COVID-19 Situation, Thailand
23 March 2022

3,423,956 total confirmed cases 24,497 total deaths

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

❤️ 24,644 new community cases (22,951) 7% 83 deaths (69) 21%

🏠 22,511 people recovered (22,986) 2% 175,333 vaccinations (176,036) 0.4%

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 |

www.who.int/thailand  @WHO Thailand  WHO Thailand Weekly Situation Update No. 228
Contents COVID-19 Update

- Situation analysis
- Global situation
- National situation
- Provincial situation
- COVID-19 testing
- Vaccination situation
- RTG policy updates
- Explainers

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 7% in the past 7 days compared to the previous week. Although the daily reported confirmed case numbers appear to have plateaued somewhat, 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 (20,304) has decreased by 14% compared to the week before (23,533), 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 (3,235) is 4% higher than the week prior (3,119).

The average daily number of all currently ‘active’ COVID-19 cases (235,382) over the last seven days increased by 5% 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 (67,278) is 7% higher than the average daily number reported for the week prior (62,928).

An average of 83 daily deaths were reported in the past week, compared to 69 for the previous week. (an increase of 21%)

The average daily number of severe COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (1,440) represents a 9% increase over the average number reported for the previous week (1,324). The average daily number of ventilated COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (522) also represents a 16% increase over the average number reported for the week prior (449).

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 and August 2021. There is still currently capacity in the healthcare system to admit patients.

Although Thailand has not experienced a huge upsurge of COVID-19 cases as seen in some other countries, both the policy of not confirming by PCR testing for 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 to 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 (22 March 2022)

- **470,839,745** confirmed cases
- **6,092,933** deaths
- **1,244,012** new cases in last 24 hours
- **14,865** new deaths in last 24 hours
- **10,925,055,390** vaccine doses administered
- **5,007,662,851** persons vaccinated with at least one dose
- **4,446,884,806** persons fully vaccinated

**South-East Asia region**
- 23% decrease in new cases
- 18% decrease in new deaths

The number of **new weekly cases increased in the Western Pacific Region (+21%)**, remained stable in the European Region, and decreased in the Eastern Mediterranean (-41%), Africa (-33%), South-East Asia (-23%) and Americas (-17%) regions.

The number of **new weekly deaths increased in the Western Pacific Region (+5%)**, while decreasing in the other regions: Americas (-42%), Eastern Mediterranean (-38%), Africa (-19%), Europe (-18%) and South-East Asia (-18%).

https://covid19.who.int/
National Situation
Thailand COVID-19 cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases per day

Source MoPH to 23 Mar 2022
COVID-19 deaths in Thailand

Deaths have increased by 21% in the last week

New Deaths
7 per. Mov. Avg. (New Deaths)
Severe and ventilated COVID-19 cases (bed occupancy)

Severe & ventilated cases have increased by 9% and 16% respectively in the past week.

Severe cases
Current count: 1,496
7 days average: 1,440
7 days increase: 9%*

Severe & Ventilated Cases from 1st January 2022

*Compared to the week prior

Source MoPH

COVID-19 Update 23/03/2022
COVID-19 hospital bed occupancy (7-day average) and severe cases

- Hospital bed occupancy is increasing
- NB – these numbers do not include people in hospitals or those undergoing community or home isolation

Source: MoPH

COVID-19 Update 23/03/2022
Provincial situation
The average daily number of confirmed cases in Bangkok over the past week has increased by 4% compared to the week prior.

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

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 8 to 1,632 cases per million population. The average rate of new cases nationwide is 353 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 1,632 cases per million population.

- The lowest rates of cases per million population (100 cases per million or less) were reported in Chaiyaphum, Chai Nat, Chiang Rai, Lamphun, Nakhon Phanom, and Pichit provinces.

Source: MoPH
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 5.1 deaths per million population across the 77 provinces in Thailand. The average rate of new deaths nationwide is 1.3 cases per million population. Three provinces reported no new deaths in the past week.

- Trat reported the highest weekly average rate of deaths per million population in the past week.

- Krabi, Phatthalung and Nakhon Nayok reported high levels of deaths per capita in the past week.
COVID-19 Testing
Variation in ‘Test Positivity Rate’ over time*

Nationally test positivity has been decreasing from previous weeks and it is now at 26.49%.

*The Test Positivity Rate (TPR) is the percentage of all PCR tests conducted in a day that return a positive result
The proportion of ATK probable cases compared to the daily PCR confirmed case count is decreasing, but varies a lot from day to day.
Vaccination
People who have received:
1\textsuperscript{st} dose: 54,972,110
2\textsuperscript{nd} dose: 50,143,878
3\textsuperscript{rd} dose: 22,542,581

Source MoPH to 23 Mar 2022
The number of provinces reporting higher two-dose vaccination coverage has slightly increased compared to the previous week.

