

COVID-19 Situation, Thailand

16 March 2022

3,250,642 total confirmed cases

23,918 total deaths

Daily average reported from 10 to 16 March 2022 (compared to the week prior)

 22,676 new community cases (21,873)  5%

 69 deaths (60)  43%

 22,986 people recovered (21,587)  28%

 176,036 vaccinations (166,086)  6%

Main messages

| Ongoing widespread community transmission of COVID-19 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 increased by only 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. The average number of probable (ATK positive) cases reported per day over the last 7 days (23,533) has decreased by 23% compared to the week before (30,564), but also remains very high.

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 (3,111) is 12% higher than the week prior (2,766).

The average daily number of all currently 'active' COVID-19 cases (223,159) over the last seven days decreased by 2% compared to the previous week. A greater proportion of patients continue to be monitored in hospitals, community isolation and home isolation. The average number of COVID cases occupying hospital beds per day over the past week (62,928) is 13% lower than the average daily number reported for the week prior (72,500). 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 69 daily deaths were reported in the past week, compared to 60 for the previous week. (an increase of 15%)

The average daily number of severe COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (1,324) represents a 15% increase over the average number reported for the previous week (1,150). The average daily number of ventilated COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (449) also represents a 23% increase over the average number reported for the week prior (366).

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, both the policy of not confirming by PCR testing all probable cases, as well as the widespread use of rapid antigen tests (including those available 'over the counter that may not be reported) continues 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 (15 March 2022)

