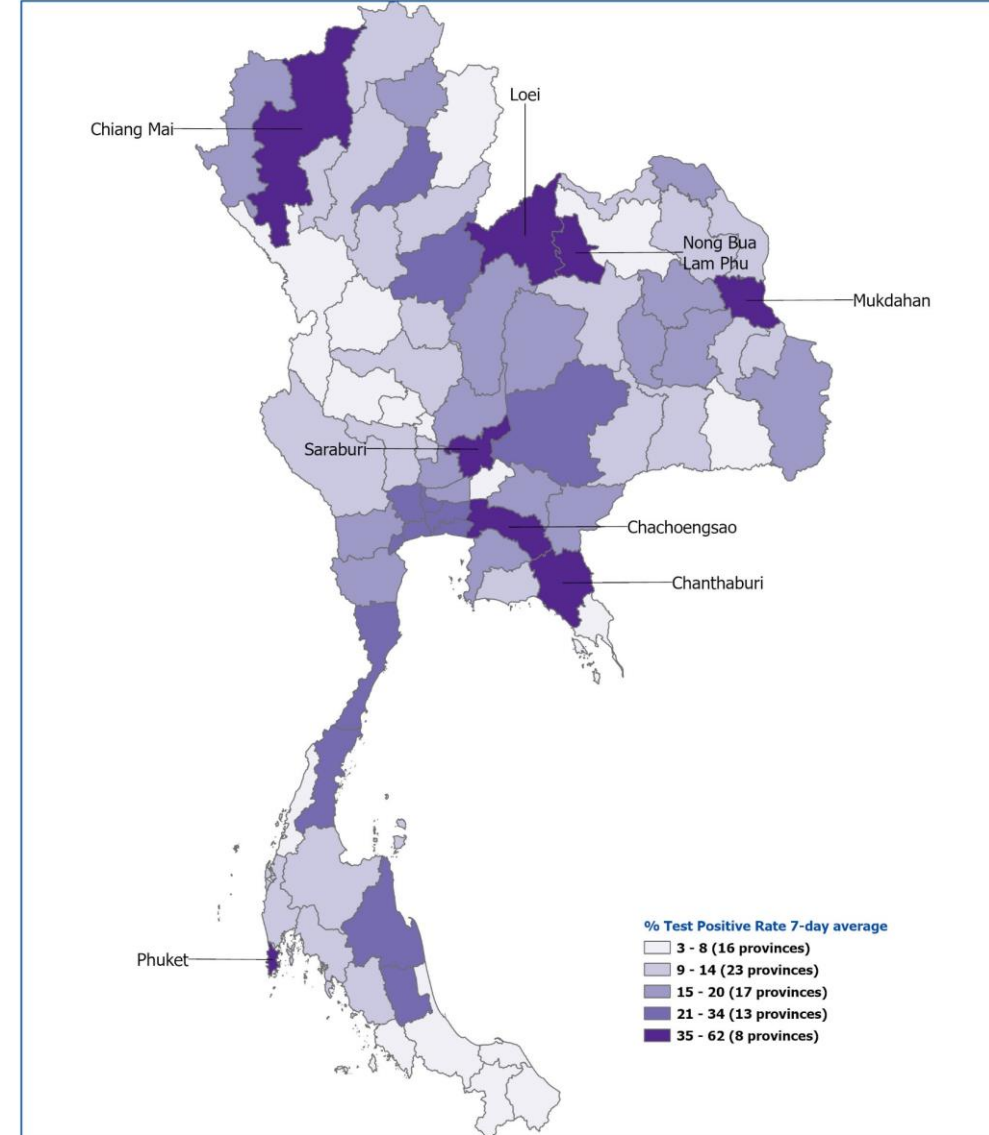
Variation in 'Test Positivity Rate' (TPR) by province*

- There is wide variation in test positivity across Thailand's provinces ranging from a low of 3% to a high of 62% (in Phuket)
- 79% of Thai provinces (61 of 77) report high positivity of 9% or greater

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



Thailand COVID-19 Percent Test Positive
7-day average from 09 to 15 February 2022



