

# 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 |

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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 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.

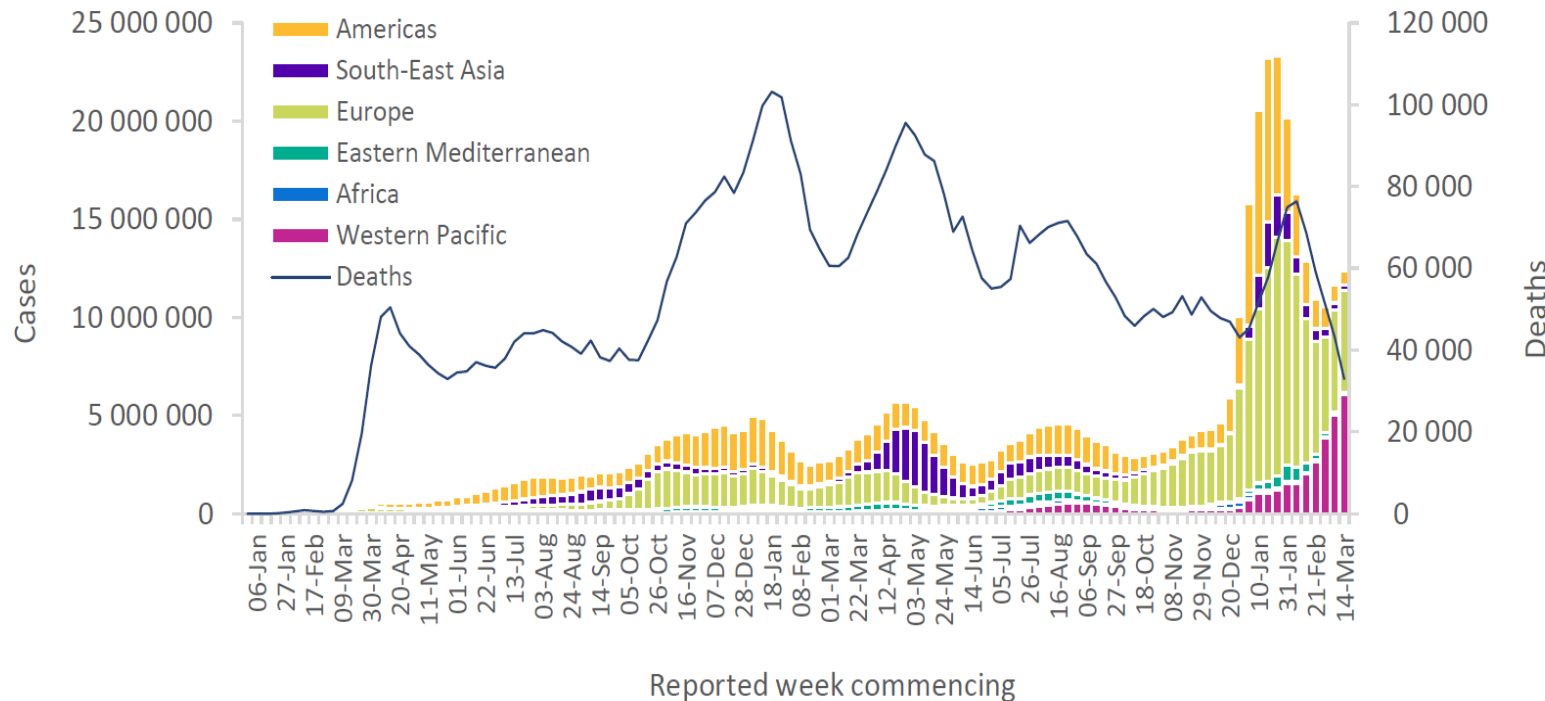
# Global COVID-19 (total) cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases reported per week (22 March 2022)

**470,839,745** confirmed cases  
**1,244,012** new cases in last 24 hours

**6,092,933** deaths  
**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

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 20 March 2022\*\*



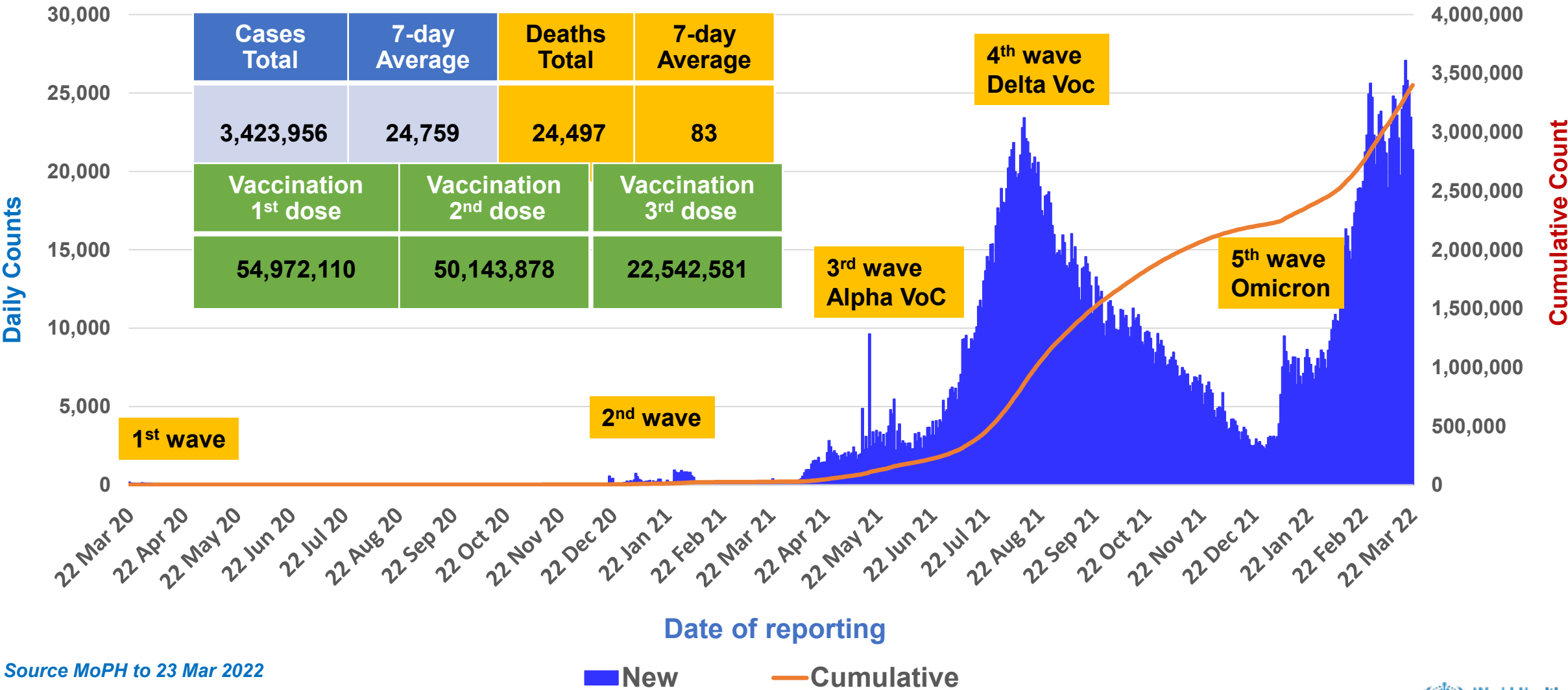
The number of **new weekly cases** increased in the **Western Pacific Region (+21%)**, remained stable in the European Region, and decreased in the Eastern Mediterranean (-41%), Africa (-33%), South-East Asia (-23%) and Americas (-17%) regions.