458,479,635 confirmed cases

1,413,309 new cases in last 24 hours

6,047,653 deaths

3,805 new deaths in last 24 hours

10,712,423,741 vaccine doses administered

4,971,908,748 persons vaccinated with at least one dose

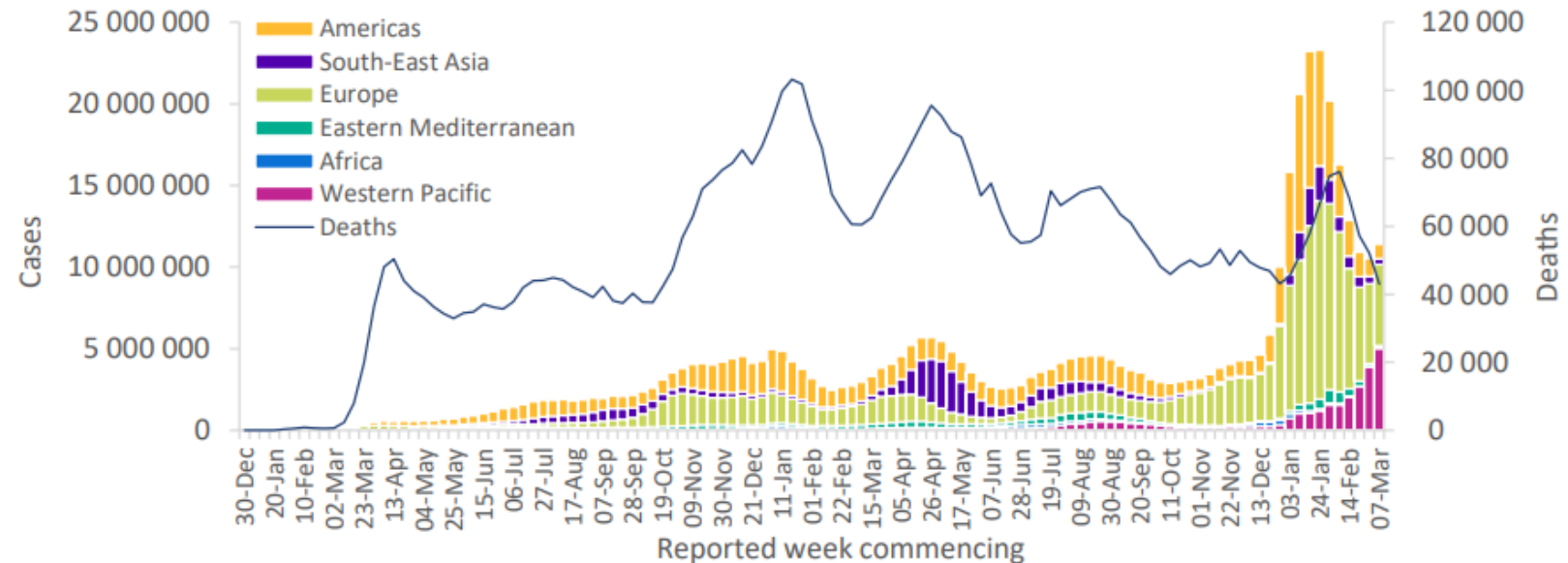
4,378,263,115 persons fully vaccinated

South-East Asia region

21% decrease in new cases

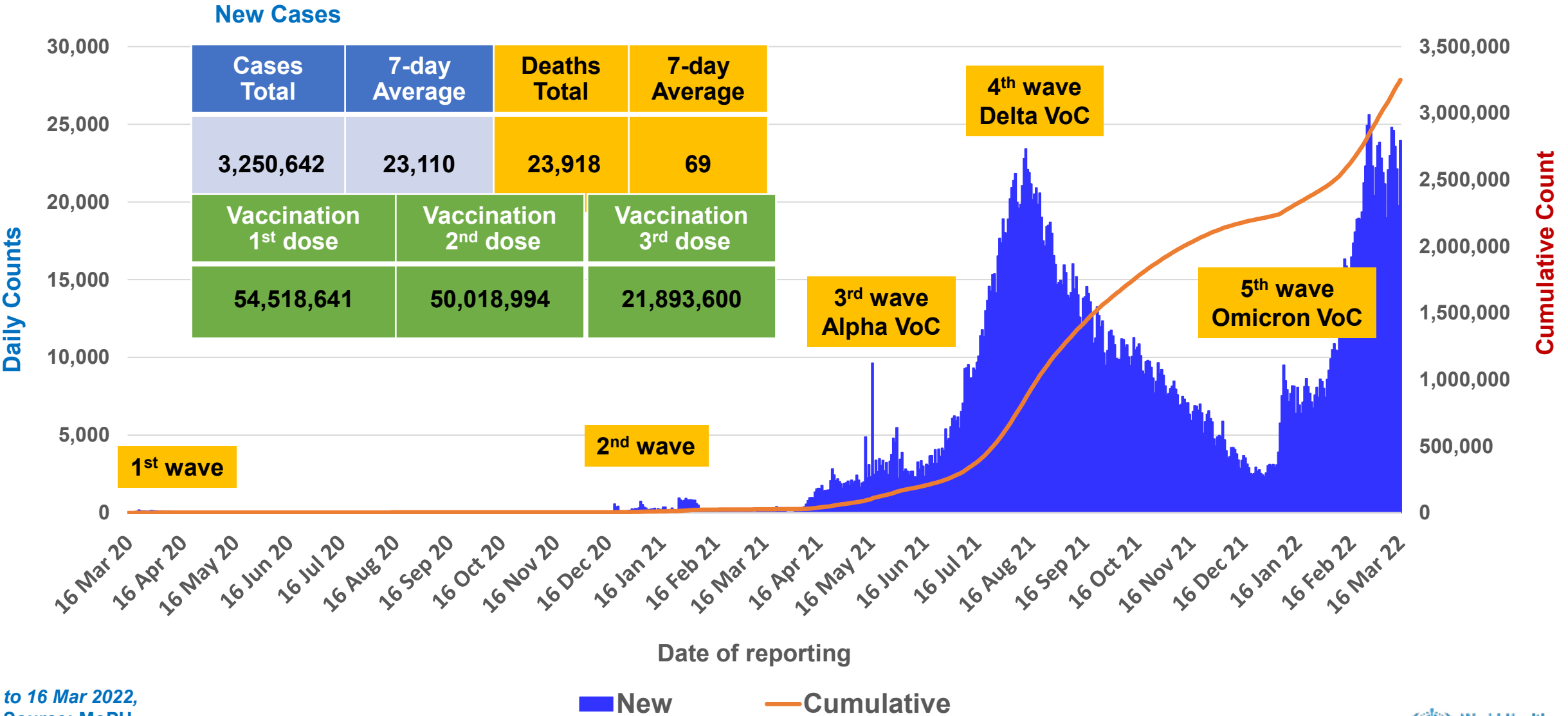
15% decrease in new deaths

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 13 March 2022**



National Situation

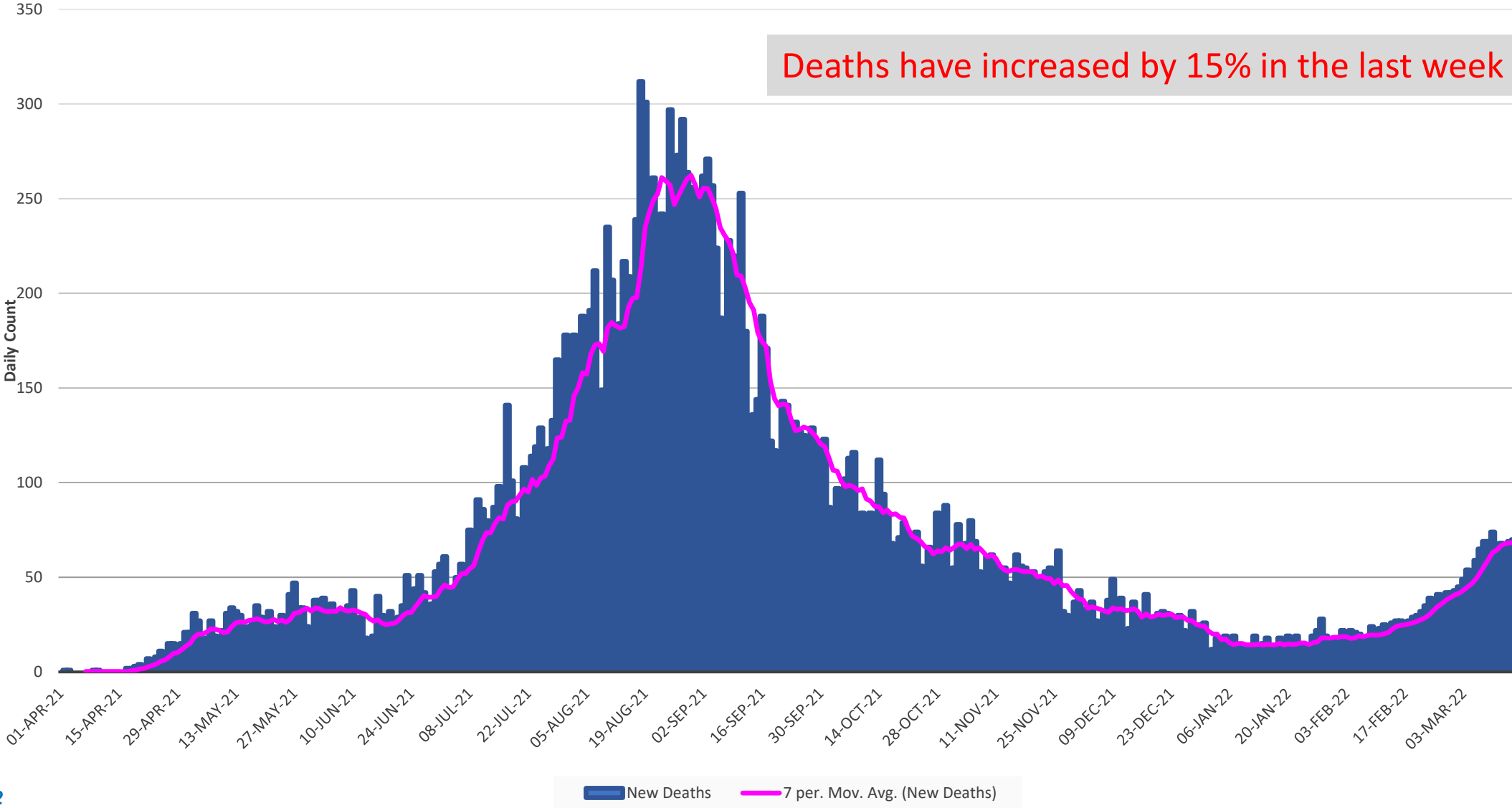
Thailand COVID-19 cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases per day



