

COVID-19 Situation, Thailand

9 March 2022

3,088,873 total confirmed cases

23,438 total deaths

Daily average reported from 03 February to 9 March 2022 (compared to the week prior)

 21,873 new community cases (23,111) ↓ 5%

 60 deaths (42) ↑ 43%

 21,587 people recovered (16,897) ↑ 28%

 166,066 vaccinations (264,440) ↓ 36%

Main messages

| Ongoing 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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All data from the Royal Thai Government and Ministry of Public Health unless otherwise stated

Situation Analysis

The average number of new laboratory-confirmed (PCR positive) community-acquired COVID-19 cases reported per day decreased by 5% in the past 7 days compared to the previous week. Although the daily reported confirmed case numbers appear to have plateaued, case numbers remain very high. In addition, not all probable (ATK positive) cases are subsequently confirmed by PCR testing, and the average number of probable (ATK positive) cases reported per day over the last 7 days (30,564) has increased by 46% compared to the week before (20,963)

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 (2,766) is 8% less than the week prior (3022).

The average daily number of all currently 'active' COVID-19 cases (227,071) over the last seven days increased by 15% compared to the previous week, although the number has decreased over the past 2 days because there were more recoveries than new cases. In addition, because a greater proportion of patients are now being monitored in hospitals, community isolation and home isolation, the average number of COVID cases occupying hospital beds per day over the past week (72,500) is 9% lower than the average daily number reported for the week prior (79,965). 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 60 daily deaths were reported in the past week, compared to 42 for the previous week.

The average daily number of severe COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (1,150) represents an 18% increase over the average number reported for the previous week (974). The average daily number of ventilated COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (366) represents a 39% increase over the average number reported for the previous week (271).

The recent 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 huge 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) makes 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 (8 March 2022)

446,511,318 confirmed cases

1,172,188 new cases in last 24 hours

6,004,421 deaths

4,993 new deaths in last 24 hours

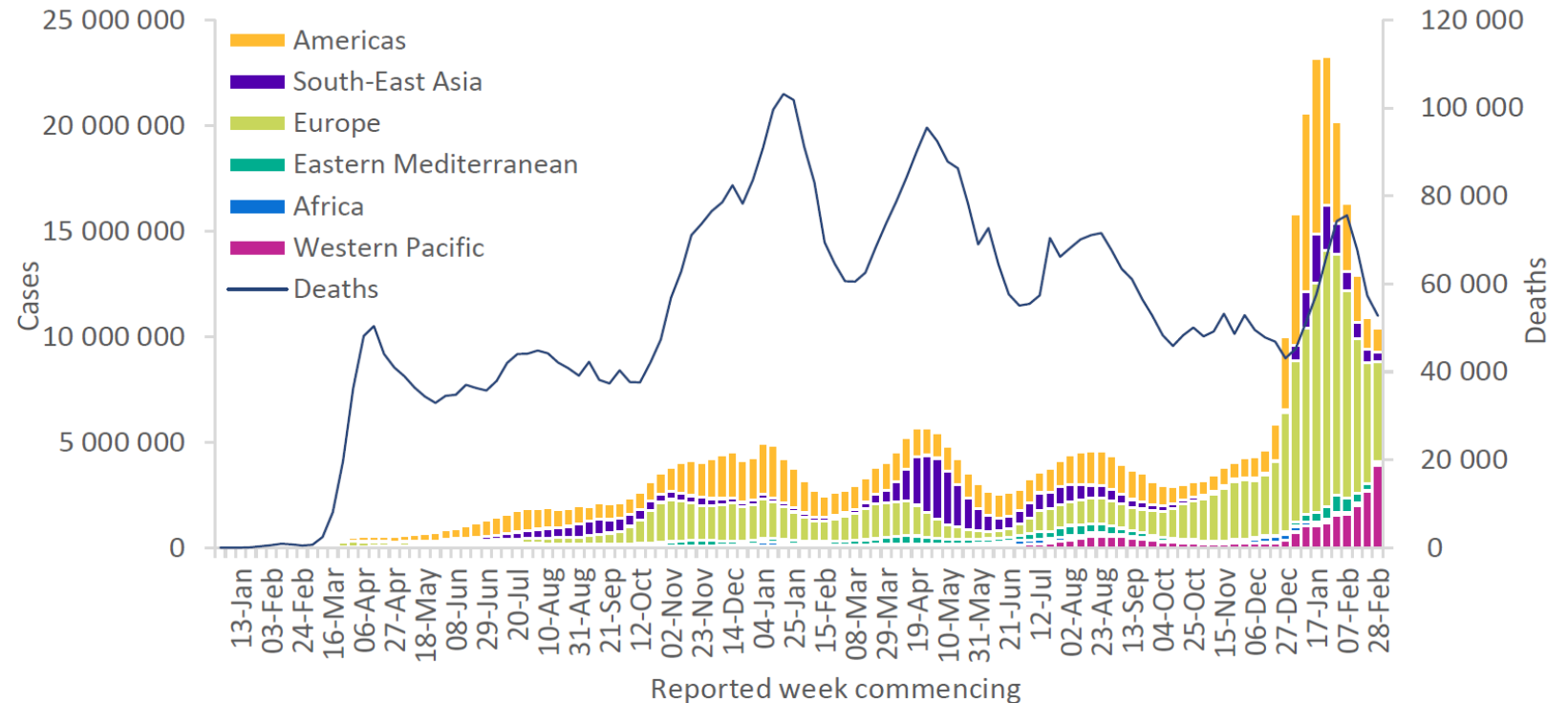
10,704,043,684 vaccine doses administered
4,964,626,775 persons vaccinated with at least one dose
4,377,548,164 persons fully vaccinated