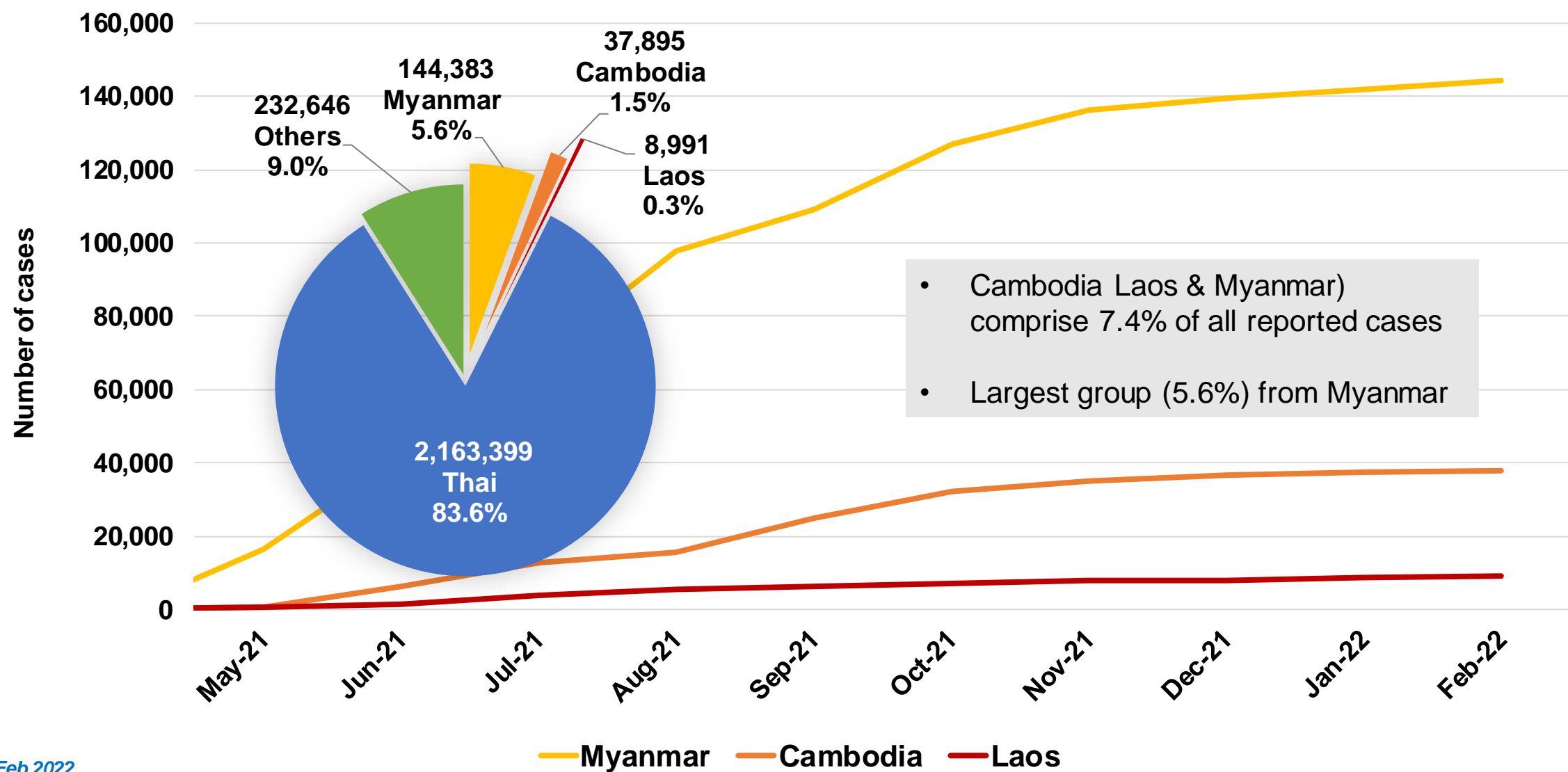
Date of Map: 15 February 2022
Data Source: Ministry of Public Health
Date of Data: 15 February 2022
WHO Thailand Country Office, IMST COVID-19 Response



