COVID-19 Situation, Thailand 2 March 2022



Based on data as reported by the CCSA

2,912,347 total confirmed cases

22,976 total deaths

Daily average reported from 22 February to 1 March 2022 (compared to the week prior)









Main messages

Increasing widespread community transmission evident across Thailand

RTG encourages COVID-free settings and booster vaccinations

Get vaccinated, maintain universal precautions and stay informed









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- Situation analysis
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All data from the Royal Thai Government and Ministry of Public Health unless otherwise stated



Situation Analysis

The average number of new community-acquired COVID-19 cases reported per day increased by 25% 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 26 February 2022 (25,615), was the highest ever reported in Thailand.

Bangkok continues to report the highest daily number of COVID cases, although the average number of new COVID-19 cases reported per day for Bangkok in the past week (3,022) is not very different from the week prior (3012).

The average daily number of all currently 'active' COVID-19 cases (204,164) over the last seven days increased by 27% compared to the previous week. The number of active cases reported today (218,784) is the highest ever reported in Thailand. However, because a greater proportion of patients are now being monitored in hospitels, community isolation and home isolation, the number of COVID cases occupying hospital beds reported today (77,444) is lower than the number in hospital at the peak of the delta wave - that occurred on 26 July, 2021, (96,038). This is also a reflection of the reduced levels of serious illness caused by the omicron strain, i.e. relatively fewer people need hospital admission.

An average of 42 daily deaths were reported in the past week, compared to 31 for the previous week.

The average daily number of severe COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (974) represents a 24% increase over the average number reported for the previous week (783). The average daily number of ventilated COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (271) represents a 39% increase over the average number reported for the previous week (195).

The rise in new COVID-19 case numbers continues to cause a significant increase in the number of severe and ventilated cases in hospitals in Thailand, although the number of seriously ill COVID-19 cases remains much lower than the numbers seen in July / August 2021. There is still currently capacity in the healthcare system to admit patients.

Although Thailand is not experiencing a very 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 that may not be reported) make it difficult to accurately monitor the situation.

Rising COVID-19 vaccination rates in Thailand continue 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 (1 March 2022)

435,626,514confirmed cases

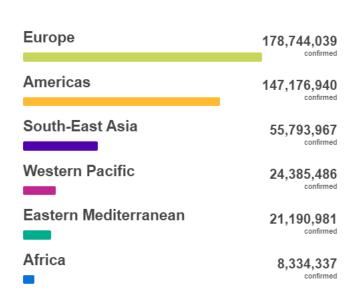
1,200,287 new cases in last 24 hours

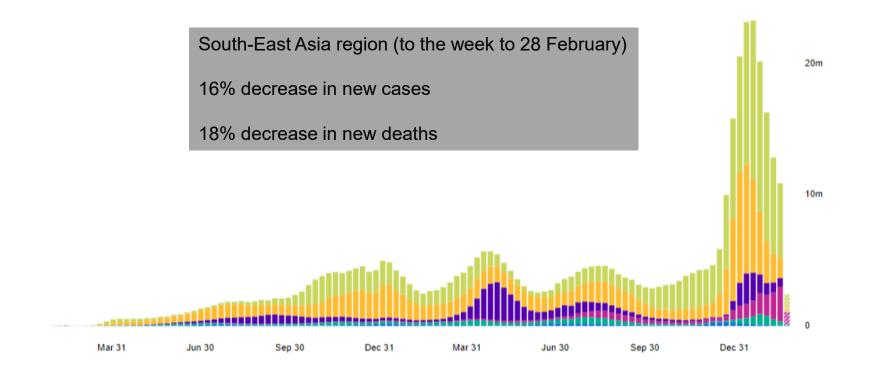
5,952,215 deaths

7,082 new deaths in last 24 hours

10,585,766,316 vaccine doses administered 4,904,935,610 persons vaccinated with at least one dose 4,327,599,641 persons fully vaccinated