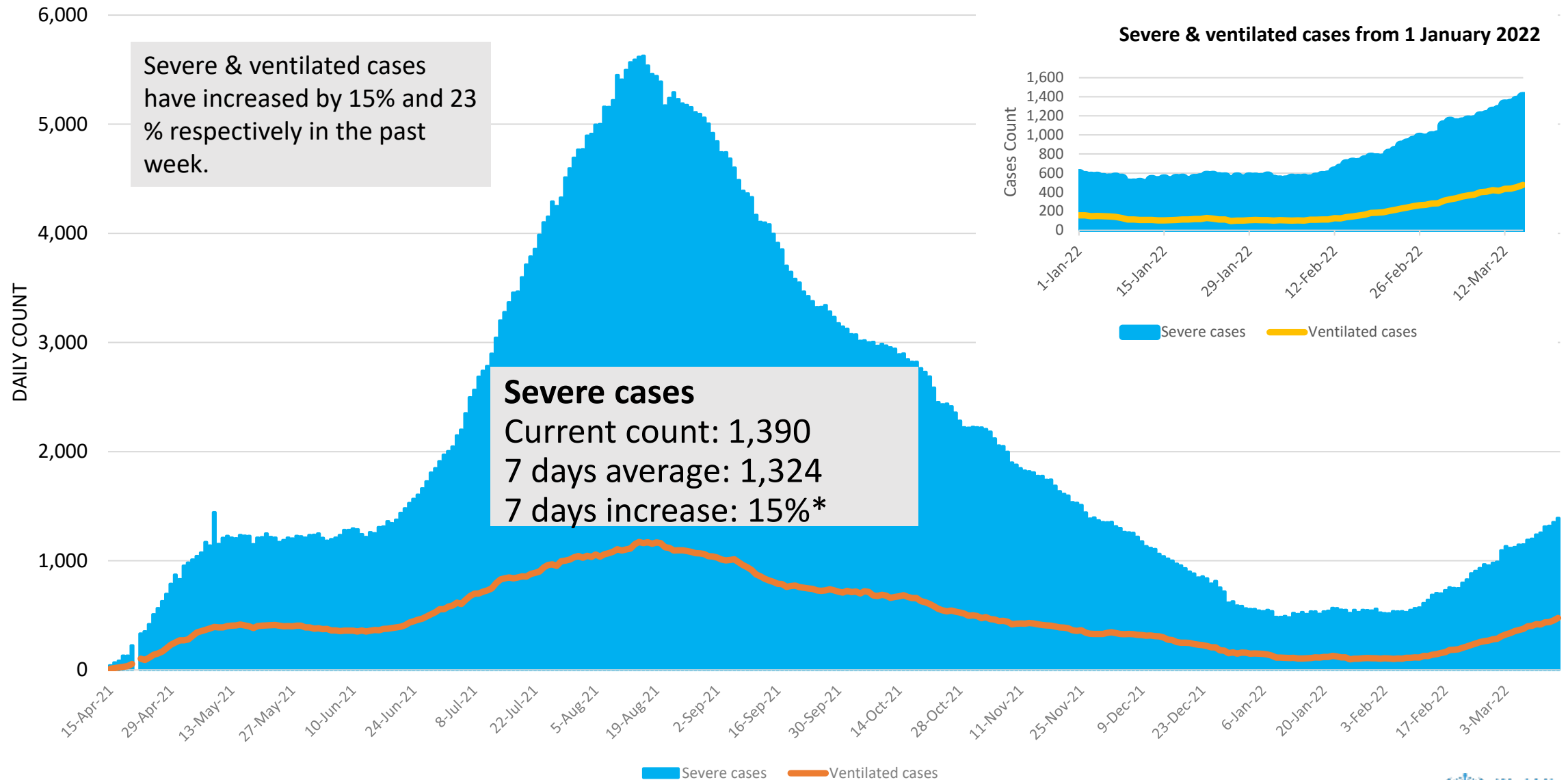
to 16 Mar 2022,
Source: MoPH

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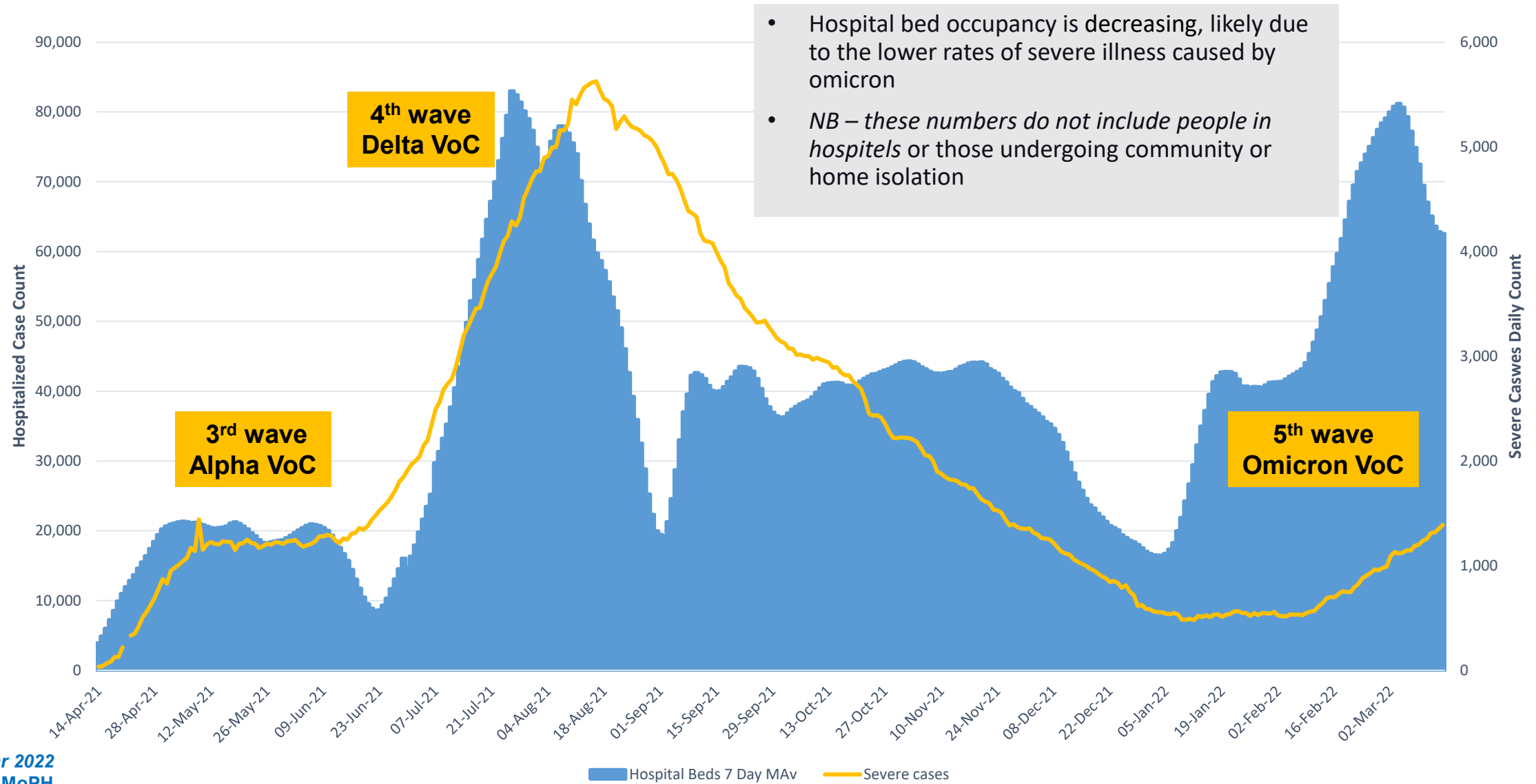
COVID-19 deaths in Thailand