Two-dose vaccination coverage varies from 45-105 per 100 population.

The highest rate of vaccination coverage rates were in Bangkok and its surrounding provinces, and industrial and tourism provinces.

28 out of 77 provinces had 2\textsuperscript{nd} dose vaccine coverage above 70%.

The lowest vaccination coverage rates were in Pattani and Narathiwat in the far south.
Vaccination coverage in specific populations

MoPH to 20 Mar 2022
*CCSA to 21 Mar 2022

Percent vaccinated

- All-age group
  - 1st dose: 78%
  - 2nd dose: 72%

- Health care providers
  - 1st dose: 114%
  - 2nd dose: 112%

- Village health volunteers
  - 1st dose: 80%
  - 2nd dose: 78%

- Comorbidities
  - 1st dose: 107%
  - 2nd dose: 102%

- General Population
  - 1st dose: 85%
  - 2nd dose: 79%

- > 60 years
  - 1st dose: 83%
  - 2nd dose: 79%

- 12-17 years
  - 1st dose: 74%
  - 2nd dose: 72%

- 5-11 years
  - 1st dose: 27%
  - 2nd dose: 0.4%
Policy Update
## Real-World Vaccine Effectiveness Against Omicron Variant in Chiang Mai (Jan – Feb 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Vaccination</th>
<th>January 2022 %VE (95%CI)</th>
<th>February 2022 %VE (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prevention against infection</strong></td>
<td>2 doses</td>
<td>no prevention</td>
<td>no prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 doses</td>
<td>68% (62-73)</td>
<td>45% (39-50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 doses</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>82% (75-87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prevention against death</strong></td>
<td>2 doses</td>
<td>93% (69-100)</td>
<td>85% (60-94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 doses</td>
<td>98% (59-100)</td>
<td>98% ((-19) -99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 doses</td>
<td>No deaths reported in recipients of 4 doses.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MoPH’s press briefing 21 Mar 2022
### Preliminary results from VE study among at-risk groups (contacts and ACF) nationwide in January 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Vaccination</th>
<th>%VE (95%CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevention against infection</td>
<td>2 doses</td>
<td>4.1% (−0.7) – 8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 doses</td>
<td>56.0% (53.2 – 58.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 doses</td>
<td>84.7% (81.9 – 87.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention against severe disease and deaths</td>
<td>2 doses</td>
<td>54.8% (30.5 – 70.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 doses</td>
<td>88.1% (71.7 – 95.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention against deaths</td>
<td>2 doses</td>
<td>79.2% (39.4 – 92.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 doses</td>
<td>87% (−19) – 98.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
*Study participants receive 2 doses of vaccine at least 14 days prior SARS-CoV-2 specimen collection.
**Inadequate sample size to study prevention against severe disease and deaths among people who receive 4th dose.*

Source: MoPH's press briefing 21 Mar 2022
The MoPH’s Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration (18 years and above)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd dose booster</th>
<th>Dose 1</th>
<th>Dose 2</th>
<th>Interval</th>
<th>Dose 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SV/SP</td>
<td>SV/SP</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV/SP</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>&gt;3 months</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV/SP</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td>&gt;3 months</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>&gt;3 months</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pf</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td>&gt;3 months</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>&gt;3 months</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4th dose booster</th>
<th>Dose 1</th>
<th>Dose 2</th>
<th>Dose 3</th>
<th>Interval</th>
<th>Dose 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SV/SP</td>
<td>SV/SP</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>&gt;4 months</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV/SP</td>
<td>SV/SP</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td>&gt;4 months</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV/SP</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>&gt;4 months</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td>&gt;4 months</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: A half-dose of Pfizer vaccine can be administered as a booster dose, depending on the clinician’s discretion and the vaccine recipient’s choice.

- AZ can be an option for recipients of AZ+AZ who do not wish to receive mRNA vaccines (>6 months interval)
- Moderna can be considered as booster doses in any regimen above.
- Individuals with a history of COVID-19 infection should get the vaccine 3 months after infection.