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%).

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

# National Situation

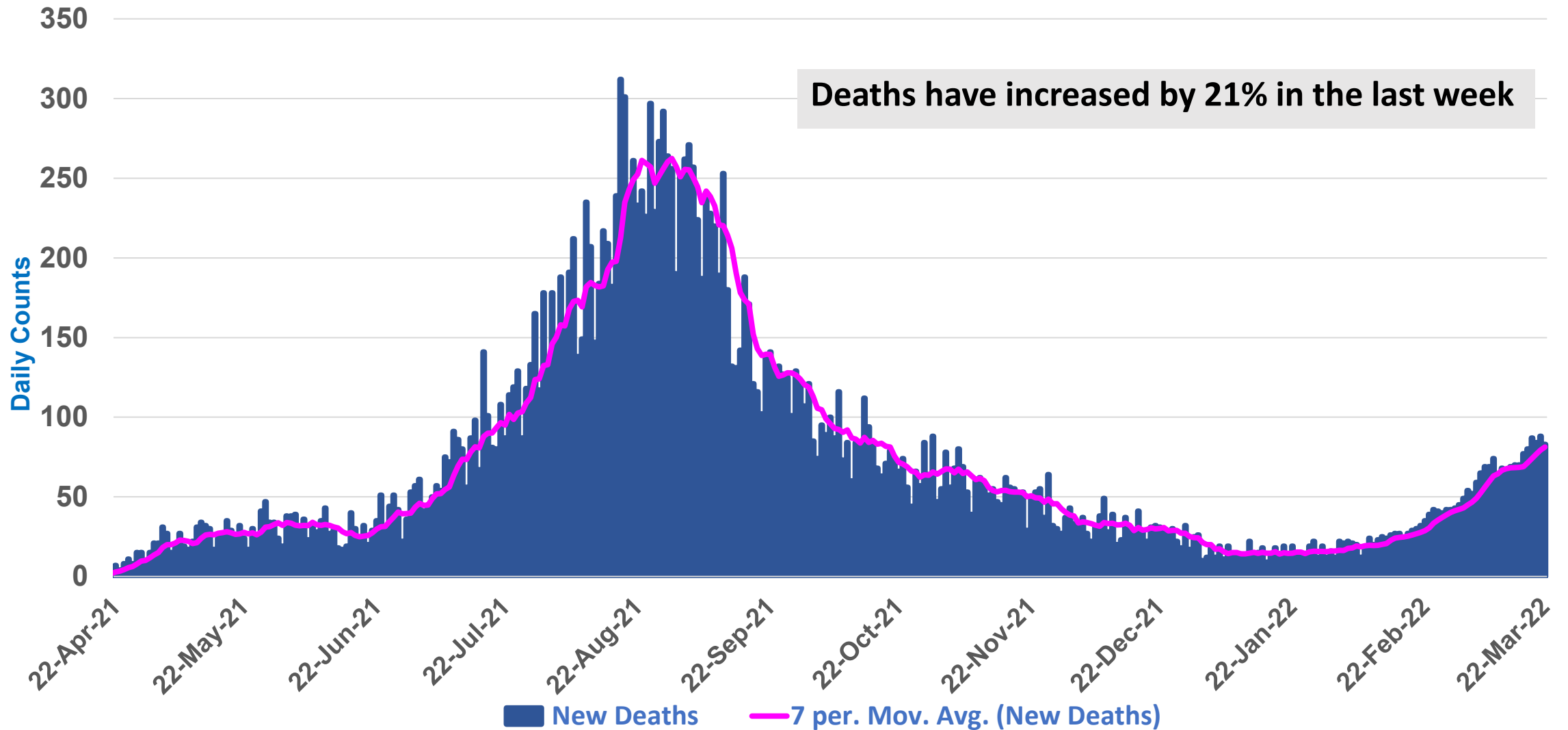
# Thailand COVID-19 cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases per day



Source MoPH to 23 Mar 2022

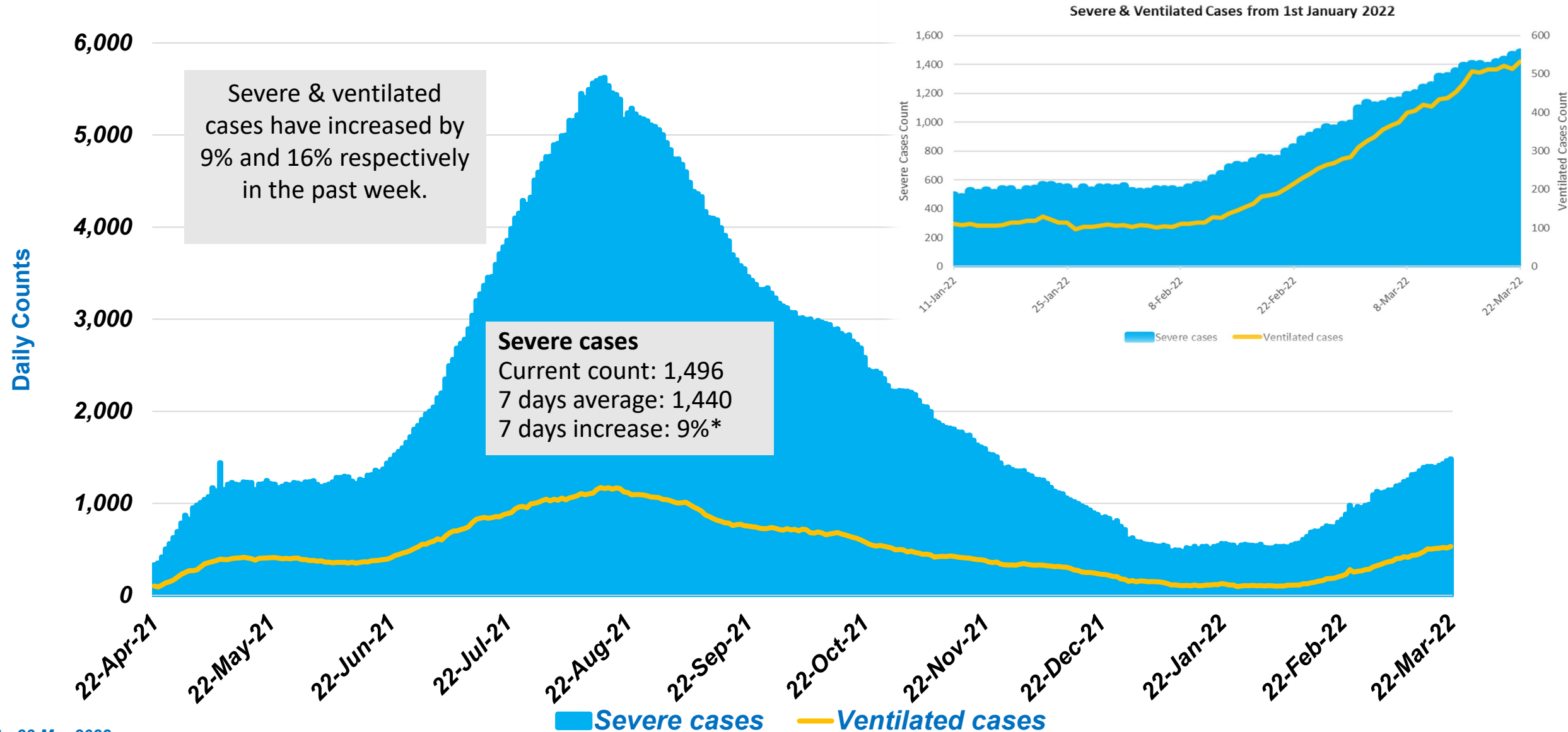
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# COVID-19 deaths in Thailand