Severe and ventilated COVID-19 cases



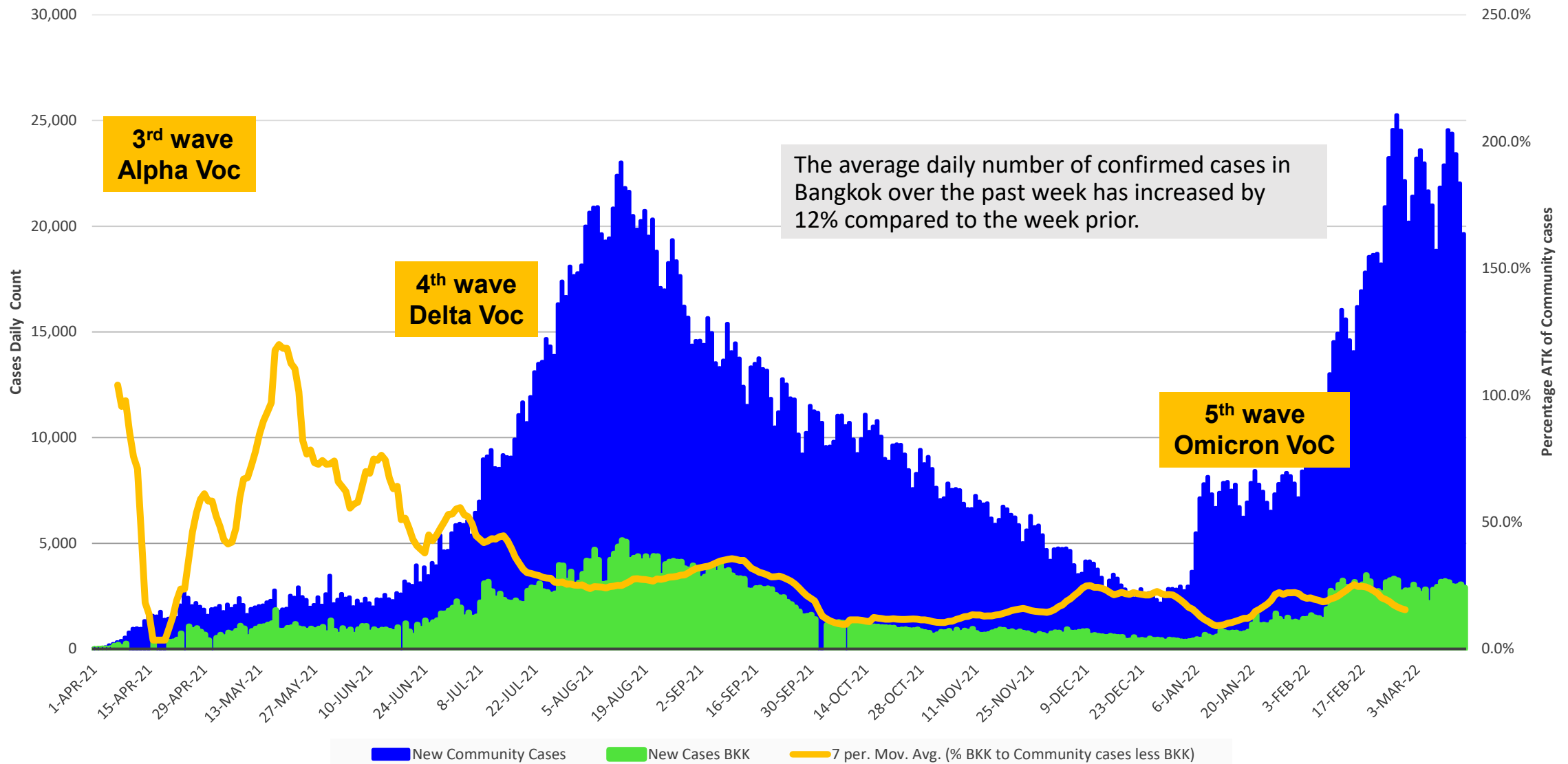
COVID-19 hospital bed occupancy (7-day average) and severe cases



to 15 Mar 2022
Source: MoPH

Provincial situation

COVID-19 proportion of new cases in Bangkok to all community cases



to 15 Mar 2022
Source: MoPH

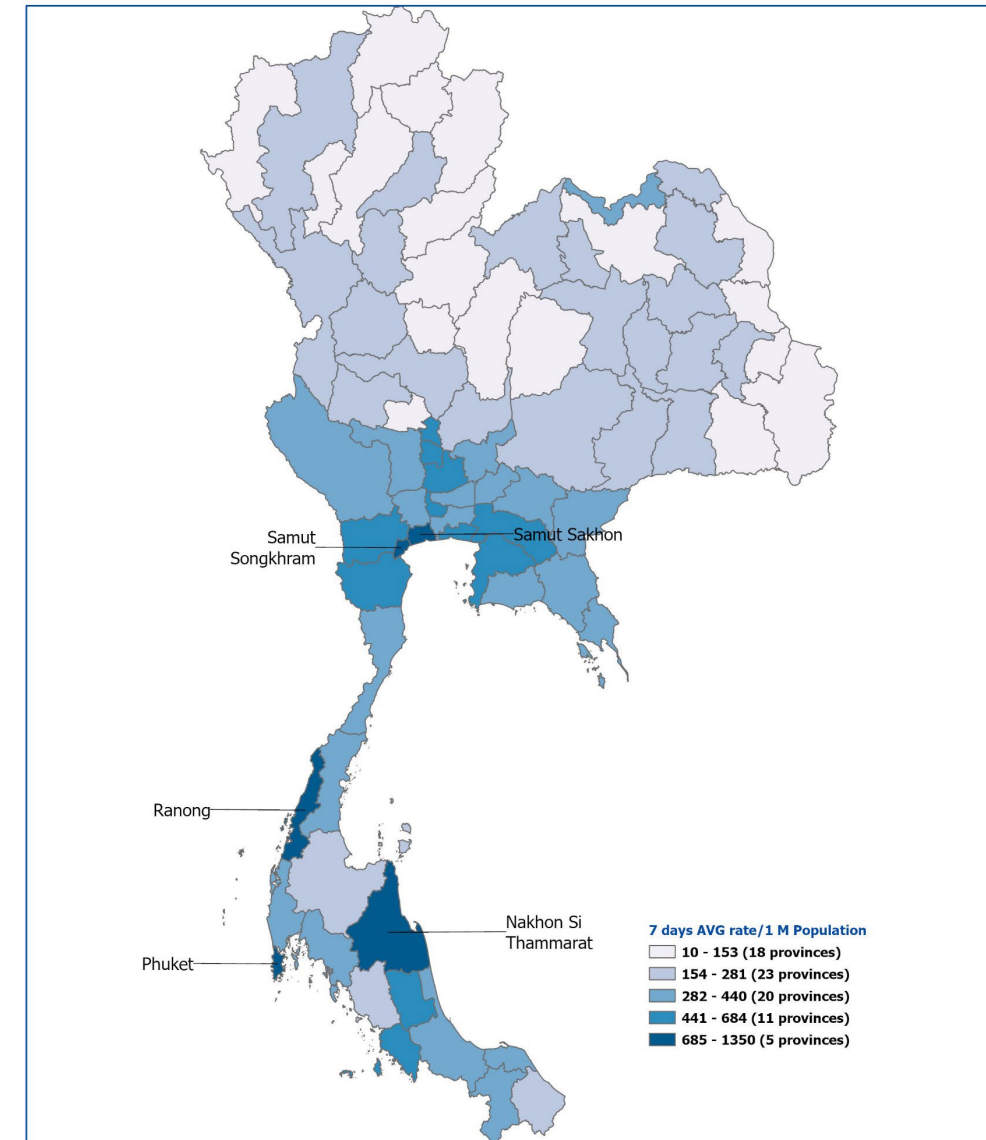
New COVID-19 cases per million population by province