Situation by WHO Region



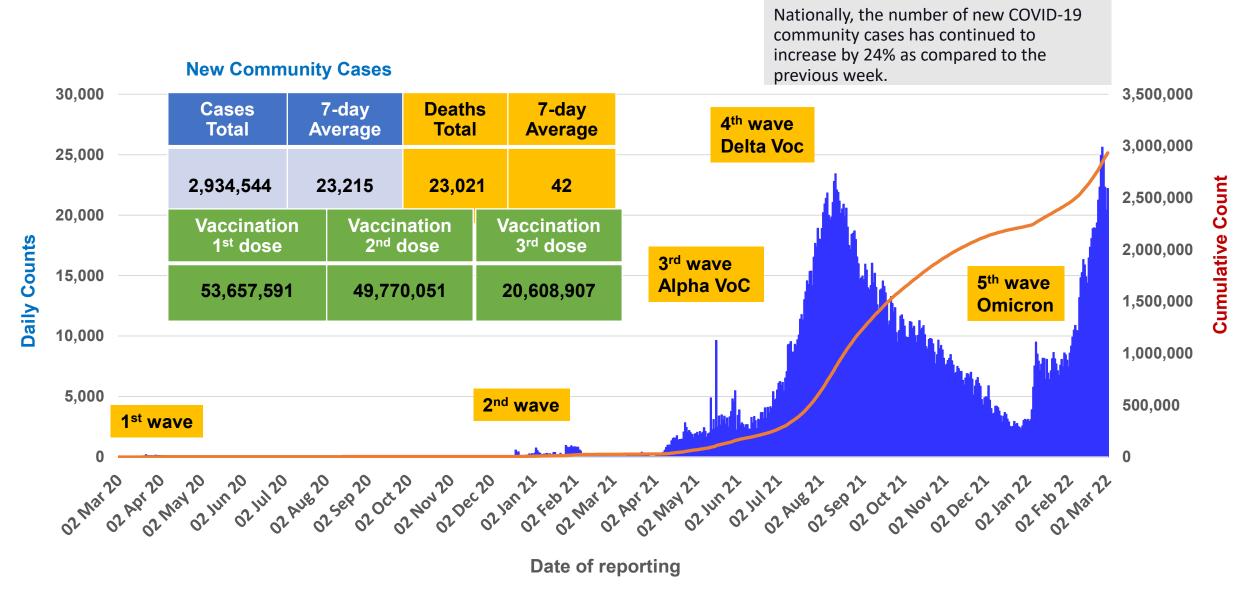




National Situation



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

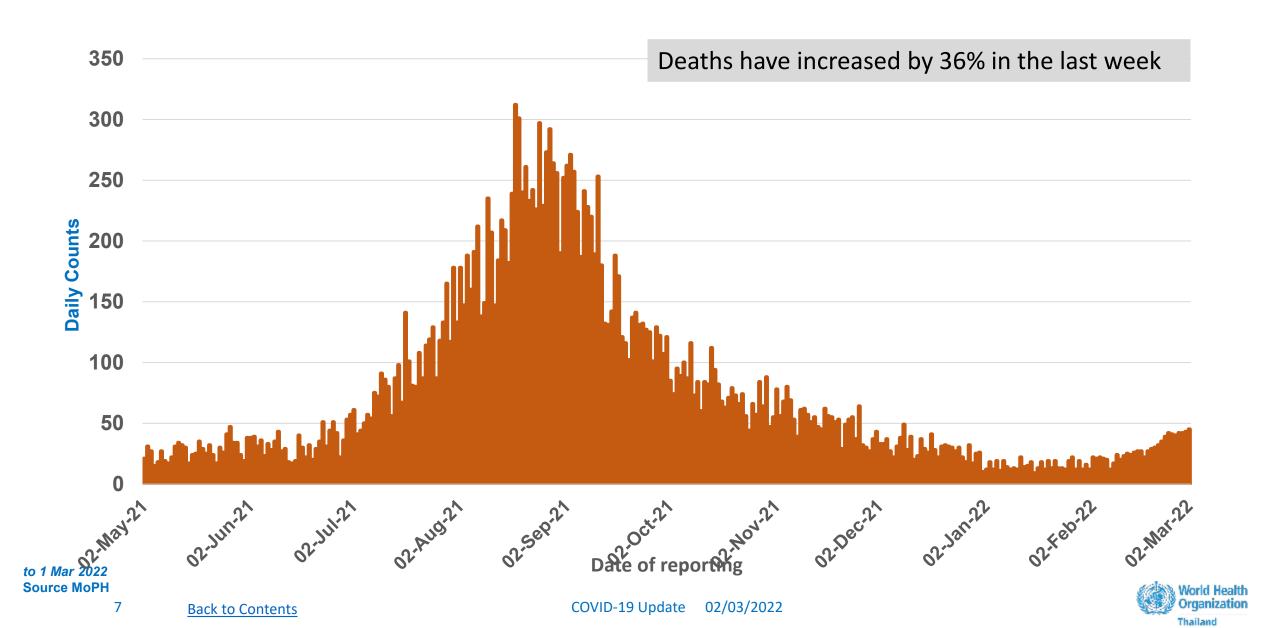