to 22 Mar 2022  
Source MoPH

# Severe and ventilated COVID-19 cases (bed occupancy)

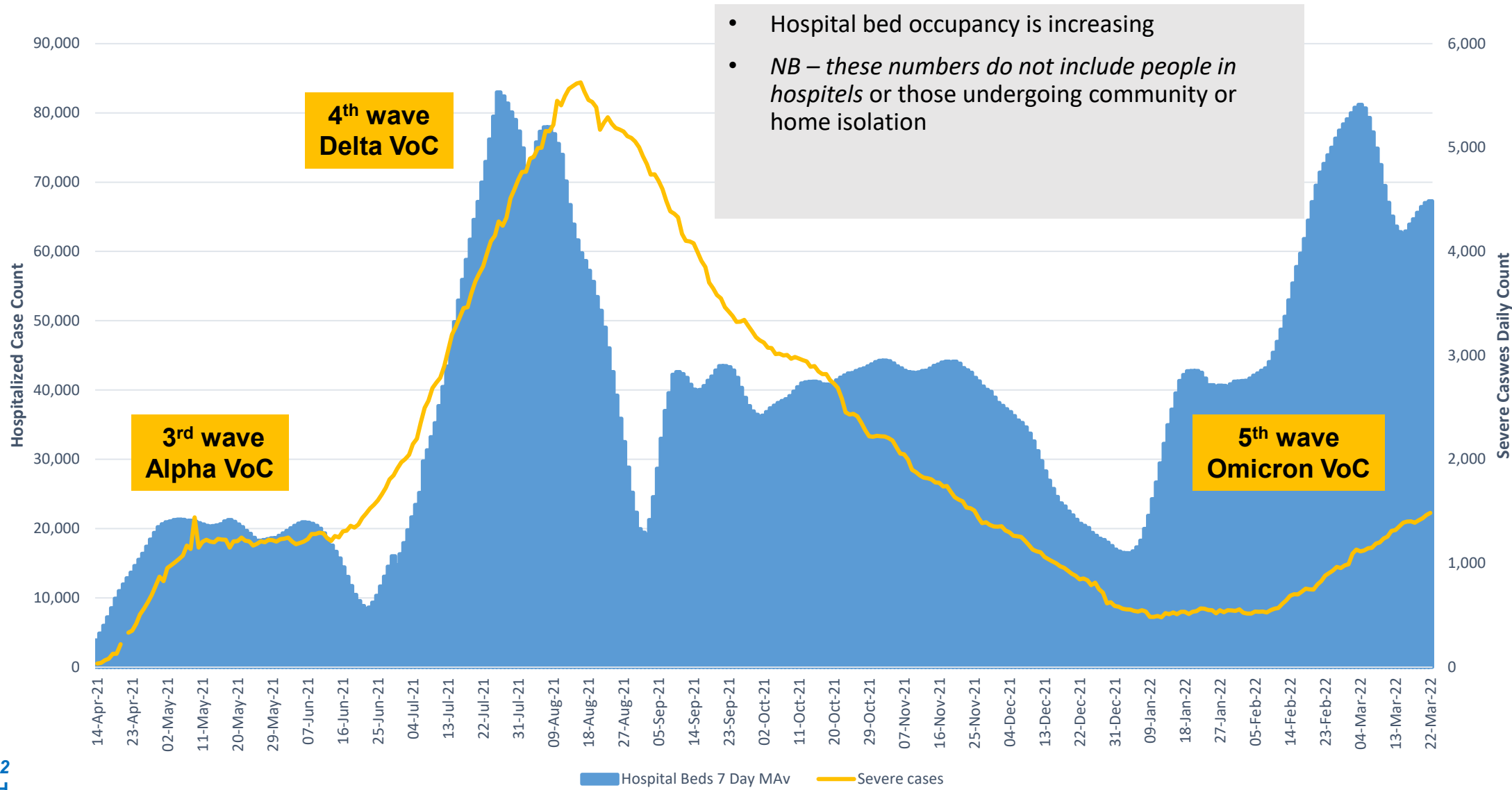


to 23 Mar 2022  
Source MoPH

\*Compared to the week prior

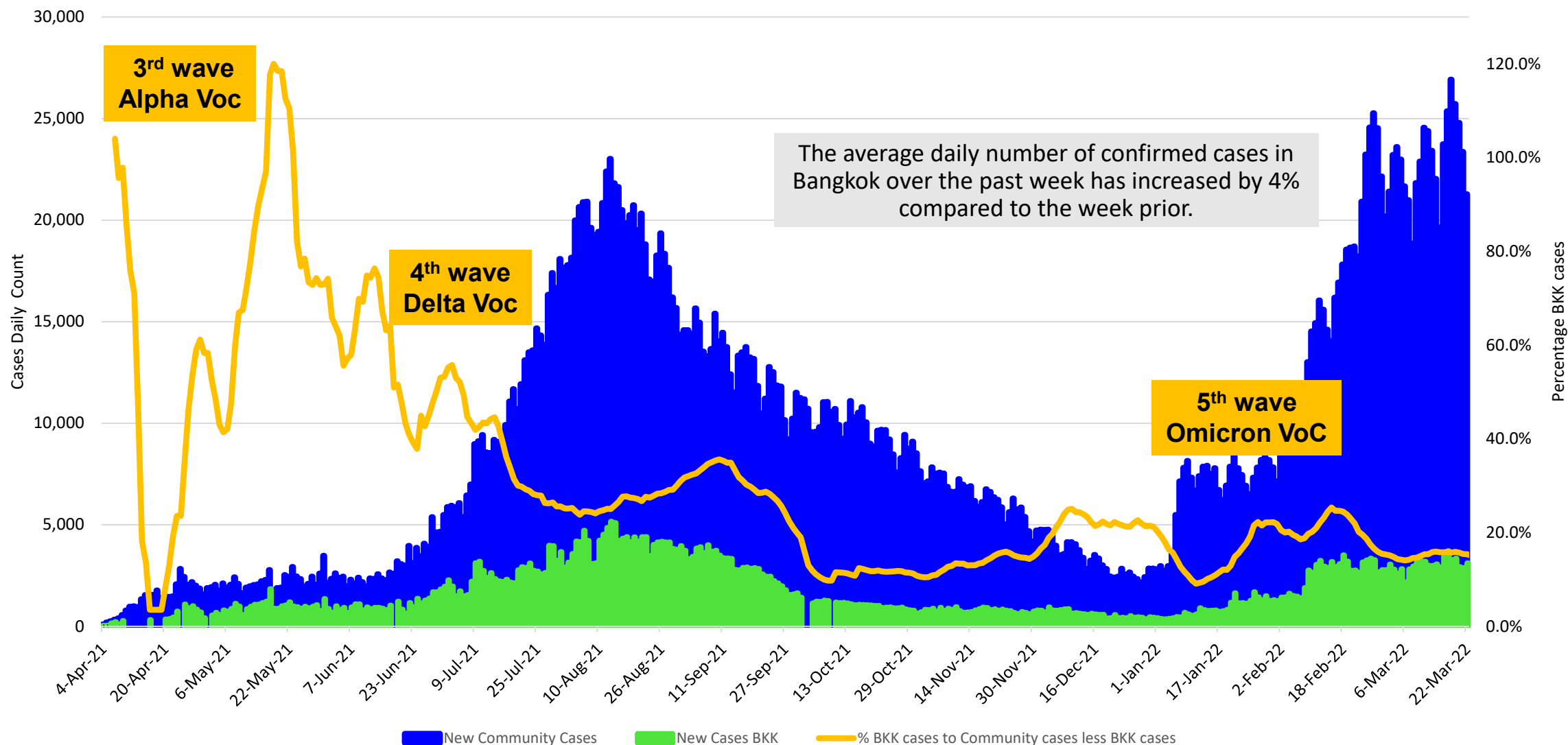


# COVID-19 hospital bed occupancy (7-day average) and severe cases



# Provincial situation