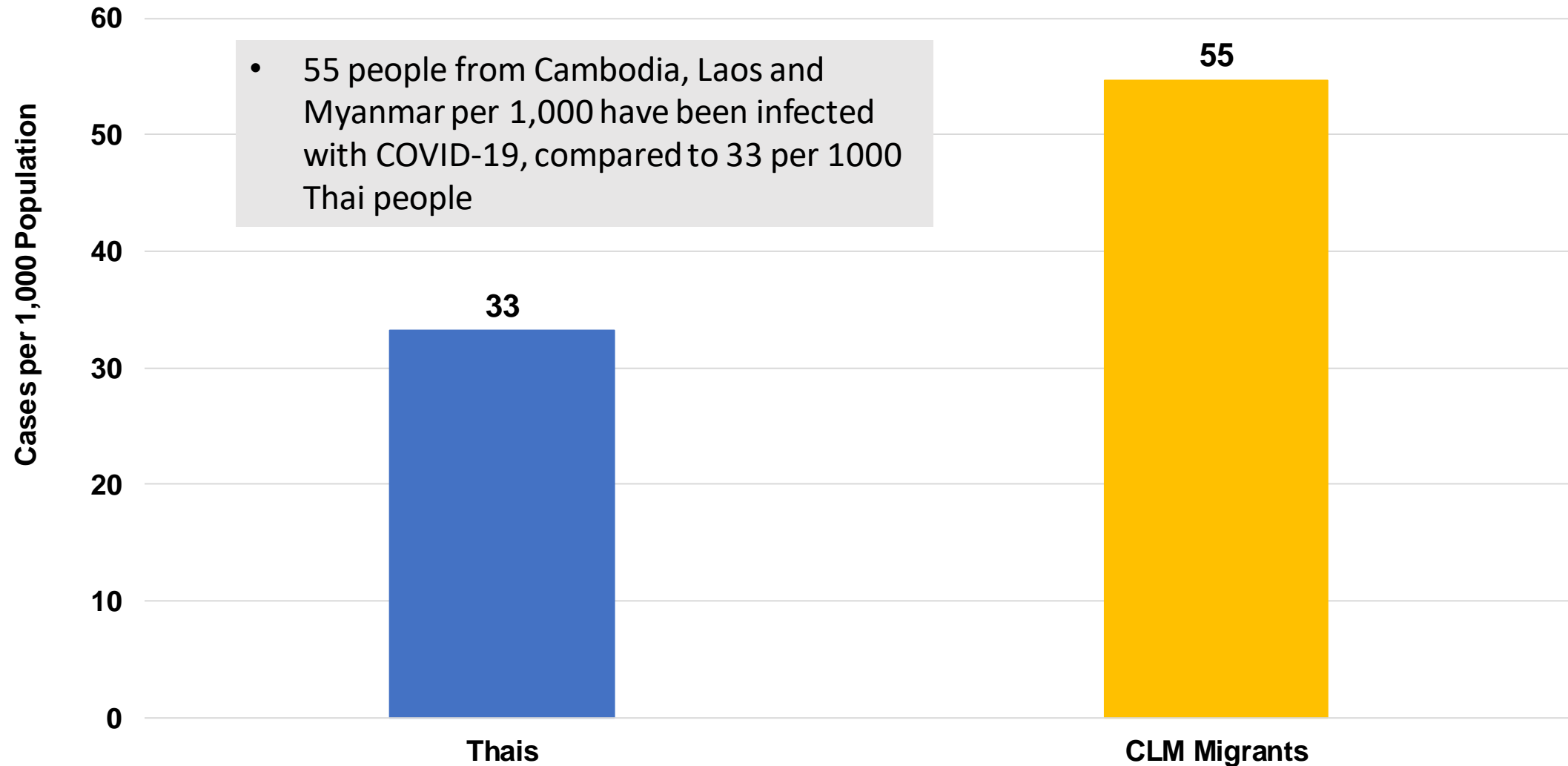
COVID-19 burden on vulnerable population groups

Cumulative COVID-19 Cases reported to date by nationality

(13 February 2022)