- There is a wide variation in the average rate of new cases ranging from 10 to 1,350 cases per million population. Most provinces with a high rate were in the Central and Southern Region.
- The highest average rate of new cases reported in Samut Songkhram, with 1,350 cases per million population.
- The lowest rates of cases per million population (100 cases per million or less) were reported in Mukdahan, Nan, Chai Nat, Phichit, Mae Hong Son, Chiang Rai and Lumphun provinces.

Source: MoPH



Thailand COVID-19 new cases per million population by province from 09 to 15 March 2022



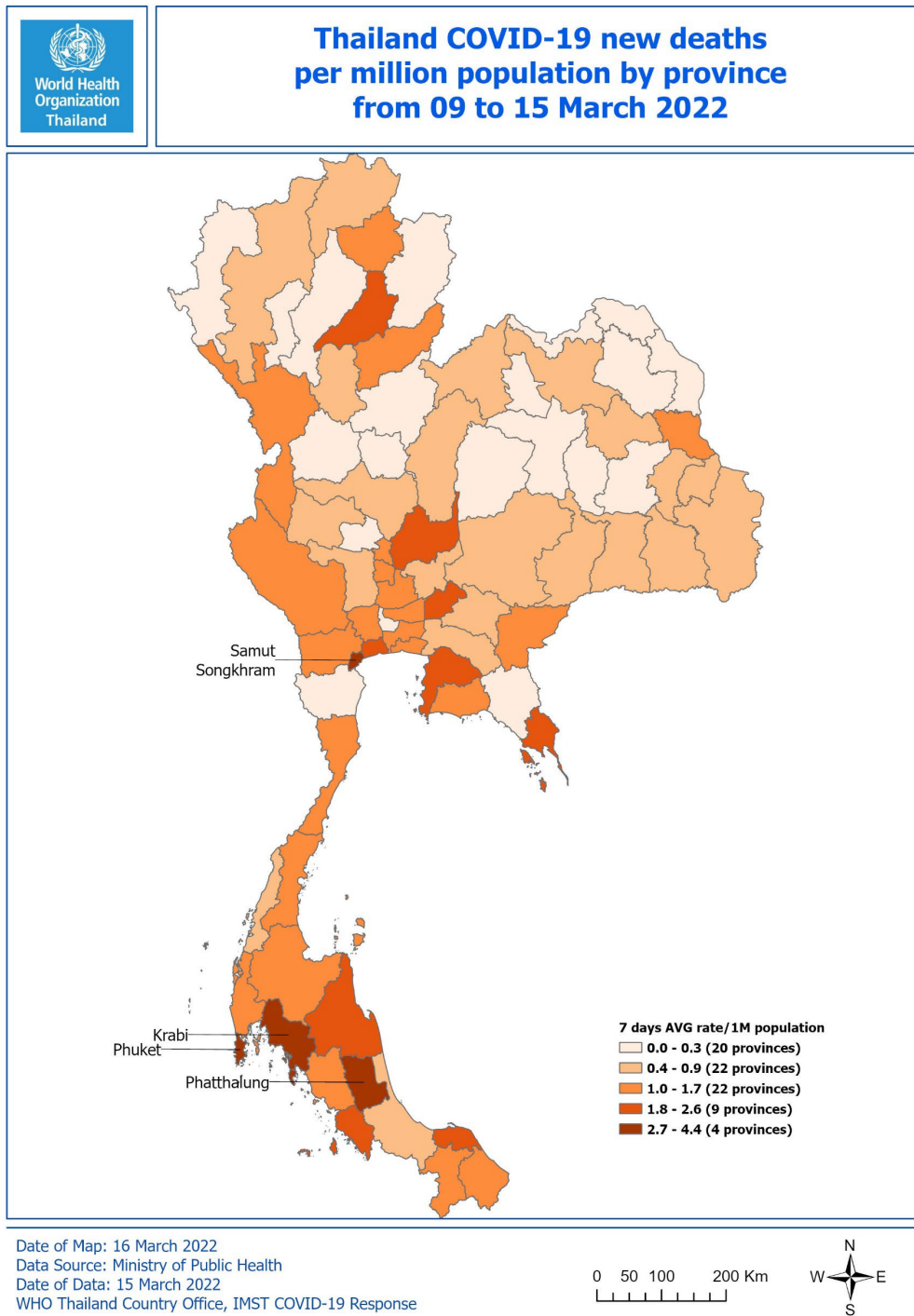
Date of Map: 16 March 2022
Data Source: Ministry of Public Health
Date of Data: 15 March 2022
WHO Thailand Country Office, IMST COVID-19 Response