SV=Sinovac
SP=Sinopharm
AZ=AstraZeneca
Pf=Pfizer

Source: MoPH’s press briefing 21 March 2022
**COVID-19 vaccination programme for children and adolescent**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>Interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-6 yrs.</td>
<td>Pfizer x 2 doses</td>
<td>orange cap (10 micrograms/ 0.2 ml.)</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-11 yrs.</td>
<td>Pfizer x 2 doses</td>
<td>orange cap (10 micrograms/ 0.2 ml.)</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sinovac - Pfizer</td>
<td>Dose 1: Sinovac 0.5 ml./ dose</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dose 2: orange cap Pfizer (10 micrograms/ 0.2 ml.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 17 yrs.</td>
<td>Sinovac x 2 doses</td>
<td>0.5 ml./ dose</td>
<td>4 weeks*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 -17 yrs.</td>
<td>Pfizer x 2 doses</td>
<td>purple cap (30 micrograms/ 0.3 ml.)</td>
<td>3-4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sinovac – Pfizer</td>
<td>Dose 1: Sinovac 0.5 ml./ dose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dose 2: purple cap Pfizer (30 micrograms/ 0.3 ml.)</td>
<td>4 weeks**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* They should receive a booster dose with Pfizer (4 months interval after the 2\textsuperscript{nd} dose)
** They should receive a booster dose with Pfizer or Moderna (4-6 months interval after the 2\textsuperscript{nd} dose)

Source: MoPH’s press briefing 21 Mar 2022
CCSA EXTENDS THE ENFORCEMENT PERIOD OF
THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS
EFFECTIVE FROM 1 APRIL TO 31 MAY 2022

As of 22 Mar 2022

https://thailand.prd.go.th  PR Thai Government
Measures to reduce risk of infections during Songkran Festival

- Water splashing and traditional activities, such as "Rod nam dam hua", are **allowed** to be held in line with the **COVID Free Setting** measures.
- Foam party, selling and drinking alcohol in the venues are **NOT allowed**.
- Those who attend Songkran festival in closed space **MUST wear masks** and maintain social distancing at all time.
- Water splashing is **NOT allowed** in public areas such as roads.

Source: CCSA's press briefing 18 Mar 2022
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

1. Passport
2. Certificate of Vaccination
   - Aged 12-17 may be vaccinated with only 1 dose of vaccination
   - Unvaccinated children aged under 12 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)

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.

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

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

Pre-departure requirements effective during 1-30 March 2022
Requirement for international arrivals from 1 April 2022 onwards

- International arrivals under any of the current three entry schemes – TEST & GO, Sandbox, and Alternative Quarantine (AQ) – will be allowed to enter Thailand without the need to show proof of a negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours of travel.

- Sandbox period of stay
  Reduced to 5 days from 7 days. After completing five days within Sandbox destinations, travelers will be allowed to travel domestically within Thailand.

- Alternative quarantine requirement
  Quarantine reduced to 5 days and an RT-PCR test on Day 4-5

- Testing requirement
  Two tests remain in place for the TEST & GO and Sandbox travellers: RT-PCR test upon arrival (Day 0) and an antigen self-test on Day 5

Source: CCSA’s press briefing 18 Mar 2022; Tourism Authority of Thailand News
Q: What is Deltacron? Should I be concerned?
A: Deltacron is a combination of the Delta variant and the Omicron variant. Recombination of variants is a natural phenomenon of viral mutation. From what we know so far, this recombination does not make COVID more dangerous or transmissible.

SARS-CoV-2 recombinant variants

Recombination of variants of the same virus is a natural phenomenon and can be regarded as an expected mutation event.

WHO has been notified of several recombinant variants, either due to recombination between Delta and BA.1 variants, or BA.1 and BA.2 variants.

The same monitoring and assessment process is applied to these recombinants as for any other emerging variant, after verification and exclusion of potential contamination or co-infection.

Two Delta and Omicron recombinants and one BA.1 x BA.2 recombinant have now been given Pango lineage designations XD, XE and XF.

None of the preliminary available evidence indicates that these recombinant variants are associated with higher transmissibility or more severe outcomes. Only a few clusters have been reported to date and show very low to almost undetectable levels of transmission to contacts.

WHO continues to monitor recombinant variants, alongside other SARS-CoV-2 variants, and will provide updates as further evidence becomes available.
USEFUL LINKS

- The Thailand COVID19 situation report is available in Thai and English, please visit [link]
- For regular updates on WHO’s response in Thailand, please visit [link]
- For global figures and technical advice from WHO, please visit [link]

World Health Organization Country Office for Thailand
4th Fl., Permanent Secretary Bldg.3 Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi, Thailand, 11000. sethawebmaster@who.int

www.who.int/thailand @WHO Thailand

WHO Thailand WHO Thailand

THE NEW NORMAL

Wherever you are, whether at work, home or school, you can help prevent #COVID19.

Remember to wash your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.

#StaySafe