to 02 Mar 2022, source MoPH New

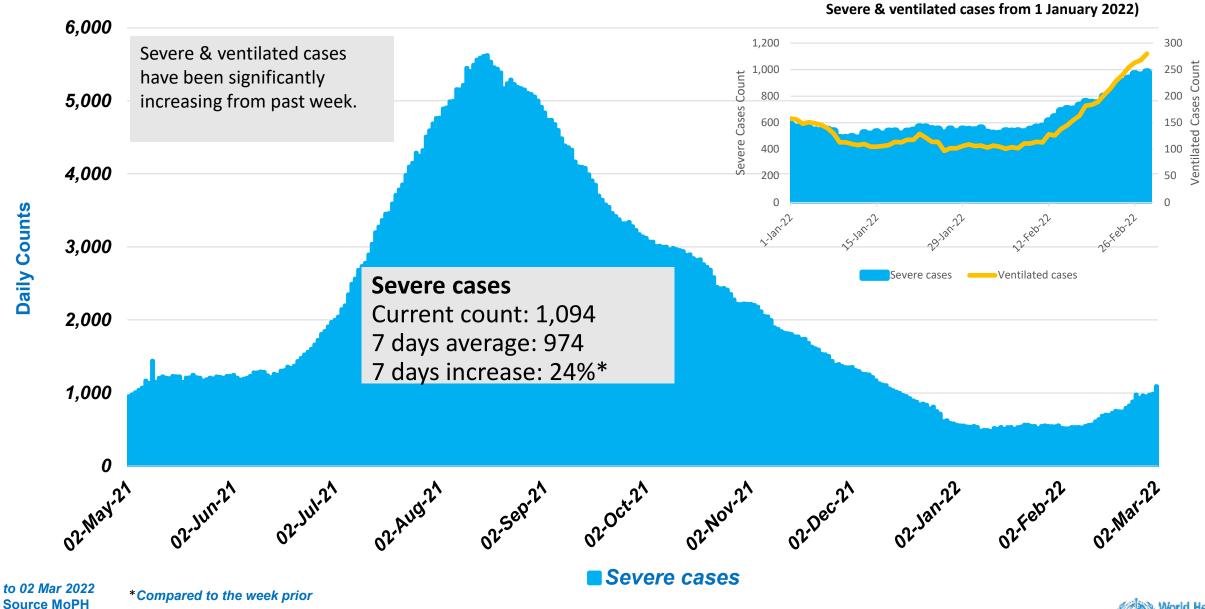
—Cumulative



Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in Thailand since April 2021