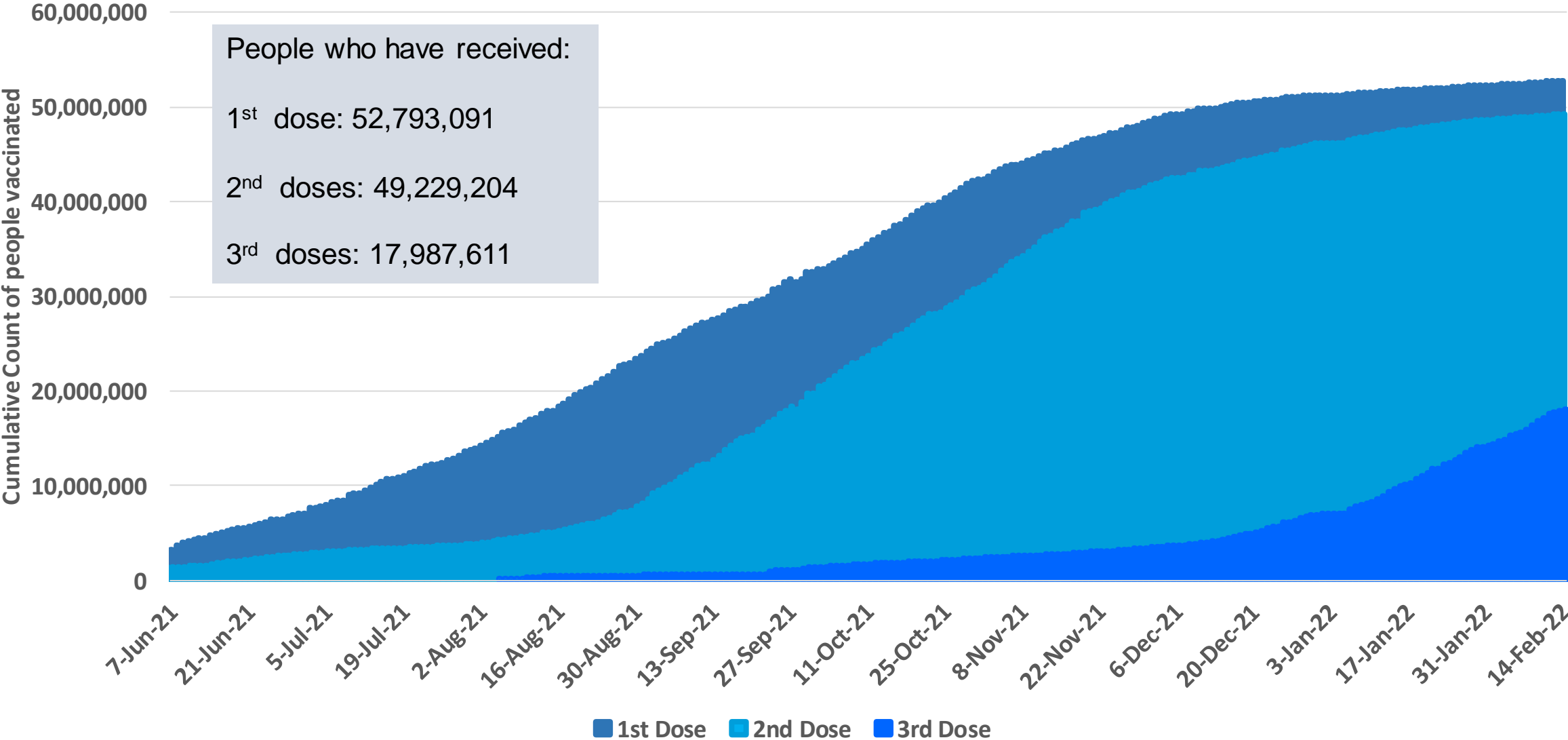


Cases per 1,000 population in Thailand from CLM Migrants (Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar)