South-East Asia region

30.9% decrease in new cases

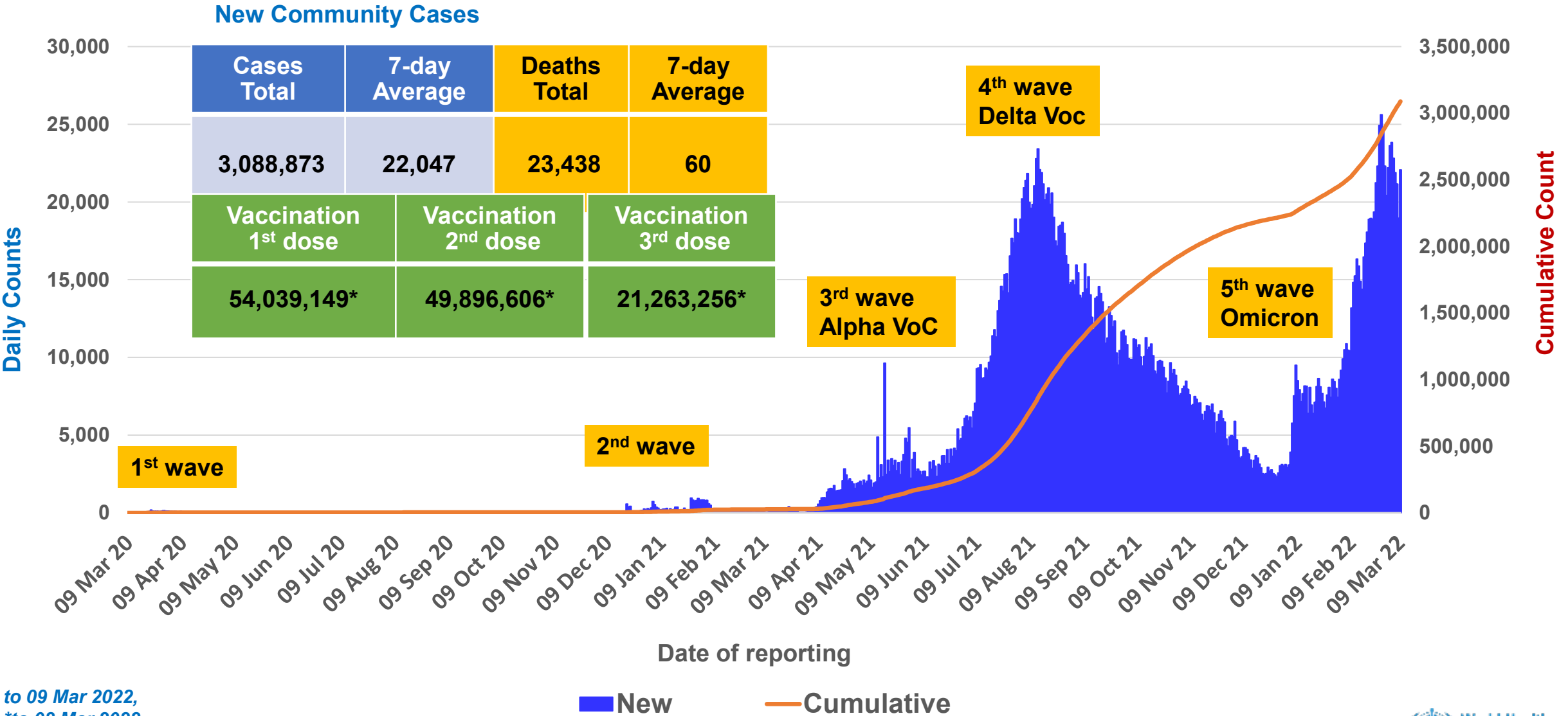
3.2% decrease in new deaths

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 6 March 2022**



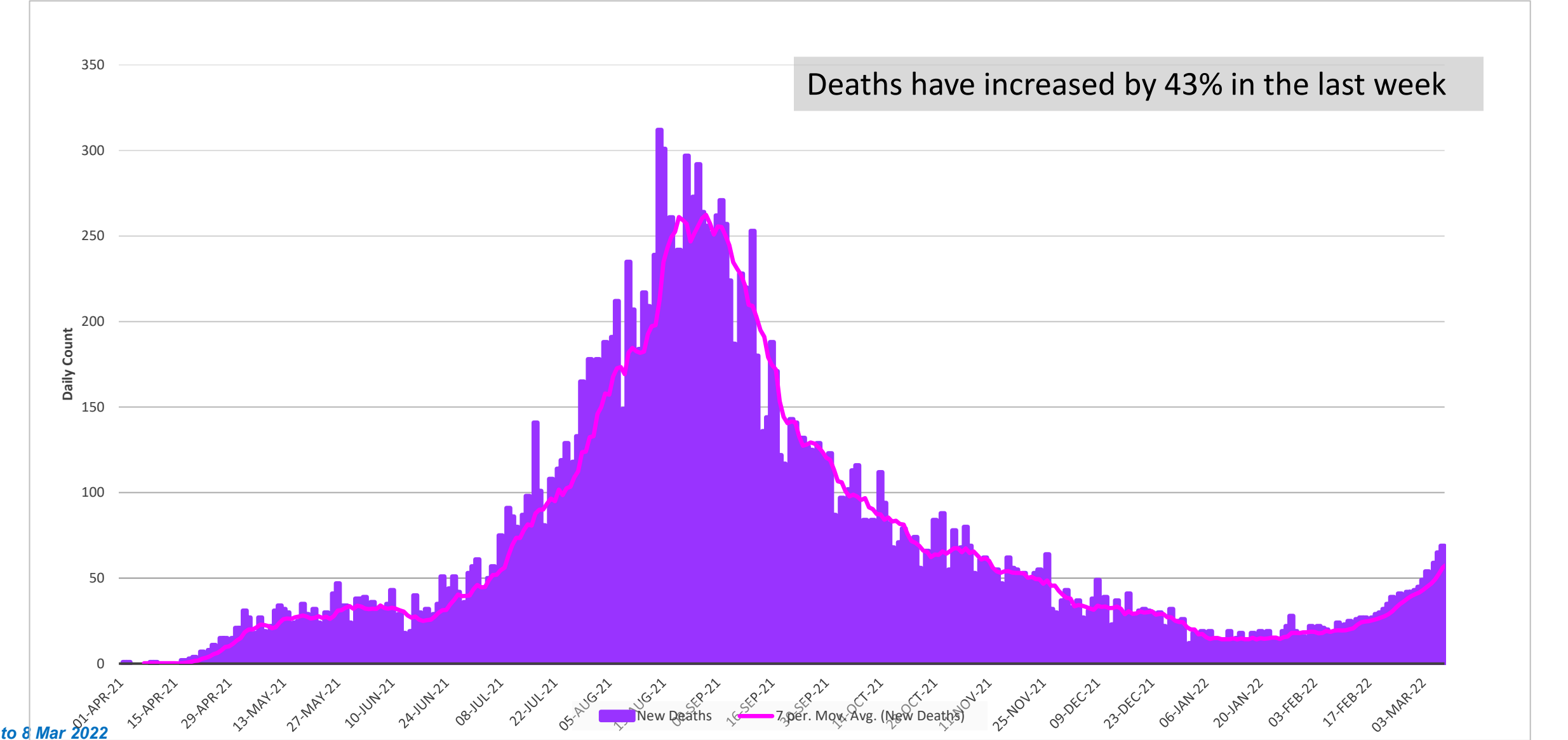
National Situation

