COVID-19 Situation, Thailand
25 May 2022

WHO Thailand Weekly Situation Update No. 237

Based on data as reported by the CCSA

4,424,344 total confirmed cases

29,844 total deaths

Daily average numbers reported from 18 May to 24 May 2022 (compared to the week prior)

5,251 new confirmed cases (6,487) 19% ➔

37* deaths (51) 26% ➔
*(Counting deaths changed to ‘deaths from COVID’ where previously COVID deaths also included ‘deaths with COVID’)

7,422 people recovered (8,817) 34% ➔

131,814 vaccinations (111,245) 18.5% ➔

Main messages

| Reducing community transmission of COVID-19 across Thailand |
| RTG encourages COVID-free settings and booster vaccinations |

Get vaccinated, maintain universal precautions and stay informed
Contents COVID-19 Update

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

All data from the Royal Thai Government and Ministry of Public Health unless otherwise stated
New cases, severe cases, ventilated cases and deaths continue to show a weekly decrease. The average number of new laboratory-confirmed (PCR positive) COVID-19 cases reported per day (5,251) decreased by 19% in the past 7 days compared to the previous week (6,487, also a reduction of 19%). The average number of probable (ATK positive) cases per day over the last week decreased by 4% (the lowest reduction since 29 March).

Bangkok continues to report the highest daily number of COVID cases (with a weekly average of 2,049) but reported a 7-day average decrease of 3.5%, a noticeably smaller decrease than nationally. On average, over the previous 7 days, 39% of all cases have been in Bangkok.

The reduction in new cases has seen the average daily number of all currently 'active' COVID-19 cases (56,075) over the last seven days decrease by 22% compared to the previous week (72,259). Most cases 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 (21,411) decreased by 18%.

The weekly average number of daily deaths decreased by 26% to 37. Although this continues to decrease, most of these deaths would have been prevented if vaccination rates were higher, particularly in vulnerable groups.

The average daily number of severe COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (1,061) decreased 19% over the previous week (1,302).

The average daily number of ventilated COVID-19 cases over the past seven days (523) has decreased by 19% compared to the number the week before (642). Although nationally new cases are decreasing, the policy of not confirming all probable cases by PCR testing, 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 actual case counts. From the data reported, the high transmissibility of the Omicron variant is clear, with half of all cases in Thailand reported in the last 5-months, when the Omicron variant started to dominate circulation.

Vaccination in Thailand continues 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. The COVID-19 situation in Thailand is improving, but there remains a long way to reduce the burden of ventilated cases and deaths from COVID-19 in Thailand. Vaccination rates remain low in some provinces and some important risk groups.
Global Situation
Global COVID-19 (total) cases, deaths and vaccinations to date:
chart showing cases reported per week (24 May 2022)

523,786,368 confirmed cases
357,682 new cases in last 24 hours

6,279,667 deaths
1,030 new deaths in last 24 hours

11,752,954,673 vaccine doses administered (22 May 2022)
5,188,471,791 persons vaccinated with at least one dose
4,690,376,664 persons fully vaccinated

Situation by WHO Region

Europe

Americas

Western Pacific

South-East Asia

Eastern Mediterranean

Africa

There has been increases of new cases of COVID-19 in some WHO regions, though globally the trend has levelled over the last few weeks.

• While new cases are much lower than the peak of the Omicron variant of concern (VoC) driven wave, the levelling off over the least few weeks remains high and is at similar levels to the peaks of previous waves of COVID-19.

• For the South-East Asia region, the current level of new cases is much lower than the Omicron and Delta VoC peaks.

Globally new deaths are much lower than previous peaks from preceding waves of COVID-19 and are now at similarly low levels to those seen in March 2020 at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: https://covid19.who.int/ - Data as of 24 May 2022, Vaccination data to 22 May 2022
National Situation
Thailand COVID-19 cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases per day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of reporting</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Mar 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 May 22</td>
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</table>

Source MoPH to 24 May 2022
*Source CCSA to 23 May 2022
COVID-19 deaths in Thailand

Deaths have decreased by 26% last week

- From 1 May, reporting of COVID deaths changed to be only deaths where COVID-19 is the cause of death. Before 1 May, COVID death reporting comprised deaths from COVID (COVID as the cause of death) and deaths from other causes in which COVID was present at the time of death.