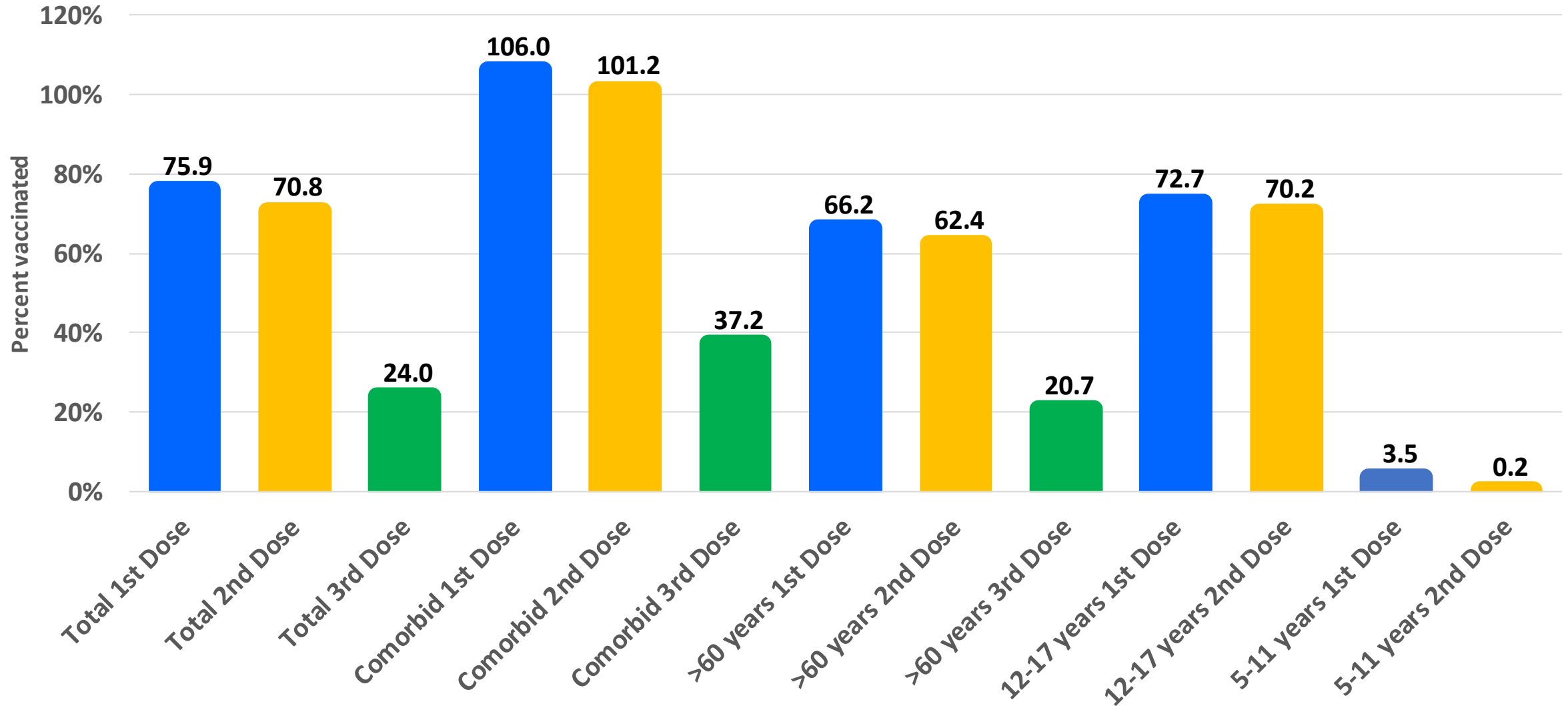


Vaccination

National COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage (to 14th February 2022)



Vaccination coverage among high risk groups & adolescents (1st dose, 2nd dose, 3rd dose)