New COVID-19 deaths per million population by province

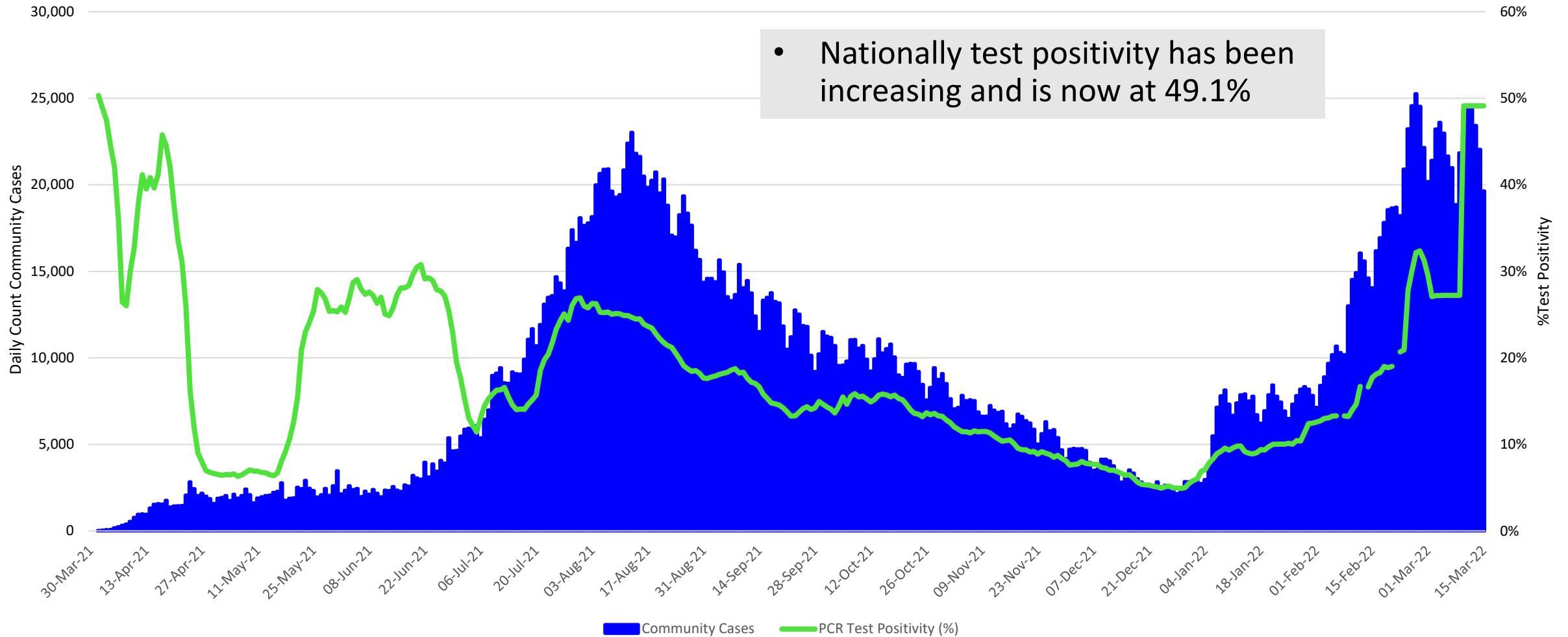
- The average rate of deaths per million population over the past week ranged from 0 to 4.4 deaths per million population across the 77 provinces in Thailand. 11 provinces reported no new deaths in the past week.
- Phuket continue to be reported the highest weekly average rate of deaths per million population in the past week.
- Krabi, Phatthalung and Samut Songkhram reported high levels of deaths per capita in the past week.

Source MoPH



COVID-19 Testing

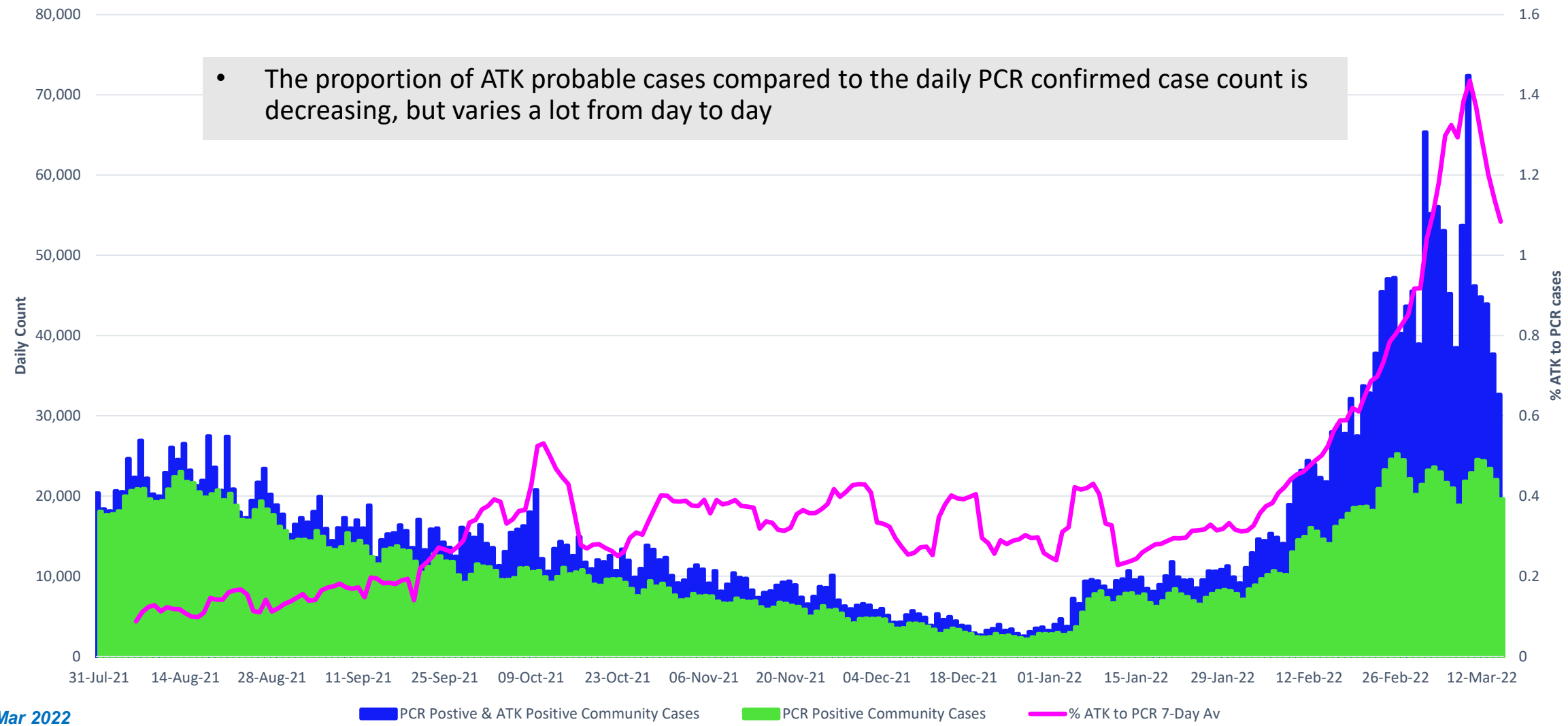
Variation in 'Test Positivity Rate' over time*



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

to 15 Mar 2022
Source: MoPH

PCR confirmed community acquired cases and antigen test kit (ATK) positive cases



VoC	Lineage	Sequence
Delta	AY.128	2
	AY.100	1
	AY.20	1
	AY.25.3	1
	AY.3.3	2
	AY.30	1
	AY.43	1
	AY.85	19
	AY.92	1
	AY.93	1
	B.1.617.2	3
Omicron	BA.1	172
	BA.1.1	333
	BA.2	135
	Total	673