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

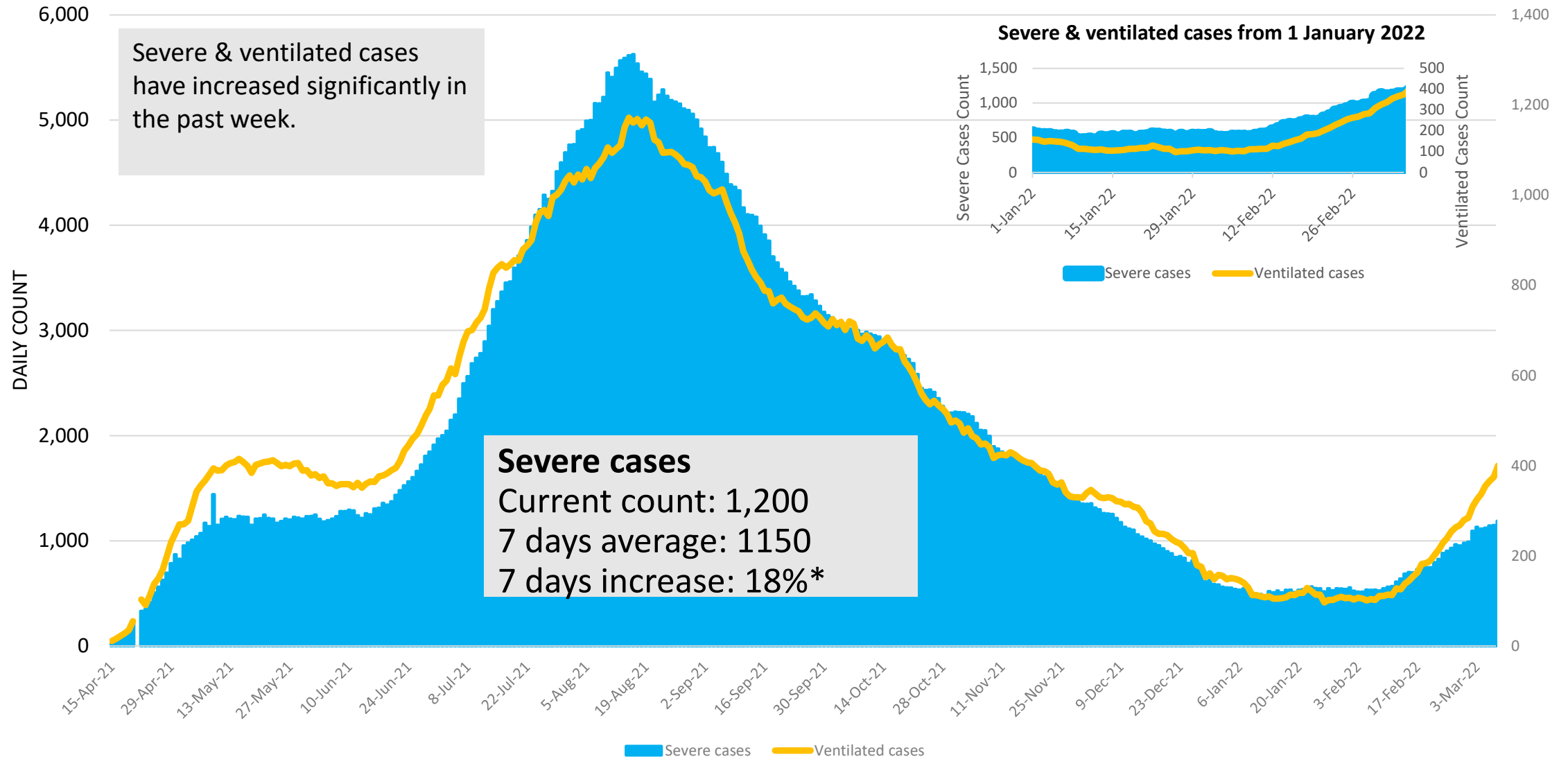


to 09 Mar 2022,
*to 08 Mar 2022
source MoPH

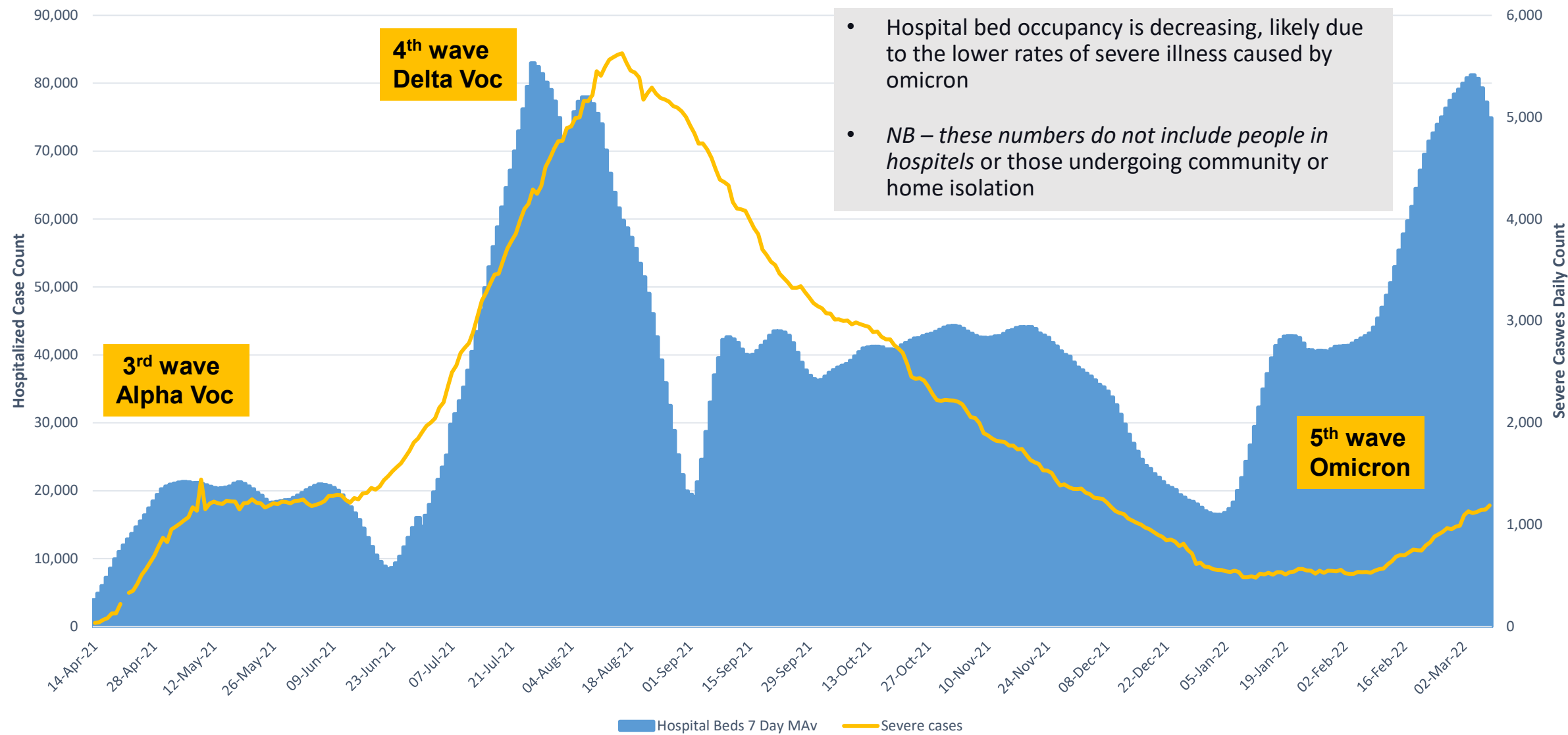
Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in Thailand since April 2021



