

Thailand situation update on 19 December 2021

1. International Situation

	Total Number	Daily Increase	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Confirmed cases	274,590,718	562,290	
Deaths	5,368,305		1.96%

2. The Disease Situation in Thailand

Situation	Total Number
Number of new confirmed cases	2,899
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases found in quarantine facilities/centers (Imported) 	54
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases found in prisons 	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases infected in Thailand (Local transmission) 	2,845
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases found from active case finding (Local transmission) 	22
7-day average percentage of daily positive PCR tests (confirmed cases)	6.44%
Total number of confirmed cases	2,191,528
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total recovered and discharged from hospitals - Newly recovered and discharged from hospitals 	2,128,358 (97.12%) 4,389
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing treatment 	41,793 (2.88%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths - New deaths 	21,377 (0.98%) 22
Daily Number of new Vaccinations (Doses)	127,809
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First dose 	17,908
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second dose 	33,865
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third dose 	76,036
Total number of Vaccinations (Doses)	98,225,442
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First dose 	49,882,257
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second dose 	43,383,240

• Third dose	4,959,945
Number of people screened at Ports of Entry (Airports, Ground Ports, Seaports)	9,820,746
Number of people screened when renewing their passports (at the Immigration Bureau, Chaeng Watthana)	767,132

Characteristics of Deaths (21,377 deaths)	Wave: 1 Jan - 14 Dec 2020 (60 deaths)	Wave: 15 Dec 2020 - 31 Mar 2021 (34 deaths)	Wave: 1 April 2021 - now (21,283 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 Ministry of Public Health has prepared to propose the “COVID Safe Area” measure for the government to consider easing the wearing of masks in certain areas such as parks or beaches when the overall situation in the country is well controlled and the vaccination coverages are high.
- The Ministry of Public Health has visited Nakhon Ratchasima province on the third booster dose COVID-19 vaccination campaign in the up-country areas. There are enough doses of vaccines that have been distributed to each area as per the population number. It is also emphasized that the Village Health Volunteers have received the third dose of vaccine by January 15, 2022.
- The Ministry of Interior has issued the policy to 17 Northern provinces on the surveillance of COVID-19 variants, strict control of illegal matters along the borders, high coverage vaccination campaign, as well as risk communication for the people to strictly follow the DMHTTA measures.

4. Risk Assessment of COVID-19 Situation

For the global COVID-19 situation, there have been more than 274 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, France, the United States, 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 (19 December) there are 2,899 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 21,283, 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 99.7 million doses have been administered to the people. More than 44.3 million people have received 2 or more doses of vaccine, accounting for 61.5% 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 2,000 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.