To 13 Feb 2022

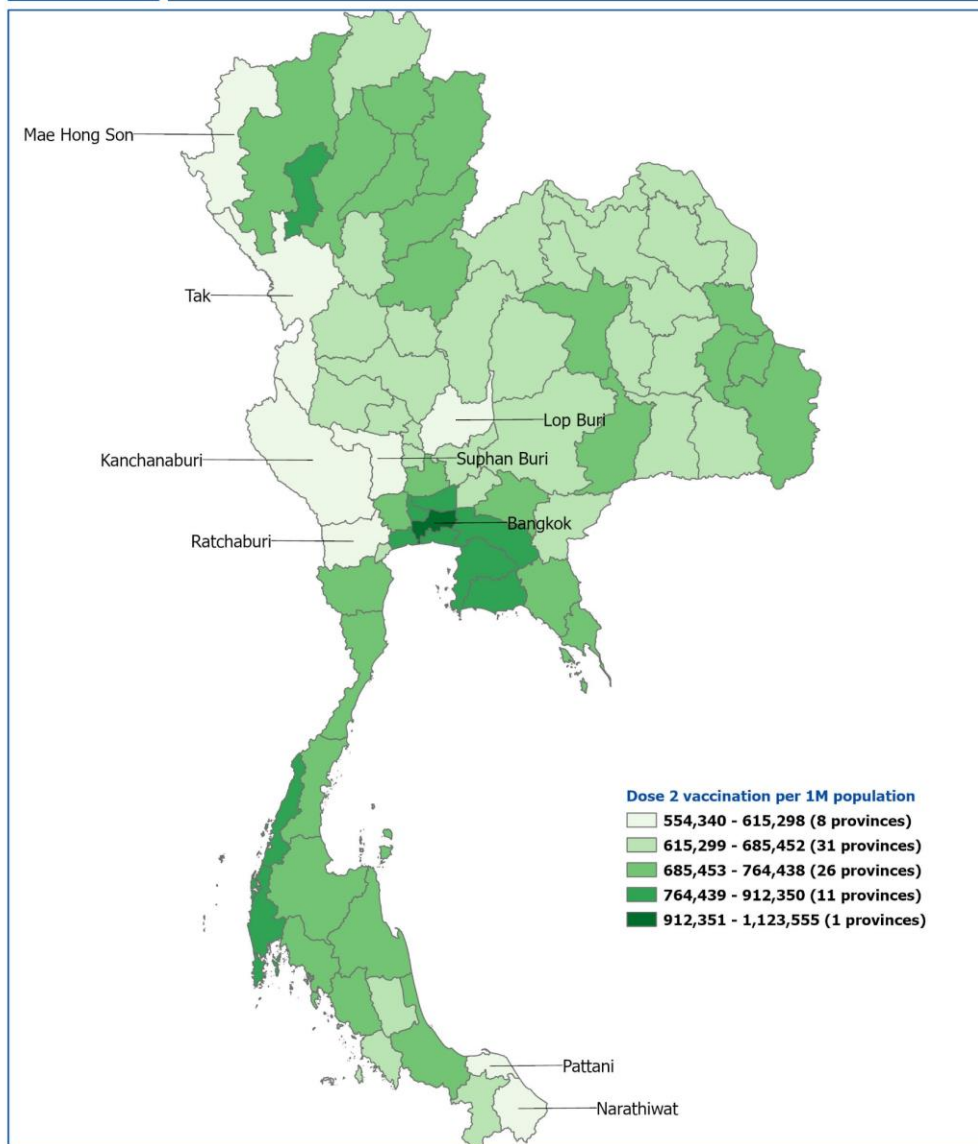
Source: MoPH

Map showing second dose coverage per million population by province as of 13 February 2022

- Two-dose vaccination coverage varies from 550,000 2nd doses per million population to greater than 1.1 million
- Per head of population, Bangkok has the highest rate of vaccination
- In the last week, vaccination coverage has increased in most of central and north-eastern Thailand.
- The lowest vaccination coverage rates remain mainly in the western border of Thailand in the provinces of Mae Hong Song, Tak, Kanchanaburi, and Ratchaburi, together with Pattani and Narathiwat in the far south.



Second dose province vaccination coverage per million population (as of 13 February 2022)



Policy Update

Thailand Vaccination Schedule

Dose 1 Vaccine	Dose 2 Vaccine	Interval from dose 2- dose 3	Dose 3 Vaccine	Interval from dose 3- dose 4	Dose 4* Vaccine
Sinovac/Sinopharm	Sinovac/Sinopharm	4 weeks	AstraZeneca	3 months	AstraZeneca
Sinovac/Sinopharm	AstraZeneca	3 months	AstraZeneca		
Sinovac/Sinopharm	Pfizer	3 months	Pfizer	3 months	Pfizer
AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca	3 months	Pfizer		
Pfizer	Pfizer	6 months	Pfizer		
AstraZeneca	Pfizer	6 months	Pfizer		
AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca	3-6 months	AstraZeneca**		

- *Dose 4 : For Healthcare Workers + Frontline workers and the general population who live in 10 pilot provinces for tourism
- **AZ +AZ+AZ is offered as alternative option. Please be aware that AZ+AZ+PF might offer stronger immune response. Six months Interval between dose 2-dose 3 will generate higher neutralizing antibody level than 3 months interval
- Moderna vaccine can be offered as the booster dose to all vaccine regimens recommended above.