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

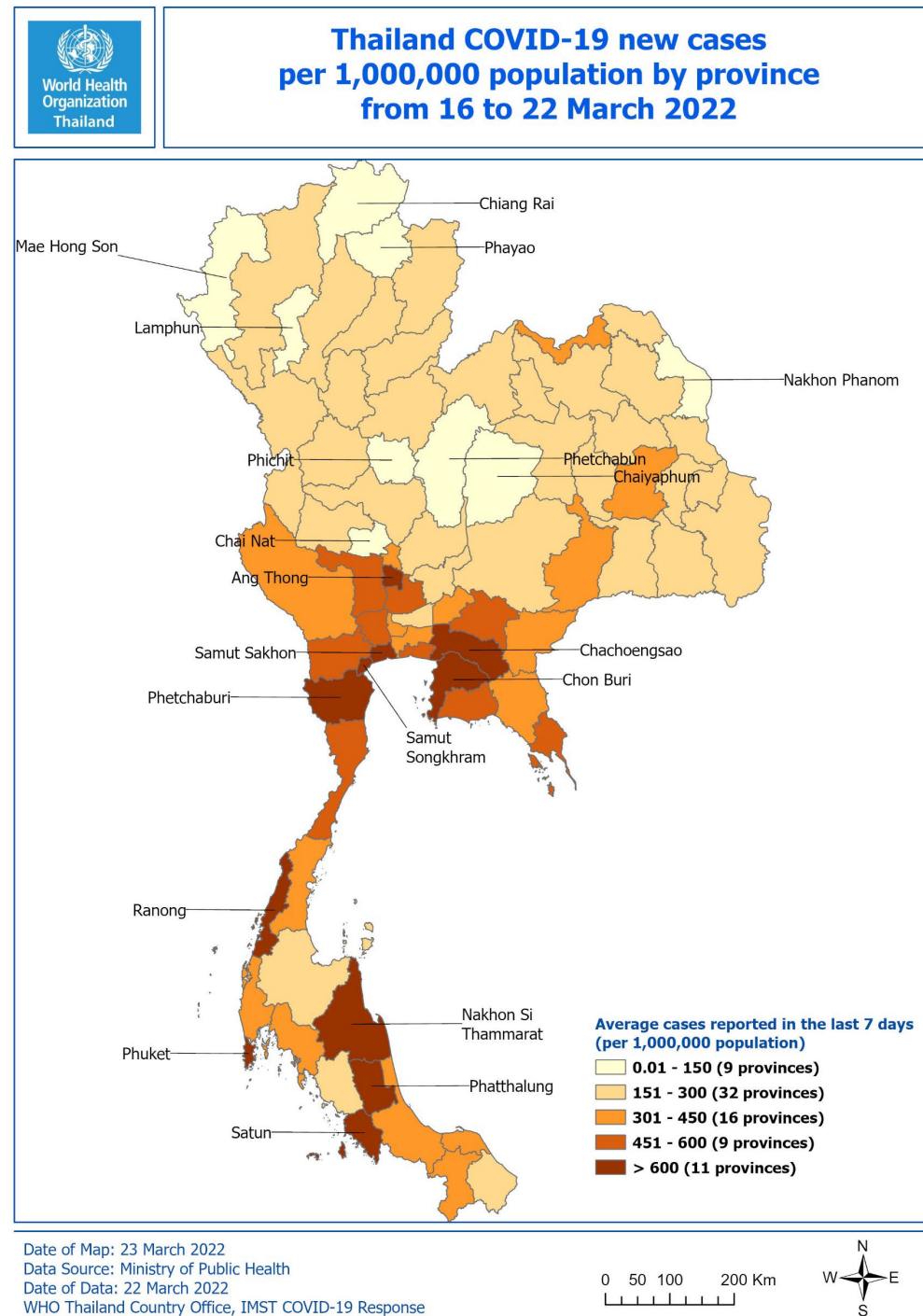


to 22 Mar 2022  
Source: MoPH

# New COVID-19 cases per million population by province

- There is a wide variation in the average rate of new cases ranging from 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.