Source MoPH to 24 May 2022
Severe and ventilated COVID-19 cases have decreased by 19% in the past week.

Ventilated cases
- Current count: 521
- 7 days average: 523
- 7 days decrease: 15.2%*
- Delta peak: 1,172
- Omicron peak: 940
- COVID lowest: 11^ from 14 April 2021

Severe cases
- Current count: 1,034
- 7 days average: 1,061
- 7 days decrease: 18.5%*
- Delta peak: 5,626
- Omicron peak: 2,123
- COVID lowest: 36^ from 14 April 2021

*Compared to the week prior

Source MoPH to 24 May 2022
COVID-19 hospital bed occupancy (7-day average) and severe cases

**3rd wave**
- **Alpha VoC**
- 7 days hospital bed average: 21,411
- 7 days average decrease: 18%
- Delta peak: 80,229
- Omicron peak: 79,649
- COVID lowest: 875*

**4th wave**
- **Delta Voc**
- 7 days hospital bed average: 21,411
- 7 days average decrease: 18%
- Delta peak: 80,229
- Omicron peak: 79,649
- COVID lowest: 875*

**5th wave**
- **Omicron VoC**
- All active cases (people in hospital, hospitals or in community or home isolation)
- 7 days all active cases average: 56,075
- 7 days decrease: 23%
- Delta peak: 213,112
- Omicron peak: 252,726
- COVID lowest: 1,247*

*from 1 April 2021

Source MOPH: to 24 May 2022
Provincial Situation
COVID-19 proportion of new cases in Bangkok to all cases

The average daily number of confirmed cases in Bangkok over the past week has decreased by 3.5% compared to the week prior.

Cases in Bangkok still make up the greatest proportion of cases that has increased from 34% to a 7-day average of 39%
New COVID-19 cases per million population by province

• The average new cases per million population are decreasing across provinces, with lower average rates of new cases being reported far more widely across the country.

• The variation between the lowest rate to the highest average rate of new cases was 0 (Lampang) to an average of 266 cases per million population (Bangkok). This is an 3.6% decrease from the previous weeks highest rate of an average of 276 cases per million population, also in Bangkok.
  - 71 (92%) of provinces report an average of 100 or fewer case per million population, an increase from 51 (66%) provinces in the previous week.
  - Like the previous week, only Bangkok has an average of greater than 200 cases per million population, 76 (96%) of 77 provinces report an average of 151 or fewer cases per million population.

• Higher rates of cases continue to be seen mainly in the North-East of Thailand (Buri Ram, Surin, and Yasothon), and continuing around Bangkok, in Ang Thong and Uthai Thani.
New COVID-19 deaths per million population by province

- The average rate of deaths per million population over the past week ranged from 0 (21 provinces, up from 17 provinces in the previous week) to 3.8 average deaths per million province population (Uthai Thani, Yasothon). This is an increase (58%) from the maximum average of 2.2 deaths per million population in the week before.
  - The number of provinces reporting an average of 1 or fewer deaths per million population (fewer than 1 death is due to averaging) increased to 67 (87%) from 52 (67%) in the previous week
  - As with last week the provinces reporting the highest average rate of deaths has changed but continues to include provinces in the North-East (Roi Et and Yasothon) together with Eastern, Central and Western provinces.
  - Yasothon and Uthai Thani also report also reporting high rate of new cases, see previous slide
  - Far Northern and Southern provinces have reported lower average rates of deaths per million population.
Vaccination
National COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage

People who have received:
1\textsuperscript{st} dose: 56,625,088
2\textsuperscript{nd} dose: 52,323,889
3\textsuperscript{rd} dose: 27,699,310

Source CCSA to 23 May 2022
Percentage of the population vaccinated against COVID-19 by Province

- The level of 2-dose vaccination continues to vary widely across all 77 provinces from 46% (Narathiwat, no change from previous weeks) to Bangkok (100%).
- At the lower end of 2-dose vaccination, coverage is either not increasing (Narathiwat) or increasing by less than half of one-percent per week (Pattani, increasing from 46.7% to 46.8%).
- The pattern of distribution of 2-dose vaccination remains similar to previous weeks though with the number of provinces in the highest category of 69% or more population coverage increasing from 37 to 41 provinces: Khon Kaen in the North-East, and Chai Nat, Phetchabun and Uthai Thani in the central region
  - The same 2 provinces continue to have less than 50% 2-dose coverage, are located in the far south (Narathiwat and Pattani)
  - The number of provinces with greater than 80% 2-dose vaccination has increased by 1 (Nakhon Pathom) province to 10.
- Rural provinces continue to report lower vaccination coverage compared to tourist destination provinces in the south around Bangkok and Chiang Mai in the north.
Changes to Thai approved COVID-19 vaccines