Daily severe and ventilated COVID-19 cases

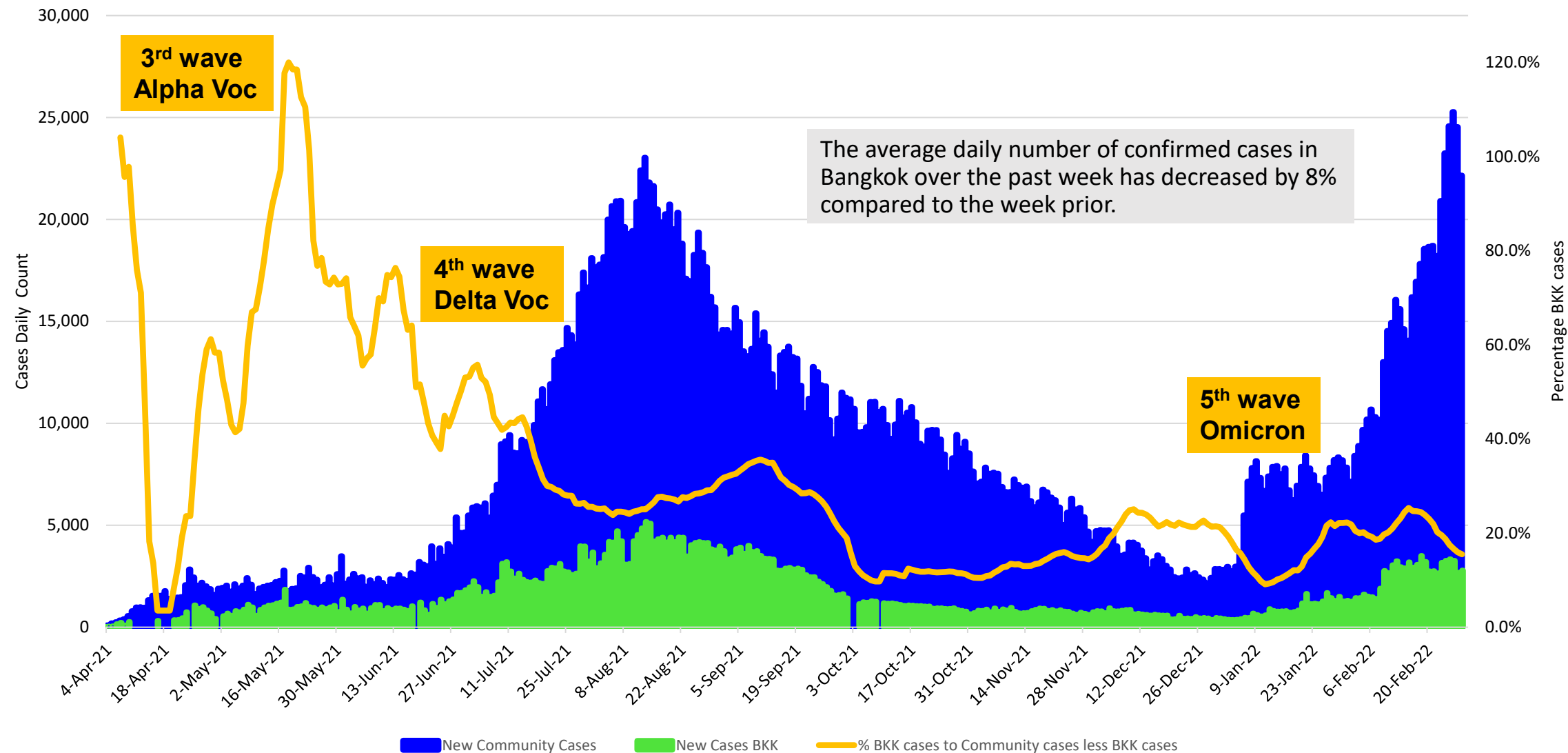


COVID-19 Hospital Bed Occupancy (7-day average) & Severe Cases



Provincial situation

Daily COVID-19 Cases in Bangkok



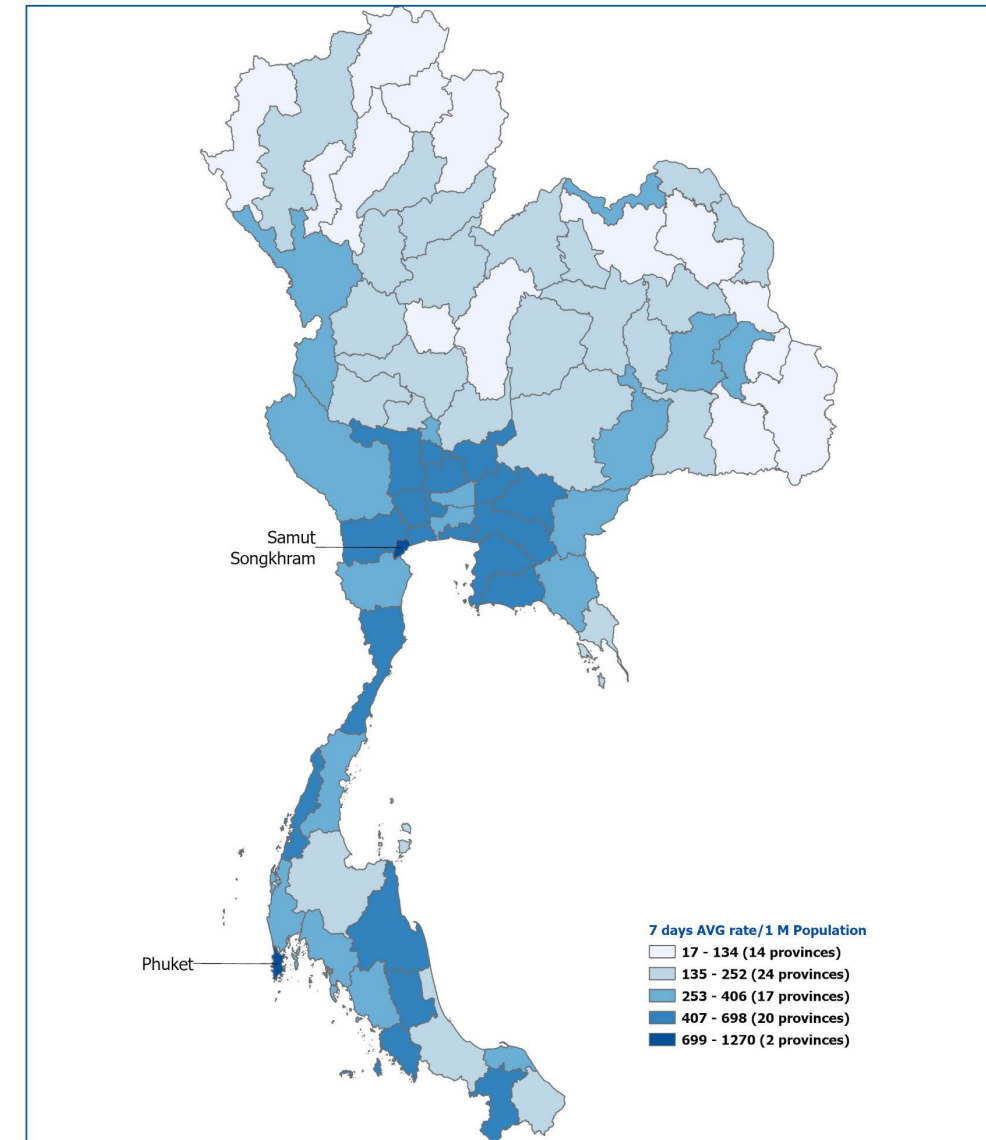
Source: MoPH

New COVID-19 cases per million population by province

- There is a wide variation in the average rate of new cases ranging from 17 to 1,270 cases per million population. Most provinces with a high rate were in the Central and Southern Region.
- The highest average rate of new cases continues to be reported in Phuket, with 1,270 cases per million population.
- A lower rates of cases per million population (100 cases per million or less) were reported in northern provinces of Thailand.



