

# COVID-19 Situation, Thailand

## 22 December 2021

**2,196,529 total confirmed cases**

**21,440 total deaths**

**Daily Average 15 to 21 December 2021 (previous week)**

 **3,089 new cases (3,734)**

 **30 deaths (33)**

 **4,293 people recovered (6,396)**

 **98,432,419 vaccinations (12-17 December)**

### Main messages

| Increasing Omicron VoC cases detected in people quarantined arriving by air |

| RTG encourages COVID-free setting in risk areas and a booster dose |

| Get vaccinated, maintain universal precautions and stay informed |

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*All data from the RTG MoPH unless otherwise stated*

# Situation Analysis

- The total number of 'active' COVID-19 cases reported today (38,202), indicates a continuing steady decrease, dropping by 18% compared to one week ago. Today's number is the lowest since the middle of May. This represents a significant reduction in the burden of hospitals.
- The number of severe COVID-19 cases reported today (845) is 85% lower than the highest number ever reported (5,626) on 16 August and also reflects a continual steady decrease.
- The number of ventilated cases reported today (231) is 80% lower than highest number (1,172) reported on 15 August, also showing an ongoing decrease, though slowing down.
- COVID-19 is still widespread across Thailand – with community transmission in almost every province. 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 caused by currently circulating COVID-19 strains. However, vaccination rates are still low in some provinces and in some important risk groups.
- The low vaccination rate in pregnant women is still a significant cause for concern. Unvaccinated pregnant women should consult with a medical practitioner to receive the best possible advice. Until they are fully vaccinated, pregnant women and their families should adhere strictly to all preventive measures.