SARS-CoV-2 variants in Thailand from 7 to 13 March 2022

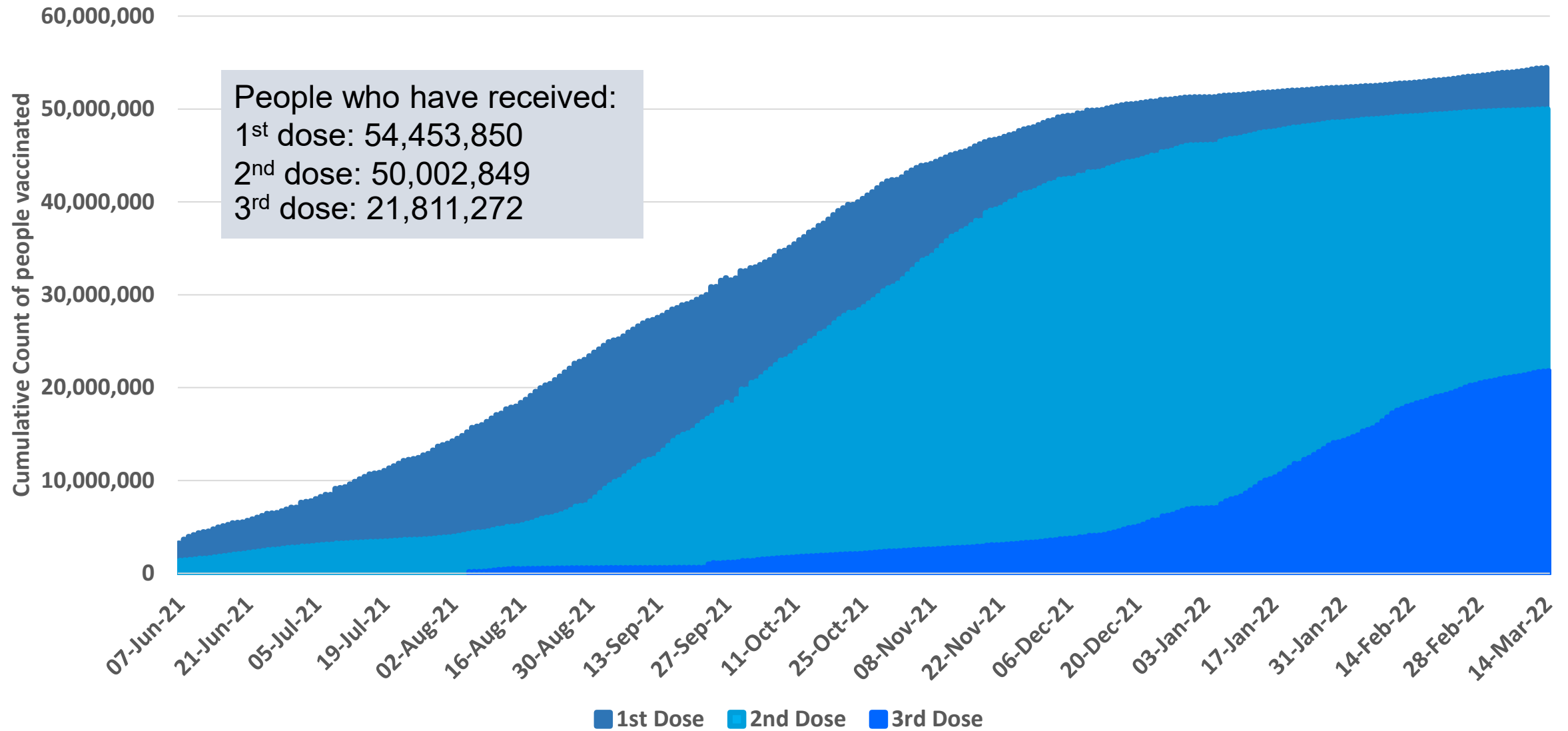
- The current epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 is characterized by the **dominance of the Omicron variant**.
- Among the 673 sequences collected from 7 to 13 March 2022, 640 **(95.1%) were Omicron** and 33 **(4.9%) were Delta**.
- Among Omicron descendent lineages, **BA.1.1 is the predominant sub-variant**, accounting for 333 sequences (52.0%) followed by 172 sequences (26.9%) of BA.1 and BA.2 accounts for 135 sequences (21.1%).
- Thailand reported **4 potential BA.2 sub-lineage with mutation of the spike protein I1221T on 14 March 2022**.