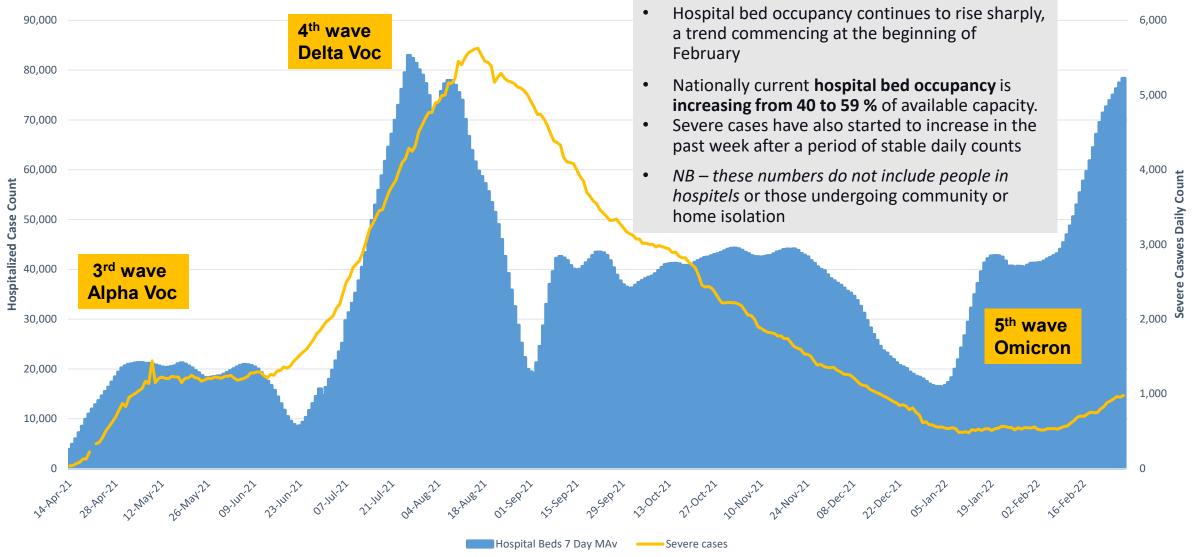


Daily severe COVID-19 cases



World Health Organization

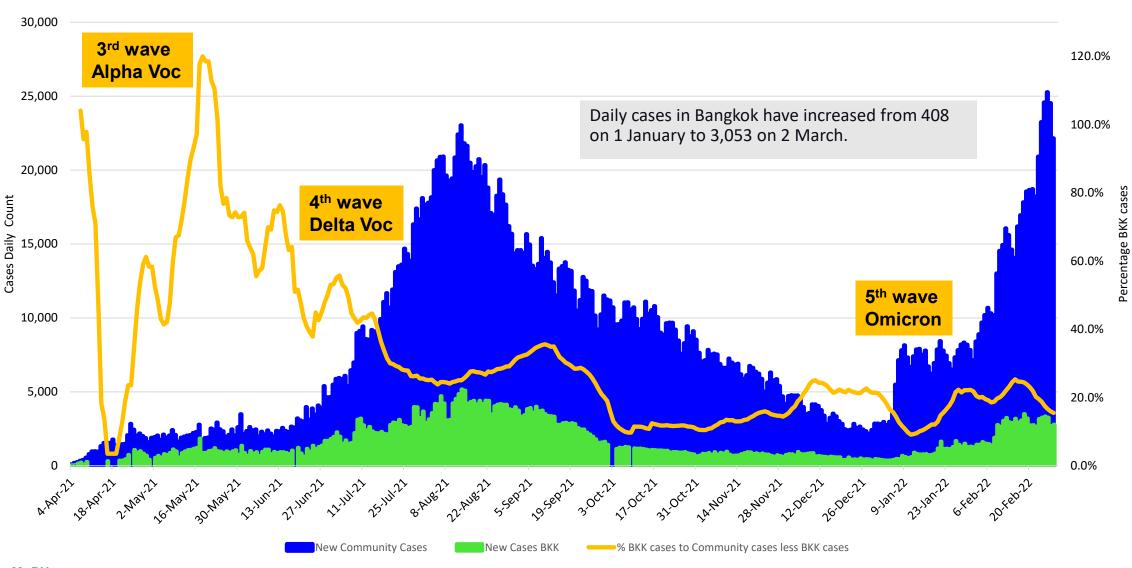
Thailand COVID-19 Hospital Bed Occupancy (7-Day Average) & Severe Cases from 1st April 2021