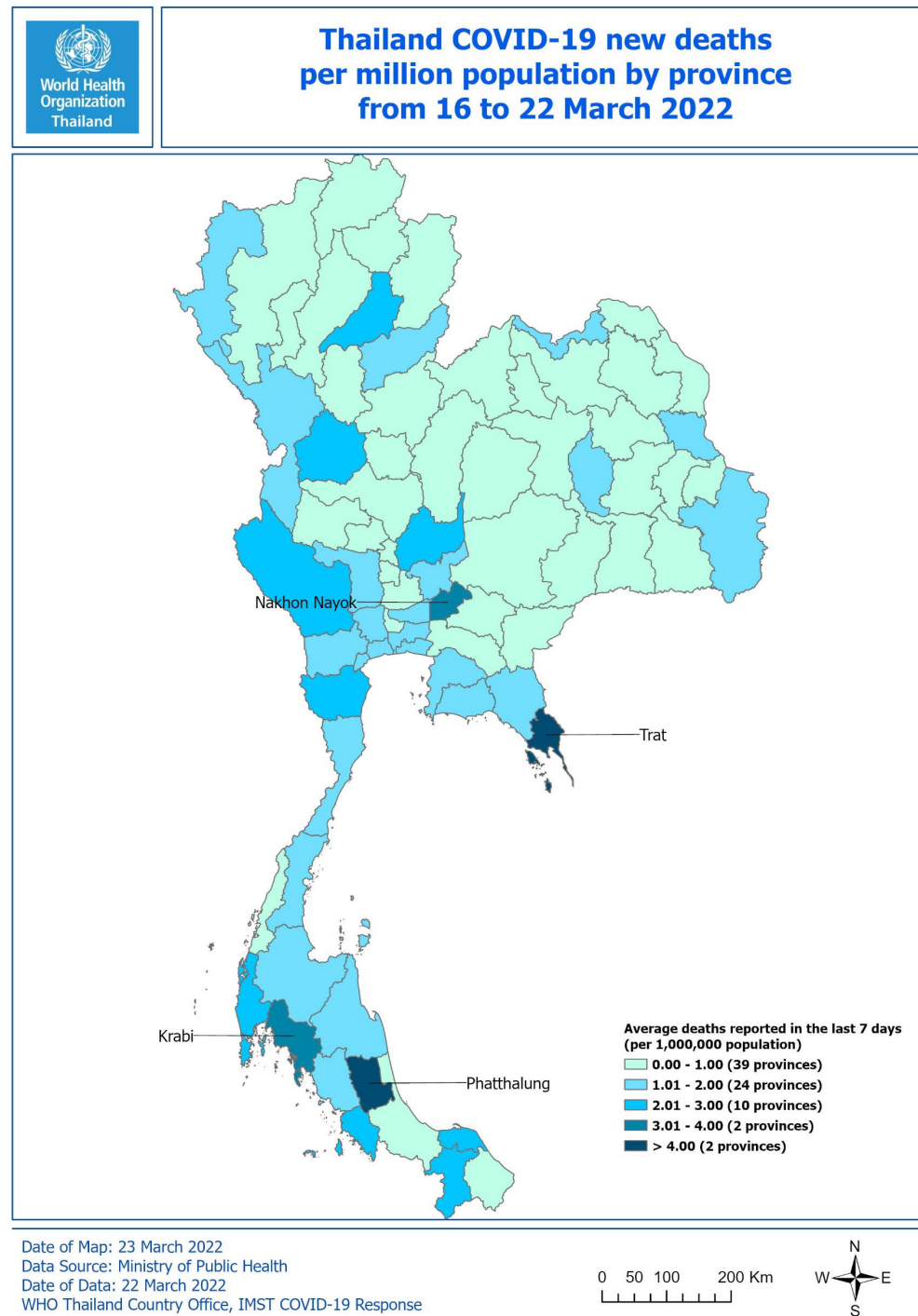
Source: MoPH



# New COVID-19 deaths per million population by province

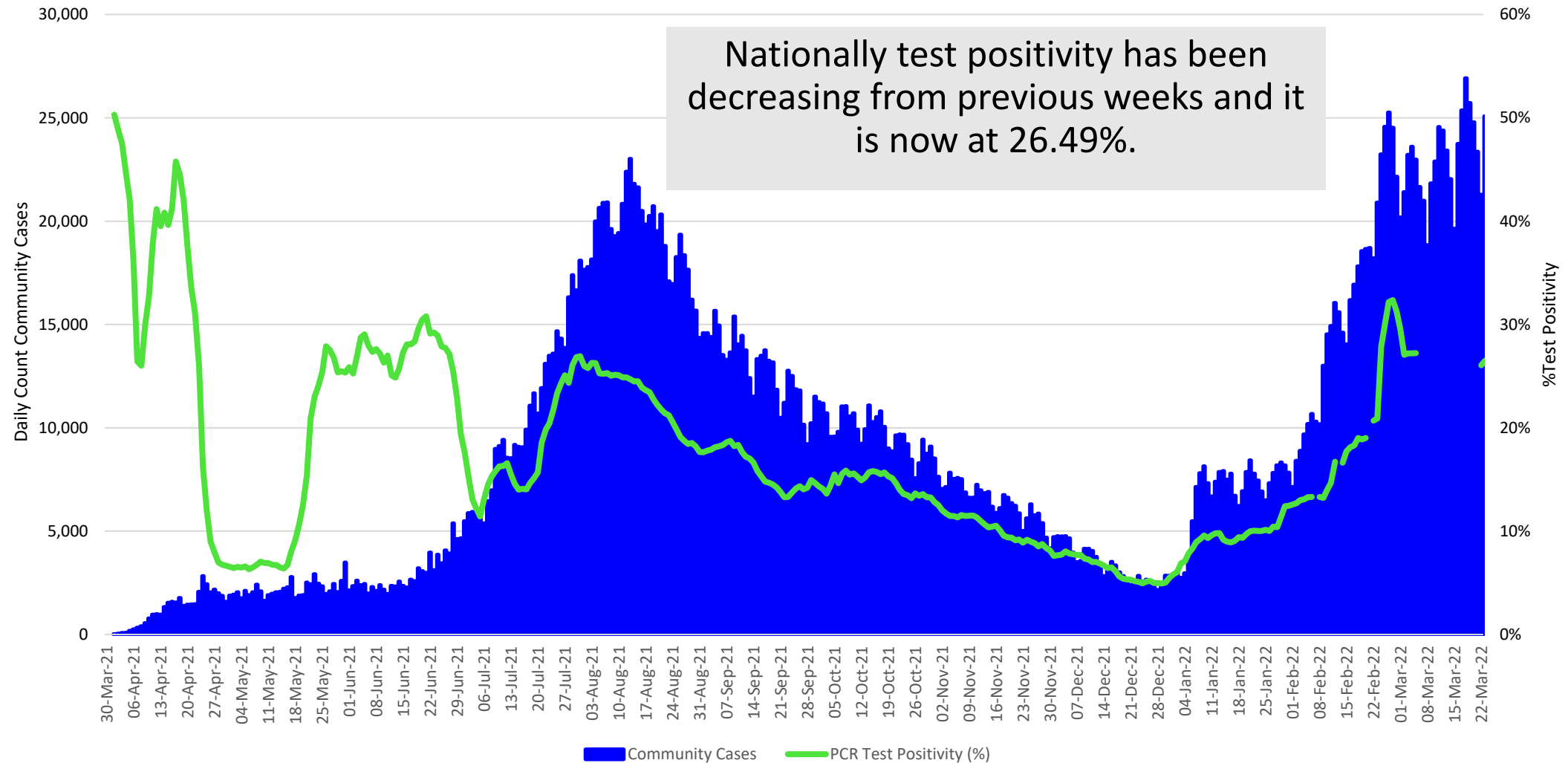
- The average rate of deaths per million population over the past week ranged from 0 to 5.1 deaths per million population across the 77 provinces in Thailand. The average rate of new deaths nationwide is 1.3 cases per million population. Three provinces reported no new deaths in the past week.
- Trat 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.