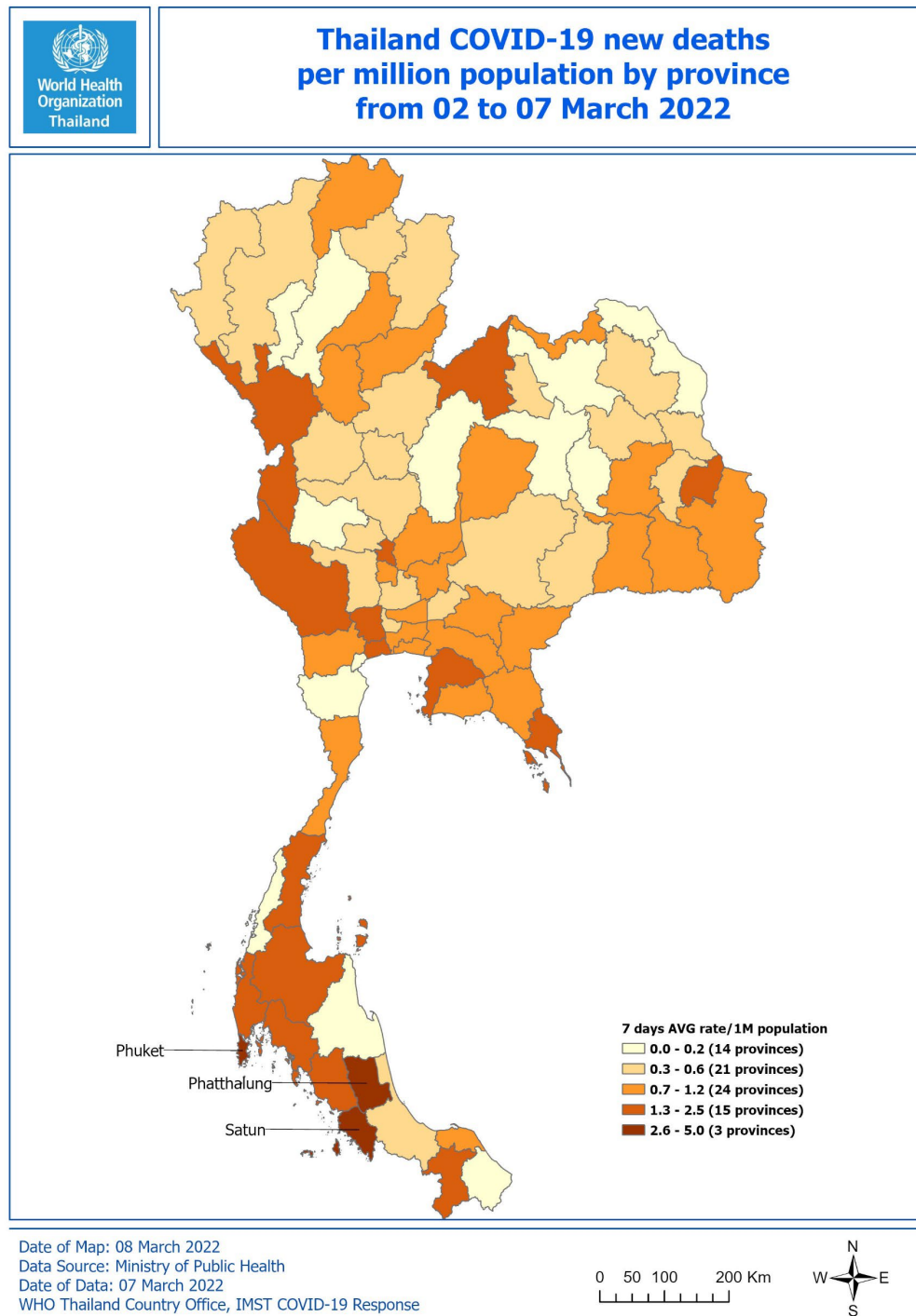
Thailand COVID-19 new cases per million population by province from 02 to 07 March 2022



New COVID-19 deaths per million population by province

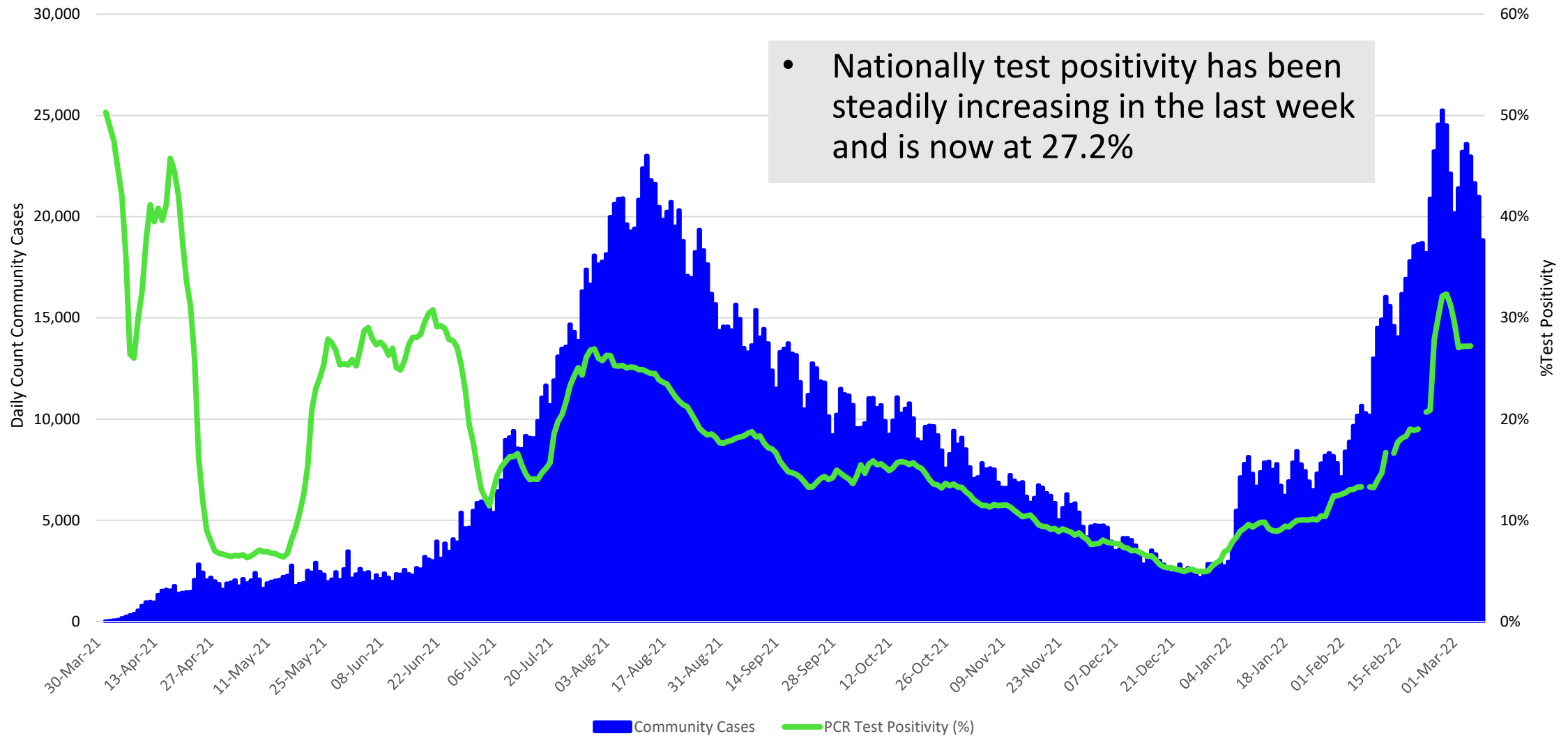
- The average rate of deaths per million population over the past week ranged from 0 to 4.9 deaths per million population across the 77 provinces in Thailand. 8 provinces reported no new deaths in the past week.
- Phuket reported the highest weekly average rate of deaths per million population in the past week.
- Satun and Phatthalung in the south both reported high levels of deaths per capita in the past week.