- **COOVAX** (Recombinant Spike Protein Vaccine) from the Serum Institute of India (SII) has been approved and listed in emergency use listing (EUL) by the Thai Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) for use in adults 18 years old and more.

- TFDA has approved expanding of age group for two vaccines under EUL
  1. **NOVOVAX**: expanding from 18 years and older to **12 years and older**. The recommended dose will be the same as in Adults – 0.5 ml per dose x 2 doses with 3 weeks interval.
  2. **Moderna**: expanding from 12 years and older to **6 years old and older**. Dose for 6-11 years old will be half of adult dose – 50 mcg (0.25 ml) x 2 doses with 4 weeks interval.
### The MoPH’s Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration (18 years and above)

#### 3rd dose booster

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

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Dose 1</th>
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<td>SV/SP</td>
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<td>Pf</td>
<td>&gt;4 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>SV/SP</td>
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<td>AZ</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>Pf</td>
<td>&gt;4 months</td>
<td>Pf</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.

**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>
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<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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dose 2: orange cap Pfizer (10 micrograms/ 0.2 ml.)</td>
<td>4 weeks</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>
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</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
MFA updates FAQs relating to Thailand Pass at https://consular.mfa.go.th/th/content/thailand-pass-faqs-2
Since the onset of the COVID19 pandemic, it’s been recognised that children and adolescents quite frequently do not develop symptoms when infected with SARS-CoV-2. Even when younger people become unwell with COVID-19, there’s a much lower risk of developing severe illness. Compared to previously, the risks to children are even lower now with less severe ‘Variants of Concern’ in circulation and the widespread availability of the COVID-19 vaccine.

However, because children were believed to play a role in the transmission of infection (both to family members and the wider community), public health measures applied in many countries in the past two years have sometimes included withdrawing children from school or closing schools altogether.

Keeping children from school clearly has undesirable consequences, including poor learning and impacts on the broader social and developmental benefits afforded by in-person learning. In some settings, withdrawing children from school sometimes resulted in an increased risk of anxiety, depression, and self-harm. Measures introduced also led on occasions to reduced physical activity, poor eating habits, and disrupted sleep patterns. These problems would only become worse the longer schools remain closed.

Although reducing the risk of COVID in schools to zero is not possible, the risks are manageable with robust mitigation strategies, including vaccination. The World Health Organization’s guidance on operating schools during the pandemic includes several evidence-based measures to reduce COVID 19 exposure and transmission. These include personal hygiene practices, proper mask use, physical distancing, adequate ventilation, and regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces. Prudent use of Antigen Test Kits, and clear and consistent communication with parents and children to ensure compliance in the classroom and during afterschool activities is equally important.

Recommended measures include:
- Maintaining a distance of at least 1 metre from other people
- Keeping hands clean
- Wearing a mask when physical distancing isn’t possible
- Covering coughs and sneezes when not wearing a mask
- Opening windows and doors to ventilate classrooms and common areas
- Getting vaccinated when it’s your turn
- Remembering to stay home when you’re feeling unwell

Click on the image to watch the WHO COVID-19 Technical Lead, Dr Maria van Kerkhove discuss steps schools should take to keep students and staff safe from COVID-19.
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. sethawebmaster@who.int

www.who.int/thailand @WHO Thailand
WHO Thailand WHO Thailand

Reducing COVID-19 risks in schools

- Protect yourself and others by getting vaccinated against COVID-19
- When possible, open windows to increase ventilation
- Encourage everyone to clean their hands frequently
- Supply a closed bin for used tissues and masks
- Ensure physical distancing of at least 1 metre
- Advise students, teachers and school staff to stay home when not feeling well and inform you if they start to feel unwell at school

9 November 2021
Adapted from materials developed by WHO Regional Office for Europe

#Back2School #SafeSchools #COVID19