Provincial situation



Daily Cases in Bangkok



Source MoPH

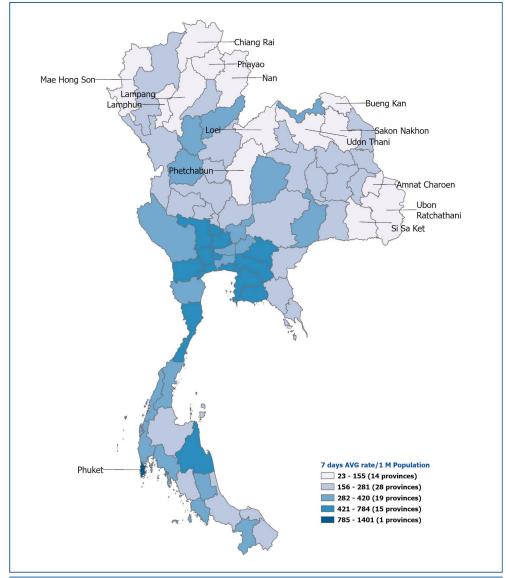


New COVID-19 cases per million population by province

- There is a wide variation in the average rate of new cases ranging from 23 to 1,401 cases per million population. Most provinces with a high rate were in the Central Region.
- The pattern of average new cases per million population per province remains similar to the previous week.
- The highest average rate of new cases continues to be reported in Phuket, with 1,401 cases per million population.
- A lower rates of cases per million population (100 cases per million or less) were reported in north and northeast provinces of Thailand.



Thailand COVID-19 new cases per million population by province from 23 February to 01 March 2022



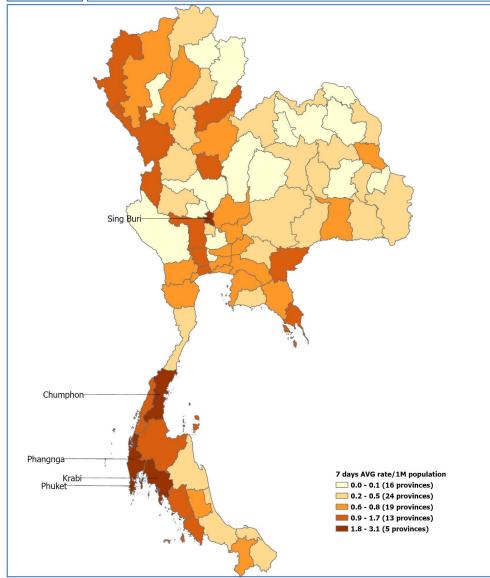
JULICE WOFF

New COVID-19 deaths per million population by province

- The average rate of deaths per million population ranged from 0 to 3.1 deaths per million population across the 77 provinces in Thailand. Thirteen out of seventy-seven provinces (17%) reported no new deaths in the week).
- Krabi reported the highest weekly average rate of deaths per million population in the past week.
- Mae Hong Song in the north as well as provinces around Bangkok, and similarly provinces around Phuket in the south, report high levels of per capita deaths.



Thailand COVID-19 new deaths per million population by province from 23 February to 01 March 2022