Source MoPH



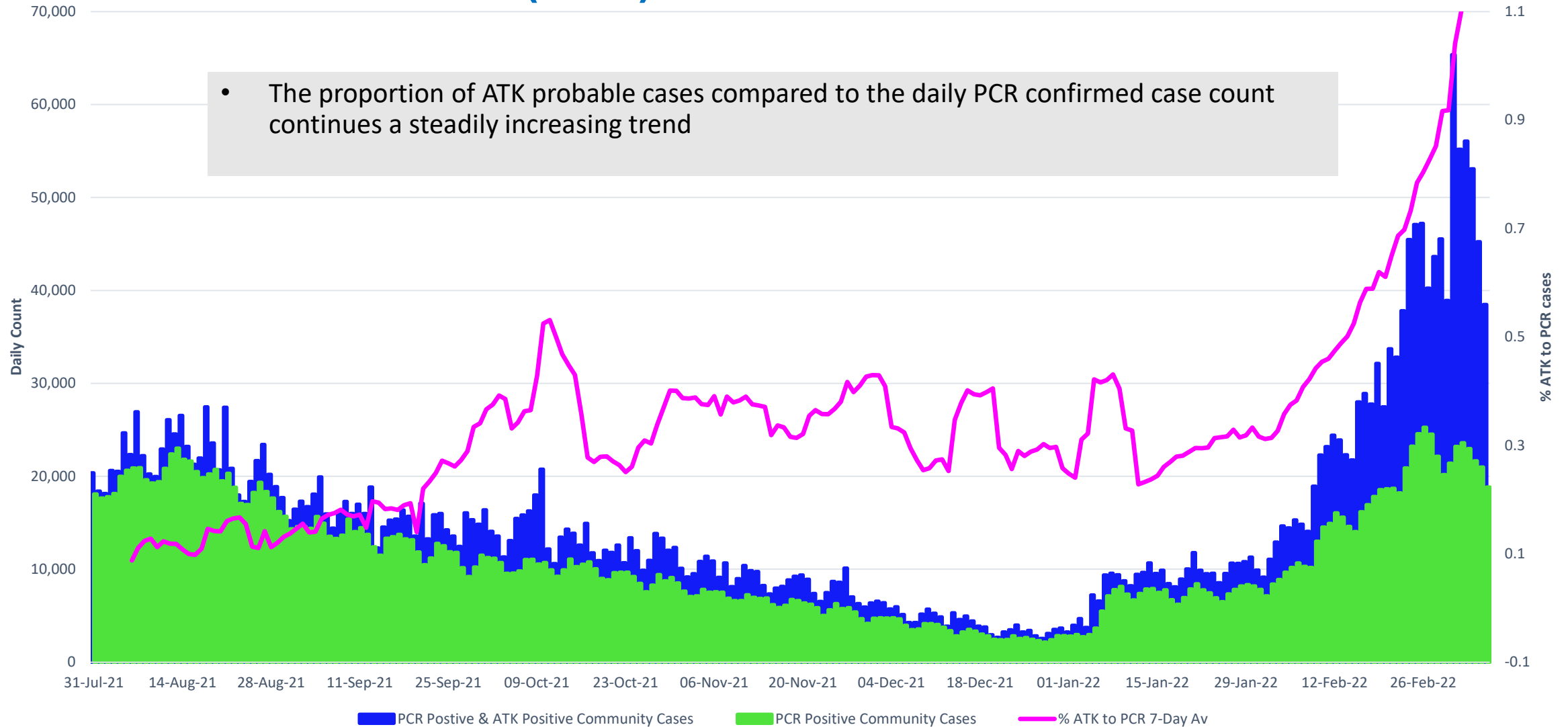
COVID-19 Testing

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



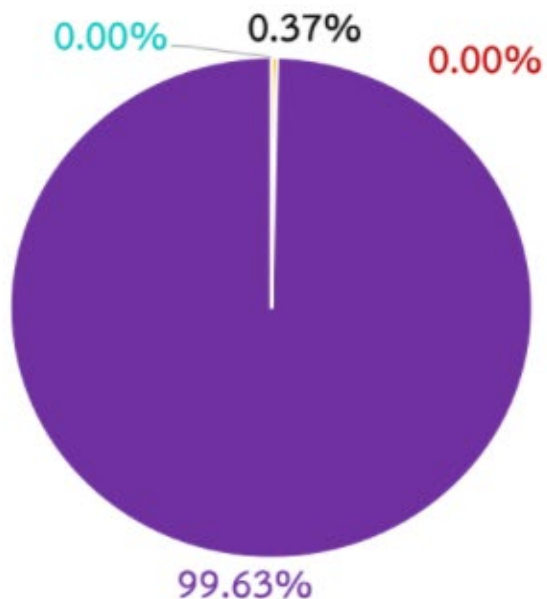
SARS-CoV-2 variants surveillance (DMSc)

(29 JAN – 04 MAR 2022)

Random selection for variants surveillance

Method

SNP genotyping by
real-time RT-PCR

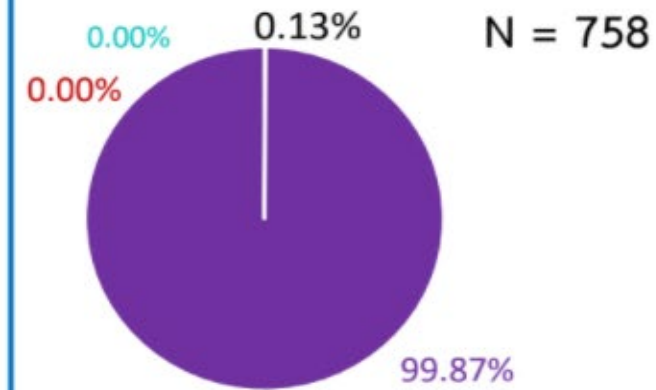


All of Thailand

N = 1,905

- B.1.1.7 (Alpha)
- B.1.617 (Delta)
- B.1.351 (Beta)
- B.1.1529 (Omicron)

