

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

21 October 2021
WHO Thailand Weekly
Situation Update
No. 206

Based on data as reported by the CCSA

DAILY AVERAGE (15-21 October)



9,875 new cases



10,598 people recovered



846,179 vaccinations



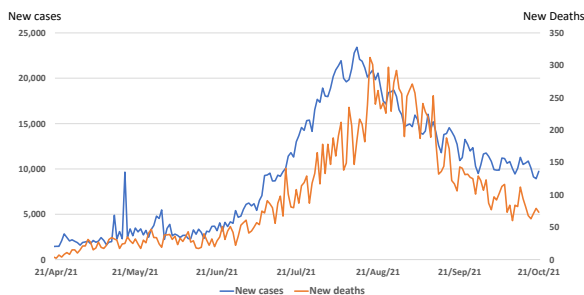
76 deaths

1,821,579 total confirmed cases

18,599 total deaths

WEEKLY TRENDS

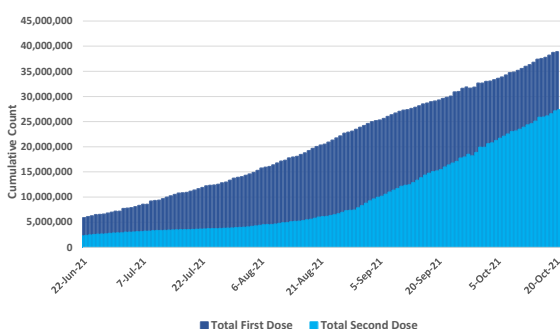
- The number of new community acquired cases continues to decrease, although the rate of decrease remains slow, reducing by 5%; up from the 1% of the previous week. Case counts remain high, but with an average of 9,875 per day for the last 7 days, have dropped below 10,000 for the first time since the middle of July.
- The number of deaths continues to decrease with an average of 76 deaths per day compared to an average of 87 per day in the previous week, a 13% decrease, similar to the previous weeks 12% drop. As with community cases the last time deaths were at this level was in July.
- Severe cases (decreasing by 6%, 3% last week) and ventilated cases (4%, 5% previously) continue to decrease, though the rate of decrease remains slow and counts remain high.



Source: DDC, MOPH 21 Oct 2021

VACCINATIONS

- Nearly 40 million people have now received a first vaccination dose, representing 77% of the Government target; a 7% increase from the previous week.
- More than 27 million people have received a second dose, representing now over half (54.4%) of the Government target. This is a 4.8% increase but a slowing down from the more than 9% increase from the previous week.
- More than 2 million third doses have also been administered, averaging nearly 32,000 per day, the same rate as the previous week.
- Vaccination in vulnerable groups is increasing but for 2nd-shots remains around 50% for the 608 group.



SITUATION ANALYSIS

- The number of new COVID-19 cases reported on a daily basis, the total number of all active cases as well as the numbers of severe and ventilated cases (reflecting healthcare burden) and the number of reported deaths in Thailand are all decreasing, and have reduced substantially from the peak in August.
- However, the rate of decrease of all these 'indicators' has slowed significantly and in absolute terms the numbers remain high - many times greater than the previous peak in the 3rd wave between April and June 2021.
- The situation in Southern Thailand also continues to be of concern. Today, 1,010 cases were reported in Bangkok, but the five Provinces with the next highest case counts were Yala (653), Nakhon Si Thammarat (630), Songkhla (627), Pattani (543) and Narathiwat (374), so that these five Provinces accounted for 29% of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Thailand. Local and national authorities continue efforts to implement public health and social measure and increase vaccination coverage.

COVID-19 in Singapore

- On 20th October, Singapore reported 3,994 confirmed COVID-19 cases, its highest ever daily total. Seven deaths were also reported. Today, the daily case count was the second highest reported at 3,862; and 18 deaths were reported. The total number of COVID-19 deaths reported in Singapore since the beginning of 2020 is now, 264, so that 9.5% of all COVID deaths have been reported in the last two days. It is also reported that occupancy of isolation and ICU beds is high. The Ministry of Health, Singapore reports that 4,563,906 people (more than 80% of the population) are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Consideration is being made to further strengthen preventive measures.
- The situation in Singapore clearly illustrates the important need for all countries to continue to rigorously apply the basic preventive public health and social measures that we know will break chains of transmission, including maintaining physical distancing, correct mask wearing, hand washing and avoiding unventilated spaces.



EXPLAINER:

- Fractional dose of COVID-19 vaccines
- COVID-19 and Influenza Co-infection
- COVID-19 vaccine and menstruation delay
- Approval for emergency use of domestically produced AstraZeneca vaccines

Fractional dose of COVID-19 vaccines

- As attention is directed more towards booster and third COVID-19 vaccinations, research is considering the efficacy and safety of fractional dosages, i.e. receiving a fraction of the first or second vaccine dose. By using less vaccine, the amount of vaccine available can go further, helping countries with limited supplies.
- A second reason for fractional dosing is that a booster given after a more conventional 2-shot regimen may not need a full amount of vaccine; a third shot may be enough to 'top-up' the immune system.
- The utility of fractional dosing will likely vary between different COVID-19 vaccines and so it's unlikely that a common 'one size fits all' approach will apply to all vaccines for all population groups.
- Ongoing studies are examining the protective performance and safety of different fractional doses for different groups (young, old, immunocompromised etc) with different vaccine brands and types.
- Currently not enough is known to be able to say if fractional dosages offer the amount of COVID-19 protection needed and so WHO does not currently recommend fractional COVID-19 dosing for third shots. WHO is continuing to monitor the evidence and will provide updates as more research becomes available.



Click on the image to hear Dr Kate O'Brien talk about COVID-19 fractional vaccine doses.

COVID-19 and Influenza Co-infection

- Different respiratory viruses often co-circulate in communities and people can sometimes be infected with more than one type of respiratory virus at the same time.
- Each year, seasonal influenza causes up to one billion cases and is responsible for as many as 650,000 respiratory-related deaths.
- Preventing influenza during a COVID-19 pandemic is important and risk groups including young children, pregnant women, older persons, people with underlying health conditions and health workers should receive an annual flu vaccination.
- Influenza vaccine is normally available in Thailand between May and August, but in 2021 uptake has been very low, potentially leaving risk groups vulnerable to both COVID-19 and influenza.
- For this reason, public health authorities are strongly advising eligible people in Thailand to ensure they get vaccinated against both influenza and COVID-19 as soon as possible.

COVID-19 vaccine and menstruation delay

- Women, trans and gender diverse people can receive a vaccine at any point of their menstrual cycle. Having your period is not an obstacle to vaccination. WHO is aware of reports of cases in some countries, predominately from the United Kingdom, of heavier than usual periods, delayed periods or unexpected vaginal bleeding following vaccination.
- Several large studies are currently researching the impact of vaccines on menstrual cycles and WHO will continue to monitor any new evidence. Information regarding these studies can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Studies have also shown that some women with COVID-19 experienced similar changes in their menstrual cycles.

Approval for emergency use of domestically produced AstraZeneca vaccines

- On 11 October 2021, Siam Bioscience's AstraZeneca vaccine produced in Thailand was granted Emergency Use Listing (EUL) by WHO, as already provided to AstraZeneca vaccine produced by AstraZeneca-SKBio (Republic of Korea) and the Serum Institute of India.
- The recommendation is based on data reviewed by WHO and the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia, a regulatory authority for the vaccine.

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](#)