Source: MoPH

Thailand Under 18 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Age Group	Vaccine	Dosage	Interval
5 – 11 yrs.	Pfizer x 2 doses	orange cap (10 micrograms/ 0.2 ml.)	8 weeks
6 – 17 yrs.	Sinovac x 2 doses	0.5 ml./ dose	4 weeks
12 -17 yrs.	Pfizer x 2 doses	purple cap (30 micrograms/ 0.3 ml.)	3-4 weeks
	Sinovac – Pfizer (under consideration for 6-11 yrs.)	Dose 1: Sinovac 0.5 ml./ dose Dose 2: purple cap Pfizer (30 micrograms/ 0.3 ml.)	4 weeks

Source: MoPH

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: Why 3rd shots are necessary for COVID-19

Do I need a booster shot? Will I need more vaccine shots in the future?

A third shot is currently recommended in Thailand because evidence is showing that immunity from two-shots is reducing over time, and because the Omicron variant is better able to evade our immune system. A booster shot will provide extra protection against severe COVID caused by the Omicron variant. It is too early to know if we will require further vaccinations to protect us against future COVID-19 variants - but we might...

Whether our immunity against a virus is acquired from natural infection or following vaccination, it is common for this immunity to wane (reduce) over time, especially if our immune system doesn't meet that virus for a long time. The actual length of time until our immunity begins to wane varies a lot with different infectious diseases. For example, vaccination against measles provides full protection for a very long time, and a single vaccination against yellow fever may last a lifetime. Because COVID-19 was only discovered in 2019, we have only been able to gather data about how our immune system works to protect us in relatively recent times. Similarly, we were only able to assess the effectiveness of vaccines (including against different COVID-19 strains) when vaccines became available and when the new strains emerged. Until omicron came along, we had good data that suggested vaccination against the previously circulating COVID-19 strains provided good protection for at least six months, including protection against severe disease, hospitalization and death.

Another reason why we sometimes need booster vaccinations against viruses is that many of them (including COVID-19) mutate pretty rapidly. If these mutations result in significant changes to the proteins on the surface of the virus, this can result in the virus evading recognition by our immune system. It's for the same reason that there's also a new influenza vaccine made available every year due to the high mutation rate of influenza viruses.

Preliminary data suggests that the available COVID-19 vaccines may have reduced effectiveness against infection by the Omicron variant compared with previously circulating COVID-19 strains. However, most importantly, the currently available vaccines still seem to be very effective in protecting people from developing *severe illnesses* from Omicron.

Therefore, the reason why WHO experts now recommend that priority should be given to offering booster doses to people at high risk of COVID-19 is for both the reasons above, 1.] because vaccine effectiveness appears to wane over time, and 2,] because of evidence that suggests reduced effectiveness of vaccines against infection caused by the Omicron variant.

All COVID-19 vaccines available in Thailand will protect you and your family against severe disease. Therefore, it is essential to take the vaccine when offered to you. It is also important that we continue to apply the simple protective measures that we know can break chains of transmission, including handwashing, respiratory hygiene, distancing, avoiding crowded places and ensuring good ventilation.



Click on the image to hear Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's COVID-19 Technical Lead, discussing potential future COVID-19 scenarios.

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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HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND OTHERS AGAINST OMICRON?

Getting vaccinated lowers the risk of serious disease from Omicron and other variants. It also helps prevent new variants.

COVID-19 vaccines are very effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalisation and death from Omicron. They also reduce your chances of getting infected, and spreading the virus to others.

In addition to getting vaccinated, it is important to keep a safe distance, wear a well-fitting mask, ventilate indoor spaces, clean your hands and cover coughs/sneezes to avoid catching and spreading the virus.

Do it all to stop COVID-19,
including getting vaccinated as soon as it's your turn



We are learning more about Omicron every day.
Find out the latest at who.int

26/1/2022