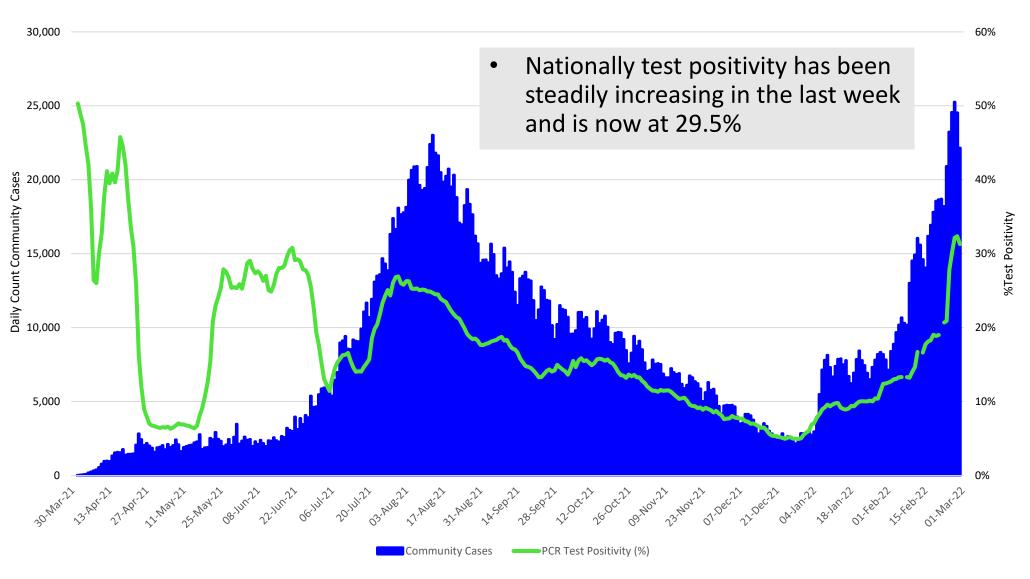


Source MoPH

COVID-19 Testing

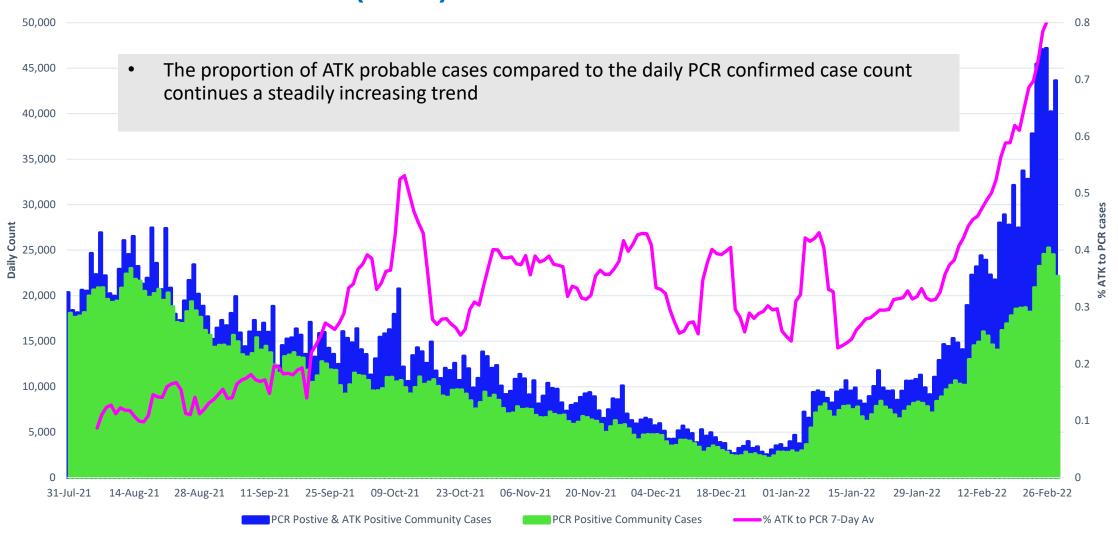


Variation in 'Test Positivity Rate' over time*



^{*}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





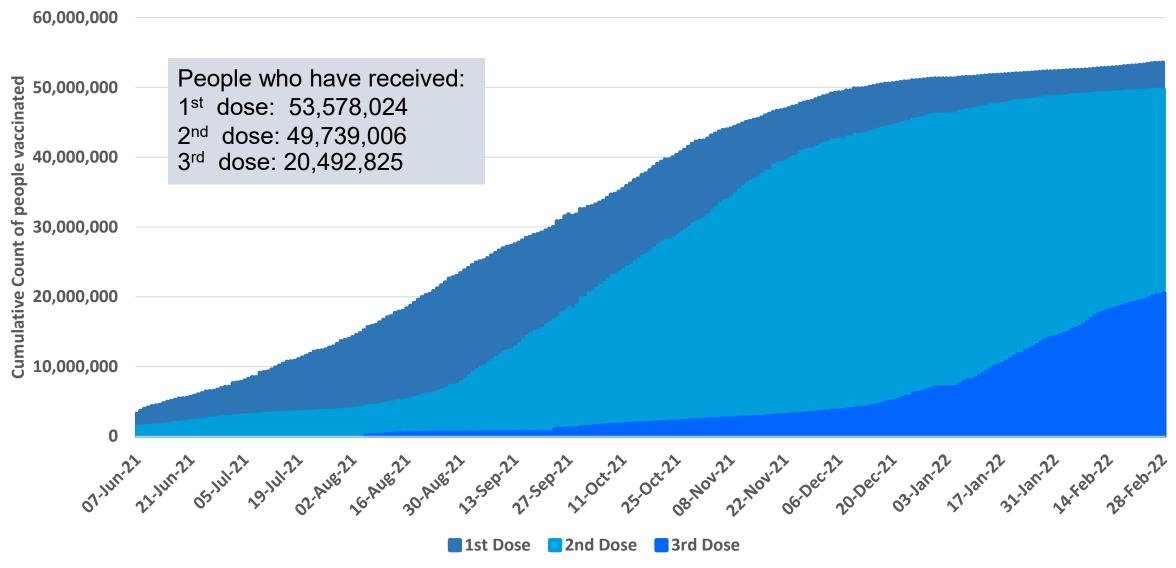
COVID-19 burden on vulnerable population groups