Source: DMSc, MoPH

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Vaccination

National COVID-19 vaccination coverage

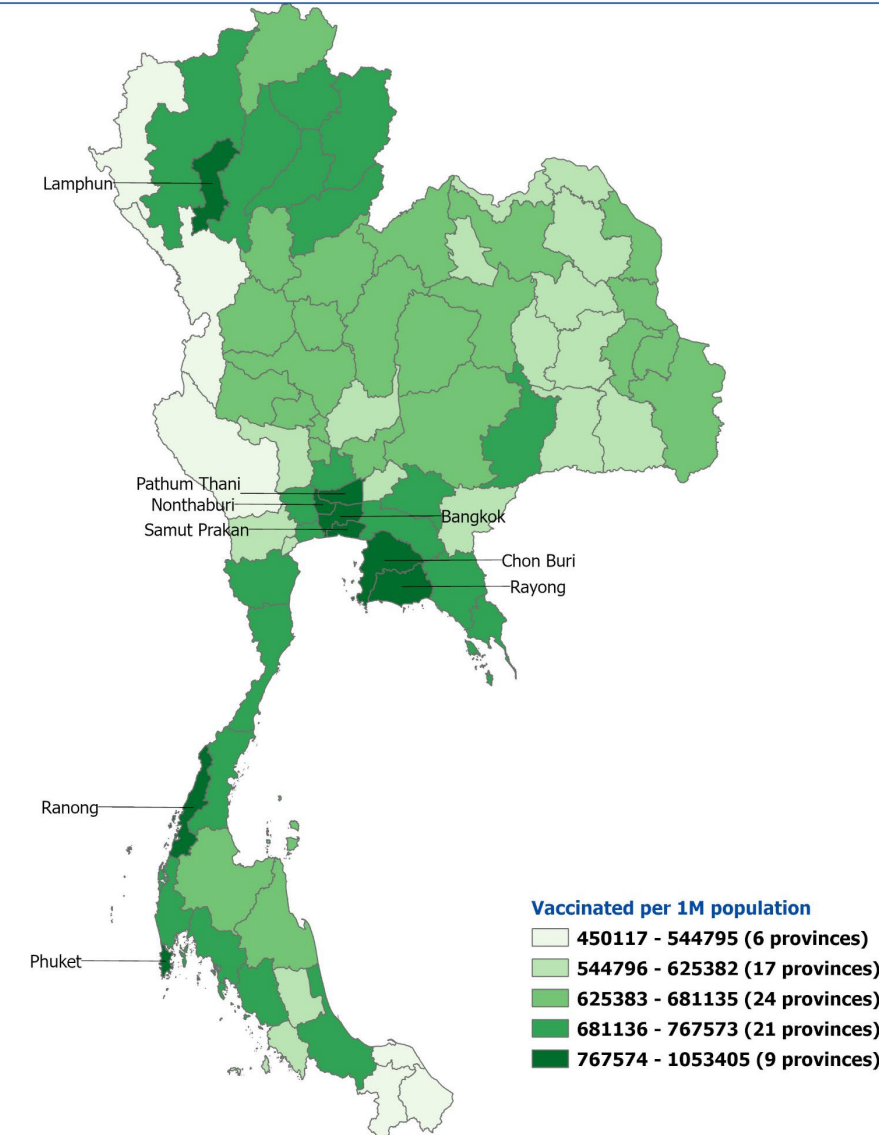


Second dose coverage per million population by province

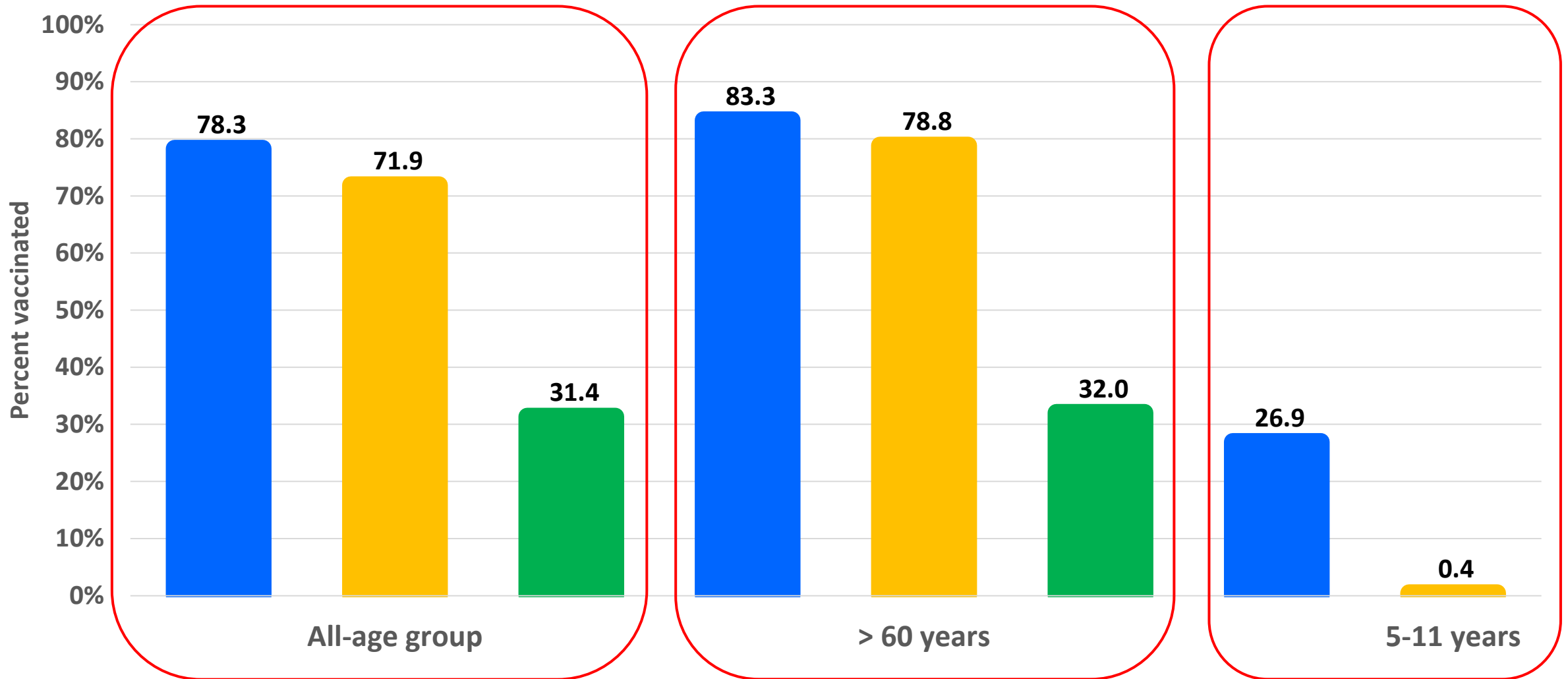
- The number of provinces reporting higher two-dose vaccination coverage has slightly increased compared to the previous week.
- Two-dose vaccination coverage varies from over 450,117 per million population (45%) to 1,053,405 (105%) per million population.
- The highest rate of vaccination coverage rates were in Bangkok and its surrounding provinces, and industrial and tourism provinces.
- 25 out of 77 provinces had 2nd dose vaccine coverage above 70%.
- The lowest vaccination coverage rates were 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 13 March 2022)



Vaccination coverage in specific populations



to 14 Mar 2022

Source: MoPH

Blue=1st dose Yellow=2nd dose Green=3rd dose

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:

Older people and COVID-19

Q: Why is it so important that older people get vaccinated against COVID?

A: It is important because older people are significantly more at risk of getting sick and dying of COVID-19 than younger people, especially if they have a medical problem like heart diseases or diabetes.

Older people and people of all ages with pre-existing medical conditions (such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, or cancer) are at much greater risk of developing serious illness when they are infected with COVID-19. Because older people are also more likely to have pre-existing medical conditions, this is quite frequently a double burden, or even a triple burden if there is more than one risky disease.

A recent analysis of COVID-19 infections in people in Thailand for the first two months of 2022 showed that 75% of all deaths had occurred in people aged over 60 years of age. Out of 928 people who died, 60% were unvaccinated. Another recent analysis in Thailand showed that having 2 doses of vaccine reduced the risk of death by 6 times, and that having 3 doses reduced the risk 41 times.

Current data also shows that for people over 60 in Thailand, 83.3% have received a single dose of vaccine, 78.8% have received two doses, and 32% have received 3 doses. Although these percentages are quite high, it still means that 20.2% of the most vulnerable individuals in Thailand have not received a full primary vaccination course.

At present, the greater proportion of COVID-19 cases is occurring in Bangkok and the surrounding provinces. For this reason, there is good cause to be concerned about what could potentially happen when younger, possibly infected people travel home to spend Songkran with their families, including their elderly relatives.

Therefore, we must all double down on applying the basic preventive measures that we know will break chains of transmission and flatten the curve, including wearing masks, avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated places, places, washing hands

regularly and practicing respiratory hygiene, i.e. coughing into a folded elbow or into a tissue, which should be disposed of safely.

WHO Thailand wholeheartedly supports the current campaign of the Ministry of Public Health to promote vaccination in the elderly

- Older people who have never received any vaccine must get vaccinated
- Older people who have received their first dose of vaccine, must attend their scheduled appointment to get their second dose
- Older people who received their second vaccine dose more than 3 months ago should make sure they receive a third dose as soon as possible
- Families should strongly encourage and help older people to get vaccinated before the Songkran festival.



Click on the image to watch Science in 5 where WHO's Chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan discusses how vaccine is prioritized in different groups of people.

17/03/2022

COVID-19 Update

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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www.who.int/thailand



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[WHO Thailand](https://www.youtube.com/WHOThailand)

Aged 60 and older? Be sure to get vaccinated at the earliest opportunity.

You are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.



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