

Thailand situation update on 18 December 2021

1. International Situation

	Total Number	Daily Increase	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Confirmed cases	274,028,428	721,199	
Deaths	5,362,720		1.96%

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

Situation	Total Number
Number of new confirmed cases	3,132
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported) 	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases found in prisons 	93
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases infected in Thailand (Local transmission) 	3,102
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases found from active case finding (Local transmission) 	35
7-day average percentage of daily positive PCR tests (confirmed cases)	6.44%
Total number of confirmed cases	2,188,629
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total recovered and discharged from hospitals - Newly recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,123,969 (97.04%) 3,278
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment 	43,305 (2.96%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths - New deaths 	21,355 (0.98%) 28
Daily Number of new Vaccinations (Doses)	488,333
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First dose 	104,990
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second dose 	184,035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third dose 	199,308
Total number of Vaccinations (Doses)	98,058,844
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First dose 	49,854,317
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second dose 	43,332,621

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 Situation

by Emergency Operations Center, Department of Disease Control

• Third dose	4,871,906
Number of people screened at Ports of Entry (Airports, Ground Ports, Seaports)	9,808,684
Number of people screened when renewing their passports (at the Immigration Bureau, Chaeng Watthana)	767,132

Characteristics of Deaths (21,355 deaths)	Wave: 1 Jan - 14 Dec 2020 (60 deaths)	Wave: 15 Dec 2020 - 31 Mar 2021 (34 deaths)	Wave: 1 April 2021 - now (21,261 deaths)
Case Fatality Rate (CFR) in each age group			
• 15 - 39 years old	0.20%	0.02%	0.09%
• 40 - 59 years old	2.10%	0.02%	0.75%
• 60+ years old	6.50%	2.60%	5.40%
• < 1 year old (2 deaths)			
Percentage of COVID-19 deaths that consist of elderly patients, patients with underlying diseases including obesity, or pregnant patients			
	64%	100%	90%

3. Thailand Implementations

- The Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has strictly prevented the Omicron, new variant of the SAR-CoV-2 by assigning teams to the main areas for the New Year's events and to check the re-opening preparation of the ground cross border checkpoint in Nong Khai Province on December 24, 2021.
- The Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has ordered to raise the screening standard for people attending the New Year's celebrations to have evidence of complete vaccination. It has been preparing to randomly check the areas in Chiang Mai, and Nakhonratchasima emphasizing on screening people returning to their hometowns to prevent disease outbreaks.
- The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has adjusted the COVID-19 preventive measures during the New Year Festival by allowing selling and drinking of alcoholic beverages from the night of December 31, 2021 to 1:00 a.m. of January 1, 2022. All shops and entertainment places must strictly follow the COVID Free Setting measures.

4. Risk Assessment of COVID-19 Situation

For the global COVID-19 situation, there have been more than 273 million cumulative cases. The daily new cases have been increasing since mid-October to be more than 6 hundred thousand people per day. Most has been the result of case surging in the European region. Countries with many outbreaks include the United Kingdom, the United States, France and Germany. In the ASEAN region, the overall case situation has been decreasing except for Vietnam that there are more than 15,000 cases per day.

In Thailand, the third current wave (since April 2021), there have been 2,159,766 cumulative cases. Today (18 December) there are 3,132 new cases. The overall trend of daily new cases has been decreasing in all regions of the country to be around 3,000 cases per day. Most of the new cases are found in the Central and Southern regions. Provinces with more cases include Bangkok, Samut Prakan, Chon Buri, Samut Sakhon and Songkhla. The cumulative number of deaths is 21,261, representing a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 0.98%. Most deaths are the elderly and people with chronic underlying diseases who are not vaccinated.

As for the vaccination situation in Thailand, more than 99.3 million doses have been administered to the people. More than 44.1 million people have received 2 or more doses of vaccine, accounting for 61.4% of the population. Provinces with the highest coverage of people receiving 2 doses or more are Bangkok, Phuket, and Chonburi. Overall, there are still many provinces where vaccination coverage is less than 50%. And as vaccines are more effective in preventing illness and death rather than infection, re-opening the country and relaxing measures to allow more activities, therefore, still being a risk of the disease spreading and increasing in the number of infected people. However, most infected people will not have serious symptoms. Therefore, it is forecasted that the trend of infected people during this period will be slowly declining and will likely remain over 3,000 cases per day.

Therefore, there should be a continued surveillance among patients whose symptoms are in line with the COVID-19 definition, investigation of large-scale outbreaks to identify risk sites and risk factors and rapid control of the disease including risk communication to the public to maintain the intensity of disease prevention measures despite receiving the vaccine. The self-protections are mask wearing, frequent hand washing, working from home if possible, reducing unnecessary travel especially to crowded places, and getting vaccinated when available, including the booster doses.