Vaccination

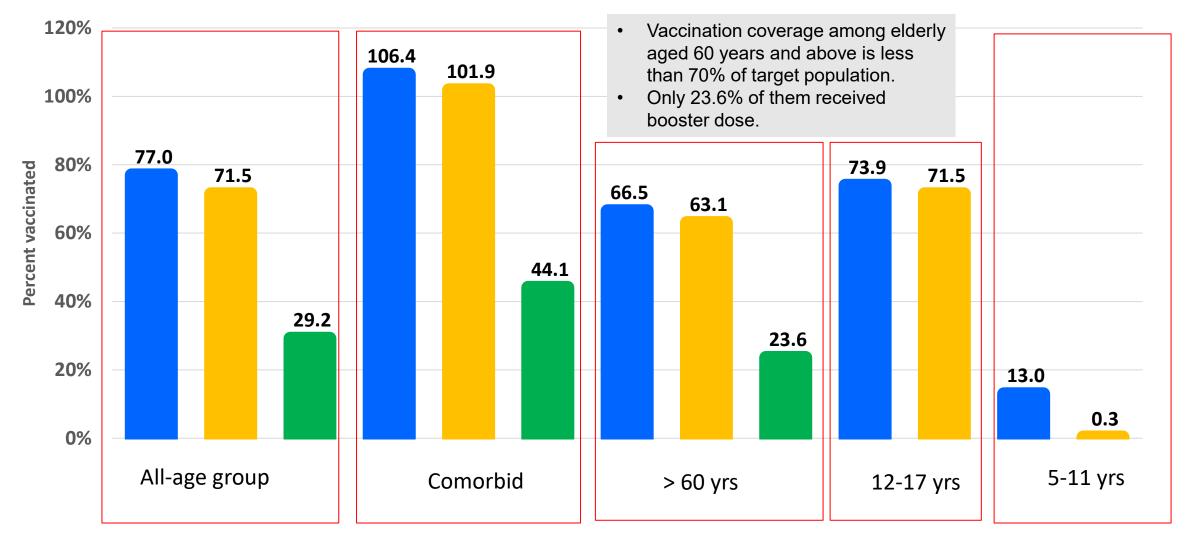


National COVID-19 vaccination coverage





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



To 27 Feb 2022 Source: MoPH Blue=1st dose Yellow=2nd dose Green= 3rd dose

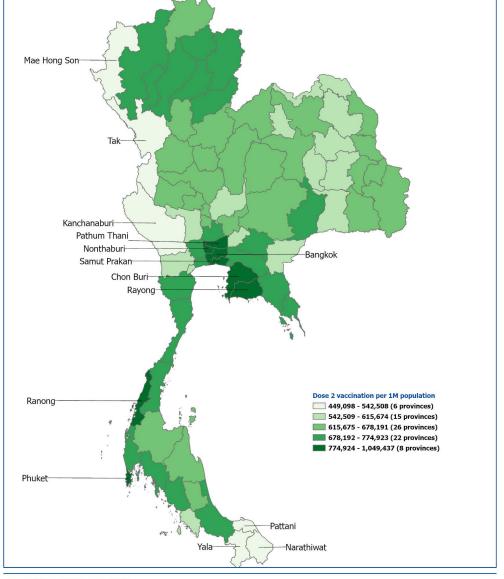


Second dose coverage per million population by province

- The number of provinces reporting higher two-dose vaccination coverage has increased compared to the previous week.
- Two-dose vaccination coverage varies from over 449,098 2nd doses per million population to 1,049,437 million doses per million population.
- The highest rate of vaccination coverage rates in Bangkok, Phuket, Ranong, and Rayong.
- The lowest vaccination coverage rates remain mainly in the western border of Thailand in the provinces of Mae Hong Song, and Tak together with Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat in the far south.