Bangkok



N = 758

Not Bangkok

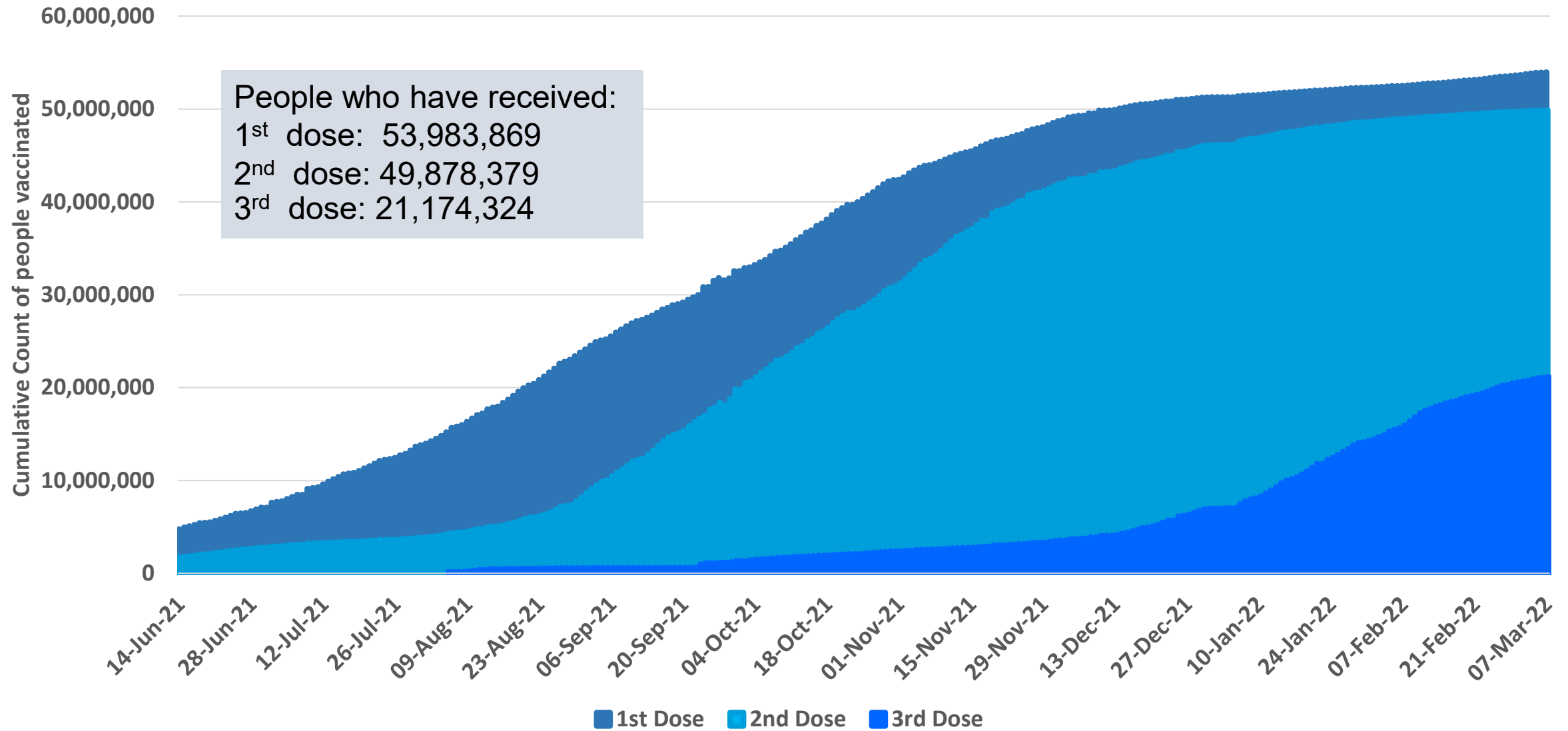


N = 1,147

Omicron is the dominant 'variant of concern' in Thailand.

Vaccination

National COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage

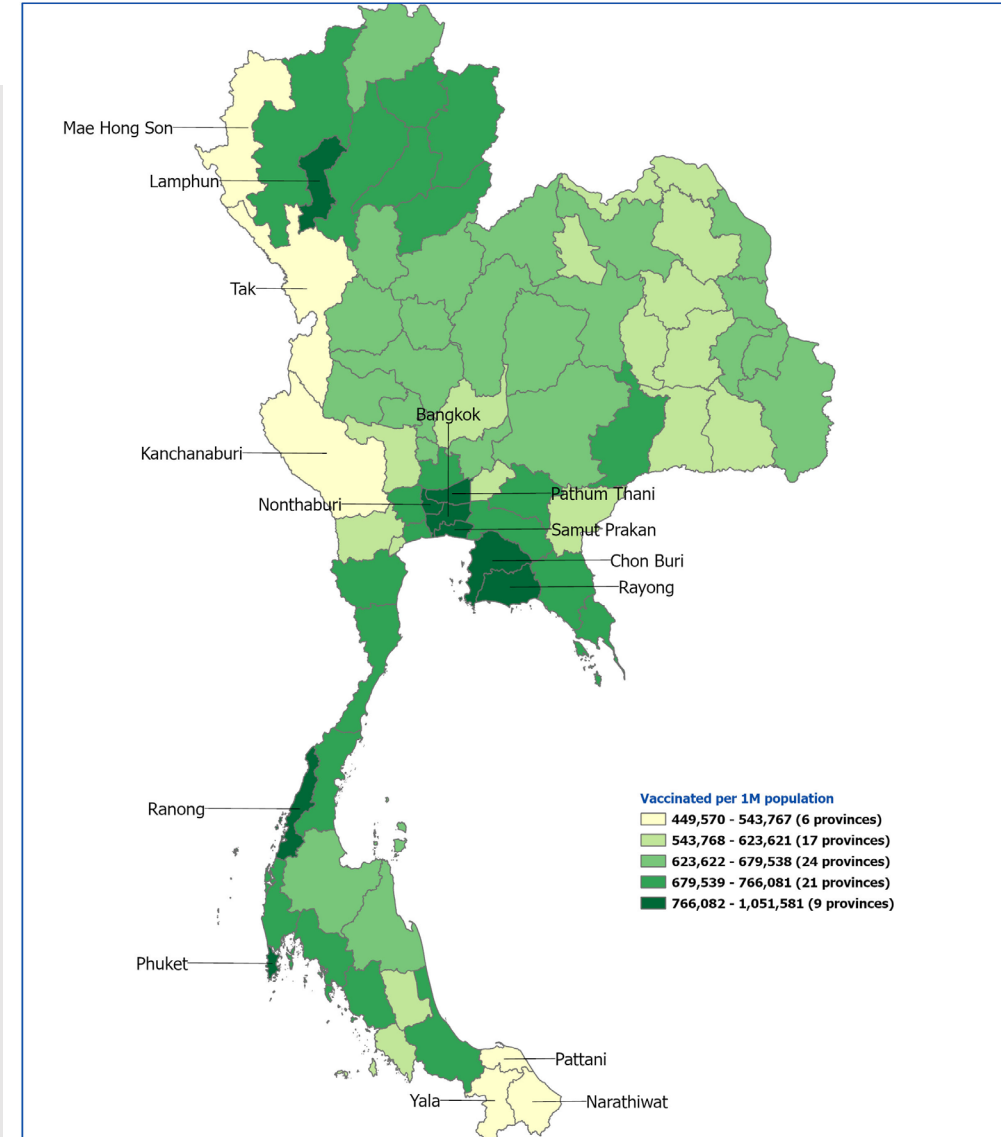


Second dose coverage per million population by province

- The number of provinces reporting higher two-dose vaccination coverage has slightly increased compared to the previous week.
- Two-dose vaccination coverage varies from over 449,570 per million population (45%) to 1,051,581 per million population (100%)
- The highest rate of vaccination coverage rates in Bangkok, Phuket, Prathum Thani, Samut Prakan, Ranong, and Rayong.
- 24 out of 77 provinces had 2nd dose vaccine coverage above 70%.
- The lowest vaccination coverage rates are in border provinces including Mae Hong Song in the north and Pattani and Narathiwat in the far south.