Source MoPH



# COVID-19 Testing

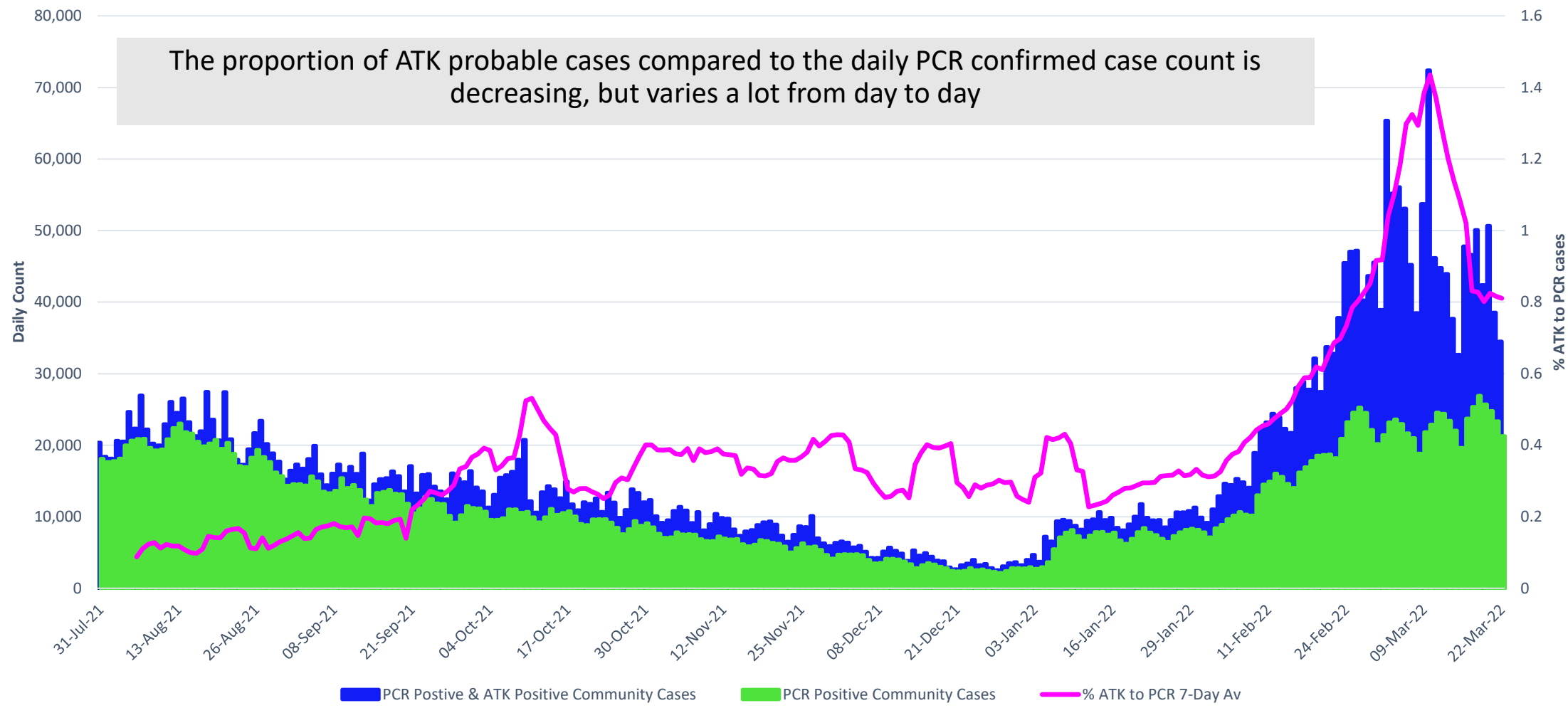
# Variation in 'Test Positivity Rate' over time\*