Second dose province vaccination coverage per million population (as of 27 February 2022)



WHO Thailand Country Office, IMST COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 Update 02/03/20



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



COVID-19 vaccination programme for children and adolescent

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

As of 27 February 2022



Entry Scheme into Thailand through

TEST AND GO

(Revised measures effective from 1 March 2022)

ELIGIBILITY

Fully vaccinated* travelers from all countries / territories

*Only vaccines registered by the Food and Drug Administration of Thailand or approved by the Ministry of Public Health or the WHO and received at least 14 days prior to departure



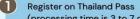
REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

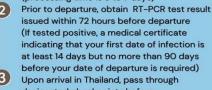


Certificate of Vaccination

- Aged 12-17 may be vaccinated with only 1 dose of vaccination
 - Unvaccinated children aged under 18 must register and travel with their parent or legal guardian
- Paid SHA Extra+ / AQ Hotel booking confirmation for 1 day including the fee for 1 RT-PCR test, 1 ATK self-test kit and airport transfer
- Insurance with minimum coverage of 20,000 USD for medical expenses (not required for Thai nationals and foreign nationals who have Thai social security / confirmation letters from employer in Thailand)

STEPS





- designated checkpoints before (airport transfer arranged by hotel) Undergo a RT-PCR test and wait for test result at your hotel
- Take ATK self-test on Day 5-6 and report the test result as instructed by the Ministry of Public Health

For further inquiries, please contact the Department of Consular Affairs (DCA) Tel. (66) 02-572-8442 (24 hours) or Email: testgo@consular.go.th. Please refer to the FAQs at www.consular.mfa.go.th and tp.consular.go.th for additional information.

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Department of Consular Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DC





- proceeding to your hotel via a sealed-route



Day 1

Test with RT-PCR and wait for the result at the hotel

Day 5-6

Self-test with ATK and report the result in the Mor-Chana application





Information as of March 1st, 2022

Source: Ministry of Public Health





EXPLAINER: Long-COVID

How common is long-COVID?

Initial reports indicate that approximately 10-20% of COVID-19 patients experience lingering symptoms for weeks to months following acute COVID-19 infection. However, this is still a new disease. We need more studies to determine the percentage of patients who have these longer-term effects.

Some people diagnosed with COVID-19 infection go on to develop a 'post-COVID-19' syndrome, with numerous lingering symptoms. This is called post COVID-19 condition or 'long COVID'. Symptoms may begin only after recovery from an acute COVID-19 infection or may occur in continuity with initial illness. Symptoms may also fluctuate or relapse over time. Post COVID condition can happen to anyone who has had COVID-19, even if the illness was mild or if they had no initial symptoms.

The 3 most common symptoms include shortness of breath,. brain fog, and fatigue. However, more than 200 symptoms have been reported. Some less commonly reported symptoms include chest pain, trouble speaking, anxiety or depression, muscle aches, fever, loss of smell and loss of taste.

Initial reports indicate that approximately 10–20% of COVID-19 patients experience lingering symptoms for weeks to months following acute SARS-CoV-2 infection. However, this is still a relatively new disease. We still need more studies to determine which people develop these longer-term effects and to better understand why the condition occurs.

WHO recommends that patients who have had COVID-19 (both confirmed and suspected) should have access to follow-up care if they have

persistent, new or changing symptoms. Care pathways should be multidisciplinary, meaning that they can include primary care providers, specialist rehabilitation professionals, social care workers, psychosocial workers and mental health professionals.

We don't have any specific treatment yet for long-COVID because we don't understand why and how it develops. However, if we can better understand the mechanism of the disease, then we may be able to develop targeted therapies.

WHO is working with researchers to address the urgent need to enhance data collection and reporting on post COVID-19 condition. The project, Post-COVID Condition Core Outcomes, will study these patients to establish what needs to be measured to understand and address the condition.



Click on the image to watch Dr Janet Diaz, WHO's Head of Clinical Care, discuss the common symptoms of Long COVID and whether there's any treatment for it, in Science in 5 on Post COVID Condition.



USEFUL LINKS

- The Thailand COVID19 situation report is available in Thai and English, please <u>visit</u>
- For regular updates on WHO's response in Thailand, please <u>visit</u>
- For global figures and technical advice from WHO, please <u>visit</u>

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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.