Second dose province vaccination coverage per million population (as of 06 March 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

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



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

- 1 Passport
- 2 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
- 3 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
- 4 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

- 1 Register on Thailand Pass (processing time is 3 to 7 days)
- 2 Prior to departure, obtain RT-PCR test result issued within 72 hours before departure (If tested positive, a medical certificate indicating that your first date of infection is at least 14 days but no more than 90 days before your date of departure is required)
- 3 Upon arrival in Thailand, pass through designated checkpoints before proceeding to your hotel via a sealed-route (airport transfer arranged by hotel)
- 4 Undergo a RT-PCR test and wait for test result at your hotel
- 5 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.

Department of Consular Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Vaccination Criteria for Travellers into Thailand (Test and Go** / Sandbox*)



Travellers aged below 6



- Vaccination not required
- Not required to present a RT-PCR test result upon arrival
- Must travel with parents or legal guardian
- Once in Thailand, undergo COVID-19 test using saliva testing technique

Travellers aged 6 - 11



- Vaccination not required
- Present a RT-PCR test result (issued within 72 hours before departure) upon arrival
- Must travel with parents or legal guardian

Travellers aged 12 - 17



- Able to travel alone if vaccinated with 1 dose of vaccine no less than 14 days before travelling
- If unvaccinated, must travel with parents
- Present a RT-PCR test result (issued within 72 hours before departure) upon arrival

Travellers aged 18 or over



- Fully vaccinated no less than 14 days before travelling
- Present a RT-PCR test result (issued within 72 hours before departure) upon arrival

* List of Countries/territories that may enter Test and Go

** All Countries/territories



Call Center
Department of Consular Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

02-572-8442



EXPLAINER:

Mental Health and COVID-19

Q: I'm feeling stressed and lonely during the pandemic. What should I do?

A: If you feel lonely, try to regularly connect with people close to you by telephone and online channels and talk about your feelings with them. Try going out into nature if you can do so safely. Try to keep physically active, avoid alcohol and maintain a healthy diet.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, people have become worried and stressed due to the new realities of working from home, home-schooling of children, and lack of contact with other family members, friends and colleagues. Some people have suffered a loss of income or become unemployed. Adapting to lifestyle changes, and managing the fear of contracting the virus, can be challenging for anyone. They can be even tougher for people with mental health conditions.

Fear, worry, and stress are normal responses to perceived or actual threats. They are also common when we face uncertainty or the unknown. So it is normal and understandable that people are experiencing fear in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is estimated that in the first year of the pandemic, the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by more than 25%, according to WHO's brief 'Mental Health and COVID-19: Early evidence of the pandemic's impact,' released on March 2, 2022. The report shows that COVID-19 has taken a heavy toll on mental health.

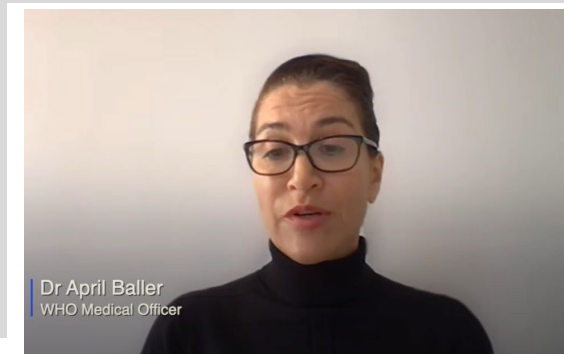
The increase was attributed to the unprecedented stress and loneliness caused by the social isolation resulting from the public health and social measures (PHSM). Fear of infection, suffering or death for oneself and for loved ones, grief after bereavement and financial worries have also been cited as stressors leading to anxiety and depression. Among health workers, exhaustion has been a significant trigger for suicidal thinking.

The brief also pointed out that young people are disproportionately at risk of

suicidal and self-harming behaviours during the pandemic. Moreover, women have been more severely impacted than men. People with pre-existing physical health conditions, such as asthma, cancer and heart disease, were also more likely to develop symptoms of mental disorders.

Although people with pre-existing mental disorders do not appear to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 infection, when they become infected, they are more likely to suffer from severe illness and death compared with people without mental disorders. People with more severe mental disorders, such as psychoses, and young people with mental disorders, are particularly at risk.

If you feel lonely or depressed, remember that social contact is essential. If your movements are restricted, regularly connect with people close to you by telephone and online channels and talk about your feeling with them. Join online activities that focus on something you enjoy. Try going out into nature if you can do so safely. Connecting with the outside world can boost your mental health and wellbeing. If your feelings become overwhelming, seek advice from a mental health specialist.



Click on the image to watch Science in 5 where WHO's Dr April Baller talks about how to care for yourself or your loved one at home if you or your loved ones infected with COVID19.

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

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www.who.int/thailand



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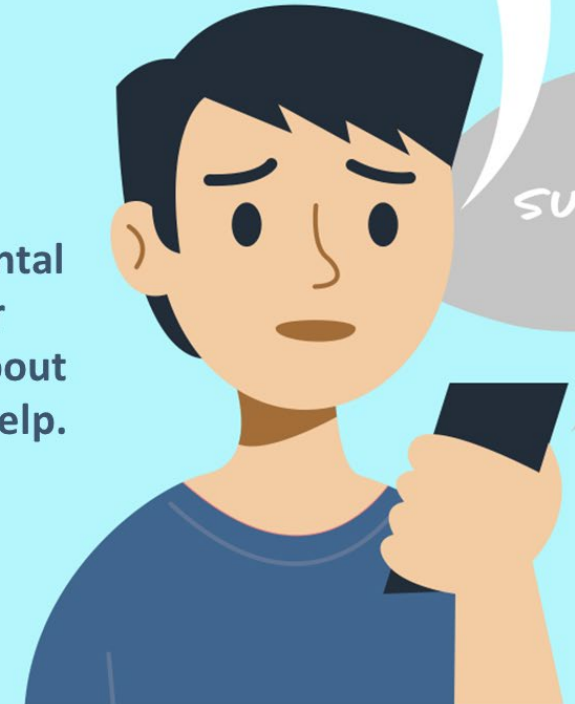
The stress and adversity during this time can increase the risk for depression.

If you are feeling sad, hopeless and having thoughts of harming yourself, talk to a mental health professional or someone you trust about your feelings. It will help.

#MentalHealth

CAN WE TALK?

SURE!!!



#COVID19 #coronavirus

