

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

2 December 2021
WHO Thailand Weekly
Situation Update
No. 212

DAILY AVERAGE (26 November - 2 December 2021)



5,343 new cases



6,295 people recovered



469,172 vaccinations



38 deaths

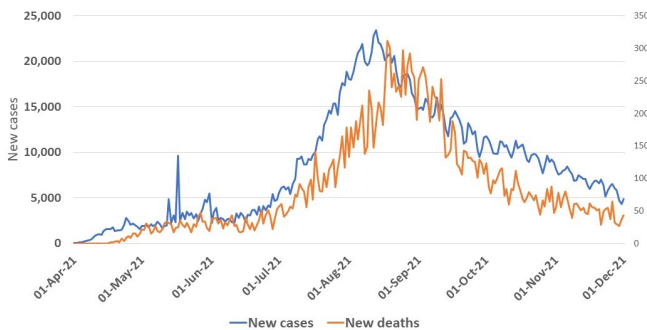
Based on data as reported by the CCSA

2,125,729 total confirmed cases

20,847 total deaths

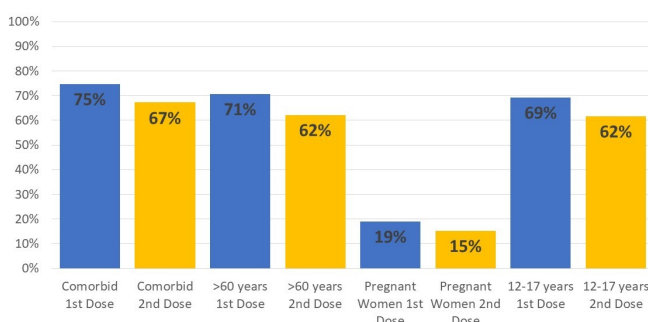
WEEKLY TRENDS

- The total number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in Thailand since January 2020 is now 2,125,729. The average number of community-acquired cases reported per day over the last seven days decreased by a further 16% in the last week compared to the week prior (from 6,000 to 5,049). The past four days have also all seen counts of community acquired infection below 5,000.
- The total number of deaths caused by COVID-19 infection since January 2020 is now 20,847. The average number of COVID-19 deaths reported per day in the last seven days decreased by 19% (38) compared to the average for the week before (47).
- The average number of severe COVID-19 cases reported per day over the last seven days was 1,378, which when compared to the week before (1,586) and the week before that (1,783) shows that these numbers also continue to decrease steadily.
- Similarly, the average number of ventilated COVID-19 cases reported per day over the last week was 335, compared to 377 the week prior and 417 the week before that.



VACCINATIONS

- Over 47 million people have now received a first vaccination dose, representing 96% of the government target.
- Nearly 42 million people have received a second dose, representing 81% the Government target.
- Although vaccinations have greatly surpassed RTG targets of 80% 1st dose and 70% 2nd dose, they are lower for vulnerable groups, (especially pregnant women) and in adolescents.



SITUATION ANALYSIS

- The number of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases continues to decrease. Today, the total number of active cases (73,726) - reflecting overall burden on the healthcare delivery system - is the lowest since the 8th of July 2021 and is almost 1/3rd (34%) of the number of active cases seen at the peak on the 8th August.
- The number of severe COVID-19 cases reported today (1,355) is just 24 % of the highest number (5,626) ever reported, on 16th August. The number of ventilated cases reported on 30th November (329) was 28% of the highest number (1,172); reported on 15th August. However, the rate of decrease of ventilated cases has slowed, and the last two days saw slight increases in numbers.
- COVID-19 is still widespread across Thailand, with almost every Province reporting new cases every day, indicating ongoing community transmission. Daily reported cases numbers continue to come down in Southern Thailand, although 'per capita' infection rates and test positivity rates are still higher than most other parts of the country.
- COVID-19 vaccination rates continue to rise and are now at levels that can be expected to significantly reduce levels of severe illness and deaths. However, vaccination rates are still low in some Provinces and in some important risk groups.
- The low vaccination rate in pregnant women remains a significant cause for concern. Unvaccinated pregnant women should consult with a medical practitioner to receive the best possible advice. Until they receive vaccination, pregnant women and their families should adhere strictly to all preventive measures.

Keep up protective measures for yourself, your family and loved ones.



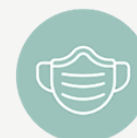
Keep physical distancing



Avoid crowded and enclosed places



Get vaccinated as soon as it's your turn



Wear a mask



Cover coughs and sneezes



Keep hands clean



READERS' SURVEY ([CLICK here](#))



EXPLAINER: Omicron

On 26 November 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529 a variant of concern, named Omicron. Our knowledge of this new variant is incomplete, but many studies are underway. Here is what we currently know and what we don't yet know. WHO will continue to share the findings of these studies as they become available.

Transmissibility: It is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible (e.g., more easily spread from person to person) compared to other variants, including Delta. The number of people testing positive has risen in areas of South Africa and epidemiologic studies are underway to understand if this increase can be attributed to Omicron or to other factors.

Severity of disease: It is not also yet clear whether infection with Omicron causes more severe disease compared to infections with other variants, including Delta. Preliminary data suggests that there are increasing rates of hospitalization in South Africa, but this may be due to increasing numbers of people infected with COVID-19 cases (including mild cases), rather than because people are getting more sick. There is also currently no information to suggest that symptoms associated with Omicron are different from those from other variants.

Reinfection: Preliminary evidence suggests there may be an increased risk of re-infection with Omicron (i.e. people who have previously had COVID-19 might become re-infected more easily with Omicron), as compared to other variants of concern, but information is limited.

Effectiveness of vaccines: WHO is working with technical partners to understand the potential impact of this variant on our existing countermeasures, including vaccines. Vaccines

How should we prepare for Omicron?



Although the Omicron variant strain has not been detected in Thailand, it is a timely reminder of the need to get vaccinated and continue to practice the public health and social measures that we know will protect ourselves and our families. Although some things about Omicron are still not known, we can be very confident these basic protective measures will continue to work

remain critical to reducing severe disease and death, including against the dominant circulating variant, Delta.

Effectiveness of current tests: The widely used PCR tests continue to detect infection, including infection with Omicron, as we have seen when other variants emerged. Studies are ongoing to determine whether there is any impact on other types of tests, including rapid antigen detection tests.

Recommended actions for people: The most effective steps individuals can take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 is to keep a physical distance of at least one metre from others; wear a well-fitting mask; open windows to improve ventilation; avoid poorly ventilated or crowded spaces; keep hands clean; cough or sneeze into a bent elbow or tissue; and get vaccinated when it's their turn.



Click the image to watch Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's COVID-19 Technical Lead, announce the classification of Omicron (B.1.1.529) as a SARS-CoV-2 Variant of Concern

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



www.who.int/thailand



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