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

to 22 Mar 2022  
Source: MoPH

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

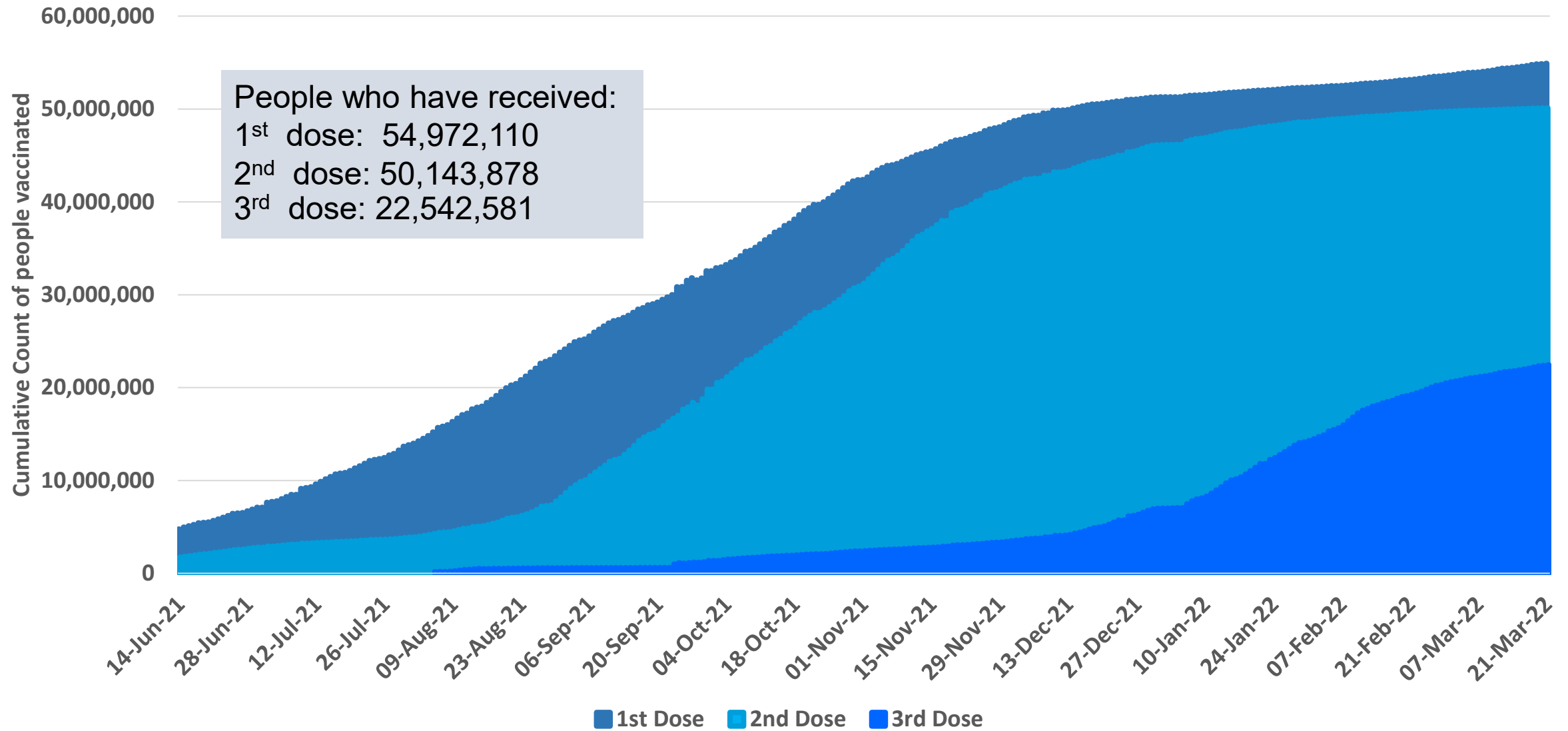


to 22 Mar 2022  
Source: MoPH



# Vaccination

# National COVID-19 vaccination coverage



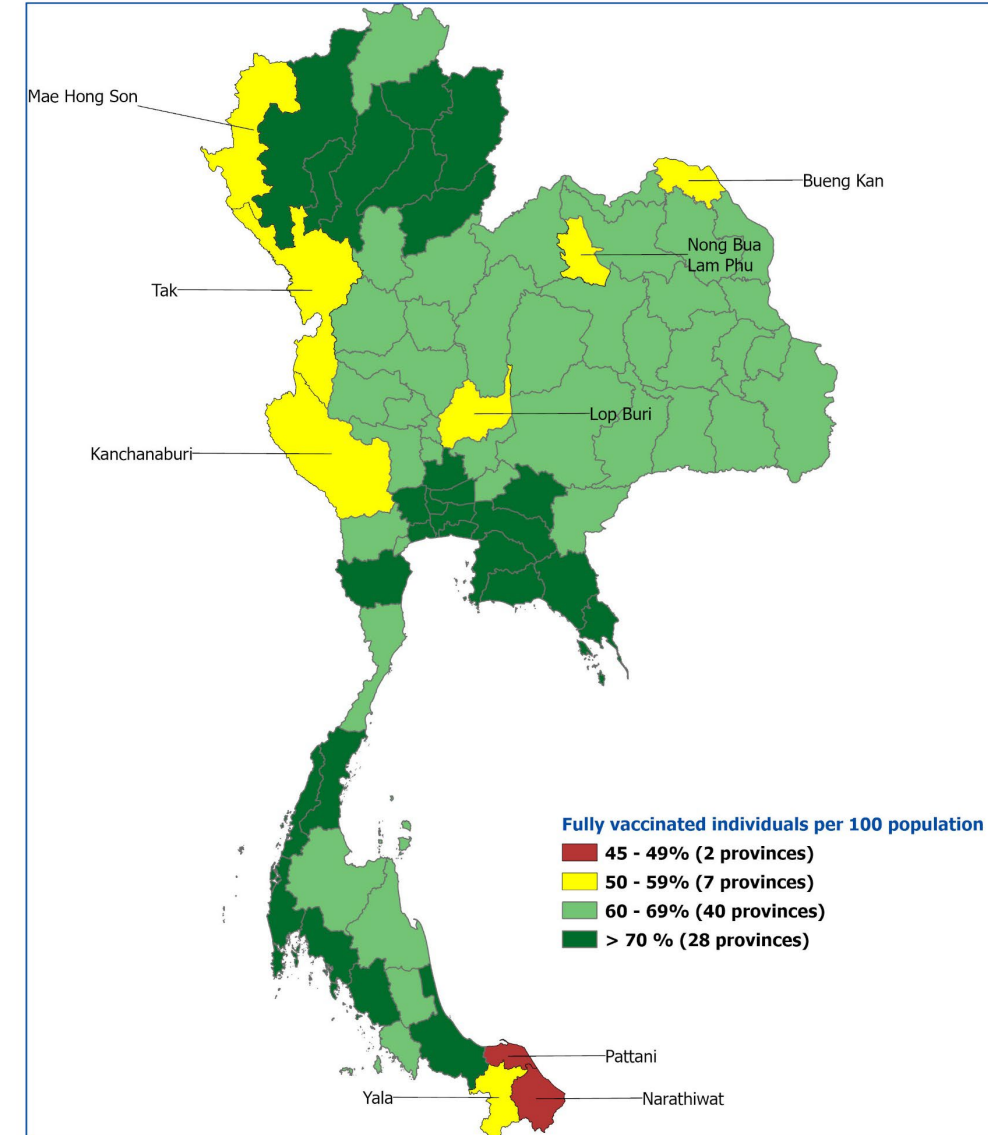
Source MoPH to 23 Mar 2022

# Second dose coverage per million population by province

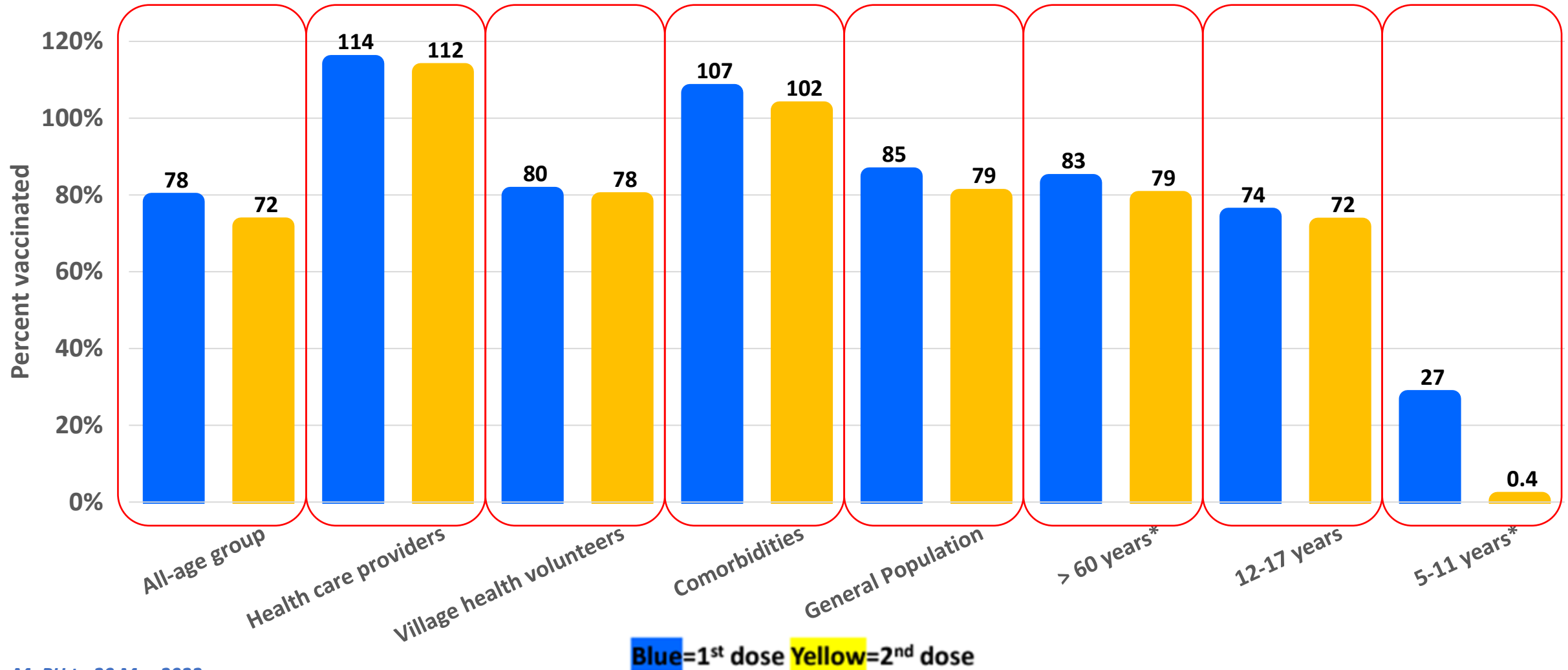
- The number of provinces reporting higher two-dose vaccination coverage has slightly increased compared to the previous week.
- Two-dose vaccination coverage varies from 45-105 per 100 population.
- The highest rate of vaccination coverage rates were in Bangkok and its surrounding provinces, and industrial and tourism provinces.
- 28 out of 77 provinces had 2<sup>nd</sup> dose vaccine coverage above 70%.
- The lowest vaccination coverage rates were in Pattani and Narathiwat in the far south.



## Second dose province vaccination coverage per 100 population until 20 March 2022



# Vaccination coverage in specific populations



MoPH to 20 Mar 2022

\*CCSA to 21 Mar 2022

# Policy Update

# Real-World Vaccine Effectiveness Against Omicron Variant in Chiang Mai (Jan – Feb 2022)

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

Source: MoPH's press briefing 21 Mar 2022

## Preliminary results from VE study among at-risk groups (contacts and ACF) nationwide in January 2022

Outcome	Vaccination	%VE (95%CI)
Prevention against infection	2 doses	4.1% ((-0.7) – 8.6)
	3 doses	56.0% (53.2 – 58.7)
	4 doses	84.7% (81.9 – 87.1)
Prevention against severe disease and deaths	2 doses	54.8% (30.5 – 70.6)
	3 doses	88.1% (71.7 – 95.0)
Prevention against deaths	2 doses	79.2% (39.4 – 92.9)
	3 doses	87% ((-19) – 98.6)

**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 4<sup>th</sup> dose.

# The MoPH's Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration (18 years and above)

3 <sup>rd</sup> dose booster	Dose 1	Dose 2	Interval		Dose 3
	SV/SP	SV/SP	4 weeks		AZ
	SV/SP	AZ	>3 months		AZ
	SV/SP	Pf	>3 months		Pf
	AZ	AZ	>3 months		Pf
	Pf	Pf	>3 months		Pf
	AZ	Pf	>3 months		Pf
	AZ	AZ	>3 months		AZ
4 <sup>th</sup> dose booster	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3	Interval	Dose 4
	SV/SP	SV/SP	AZ	>4 months	AZ
	SV/SP	SV/SP	Pf	>4 months	Pf
	SV/SP	AZ	AZ	>4 months	Pf
	AZ	AZ	Pf	>4 months	Pf

**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



# 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**

\* They should receive a booster dose with Pfizer (4 months interval after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose)

\*\* They should receive a booster dose with Pfizer or Moderna (4-6 months interval after the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.







# 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](mailto:testgo@consular.go.th).  
Please refer to the FAQs at [www.consular.mfa.go.th](http://www.consular.mfa.go.th) and [tp.consular.go.th](http://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



**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

# EXPLAINER:

## SARS-CoV-2 recombinant variants

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.

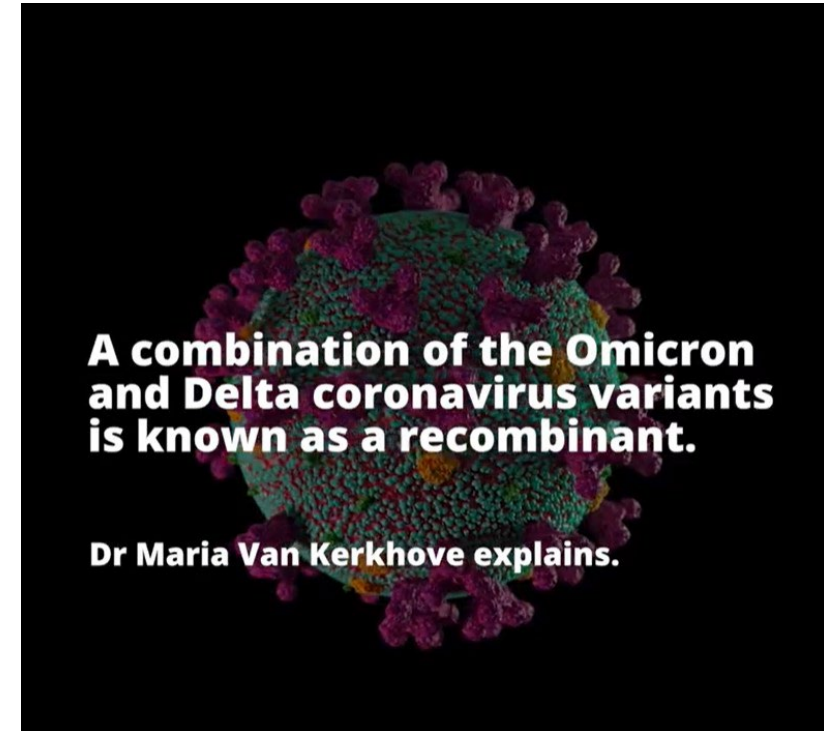
WHO has been notified of several recombinant variants, either due to recombination between Delta and BA.1 variants, or BA.1 and BA.2 variants.

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.



Click on the image to watch Dr Maria Van Kerkhove discusses the combination of the Delta variant and the Omicron variant.



## 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  
4th Fl., Permanent Secretary Bldg.3 Ministry of Public Health,  
Nonthaburi, Thailand, 11000. [sethawebsite@who.int](mailto:sethawebsite@who.int)



[www.who.int/thailand](http://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**