# Global COVID-19 cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases reported per week (21 December 2021)

**274,628,461,311** confirmed cases

**543,414** new cases in last 24 hours

New cases remains similar to the previous week

**5,358,978,248** deaths

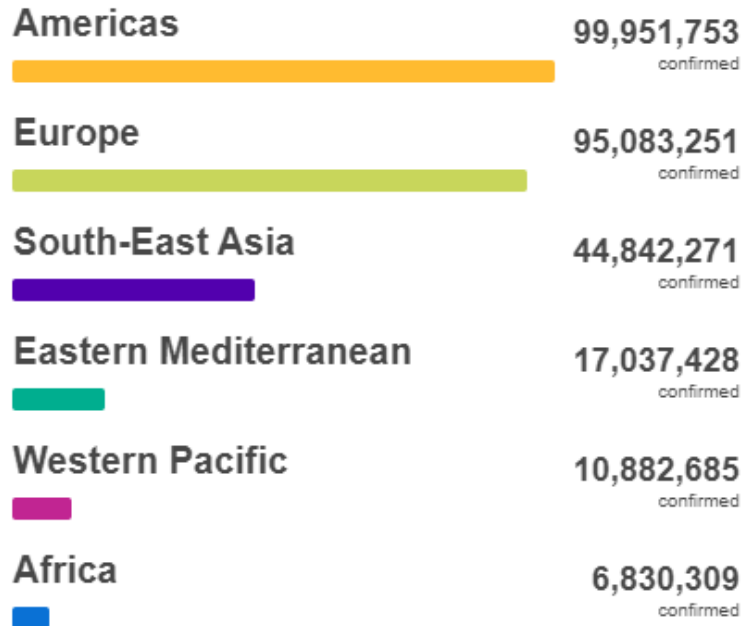
**6,488** new deaths in last 24 hours

In the last week new deaths decreased by 9%

**8,387,658,165** vaccine doses administered

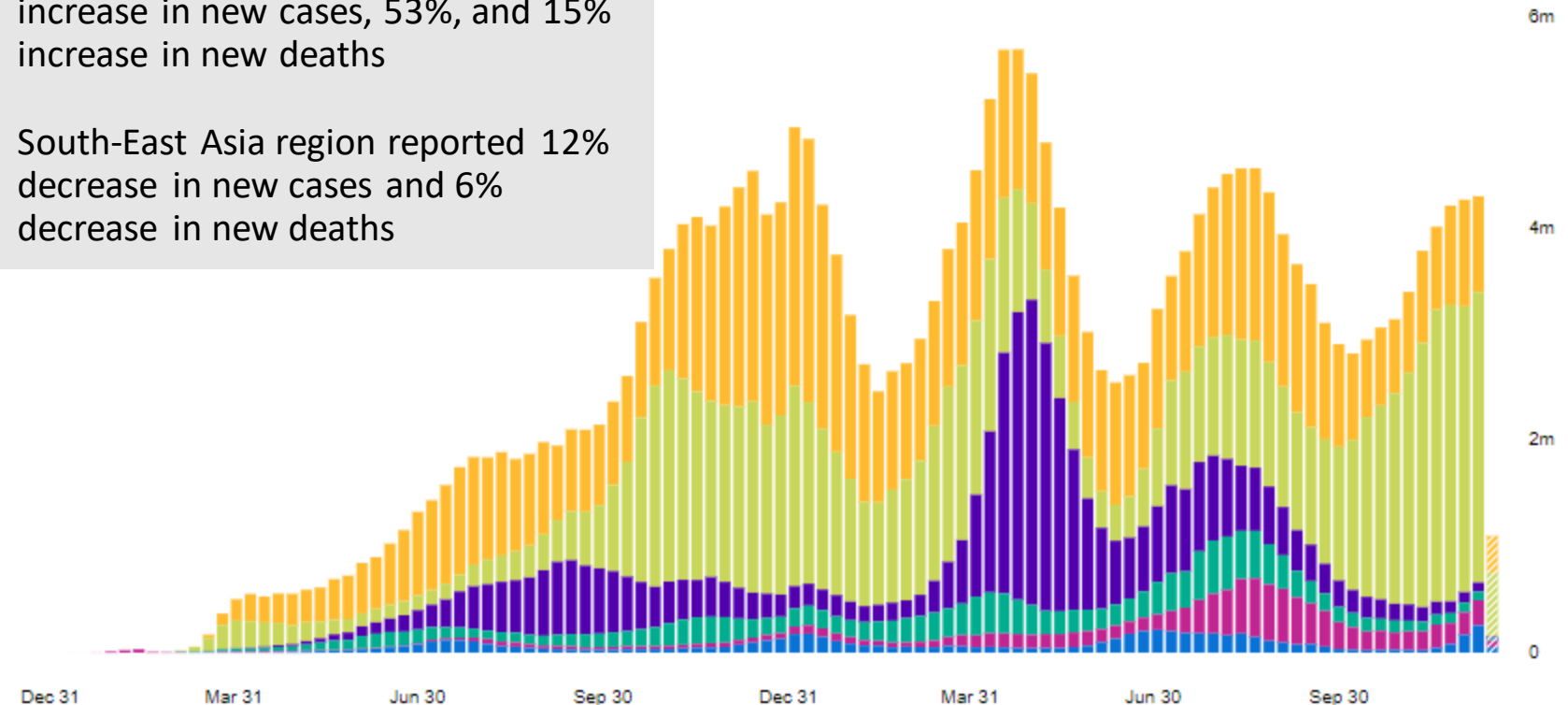
**3,496,897,343** persons fully vaccinated

## Situation by WHO Region



Africa region reported largest weekly increase in new cases, 53%, and 15% increase in new deaths

South-East Asia region reported 12% decrease in new cases and 6% decrease in new deaths



<https://covid19.who.int/>

# Situation in countries bordering Thailand

## (21 December 2021)

Country	Cases			Deaths			Vaccination	
	Cumulative cases	per 1M population	Trend (7 Day Avg)	Cumulative deaths	per 1M population	Trend (7 Day Avg)	1st dose	2nd dose
Cambodia	120,430	7,058	Down	3,006	176	Stable	84%	80%
Laos	100,524	13,524	Stable	284	38	Stable	51%	42%
Malaysia	2,724,684	82,611	Down	31,192	-	Stable	79%	78%
Myanmar	528,639	9,621	Down	19,230	-	Stable	31%	22%
Thailand	2,196,529	30,493	Down	21,440	298	Stable	70%	61%

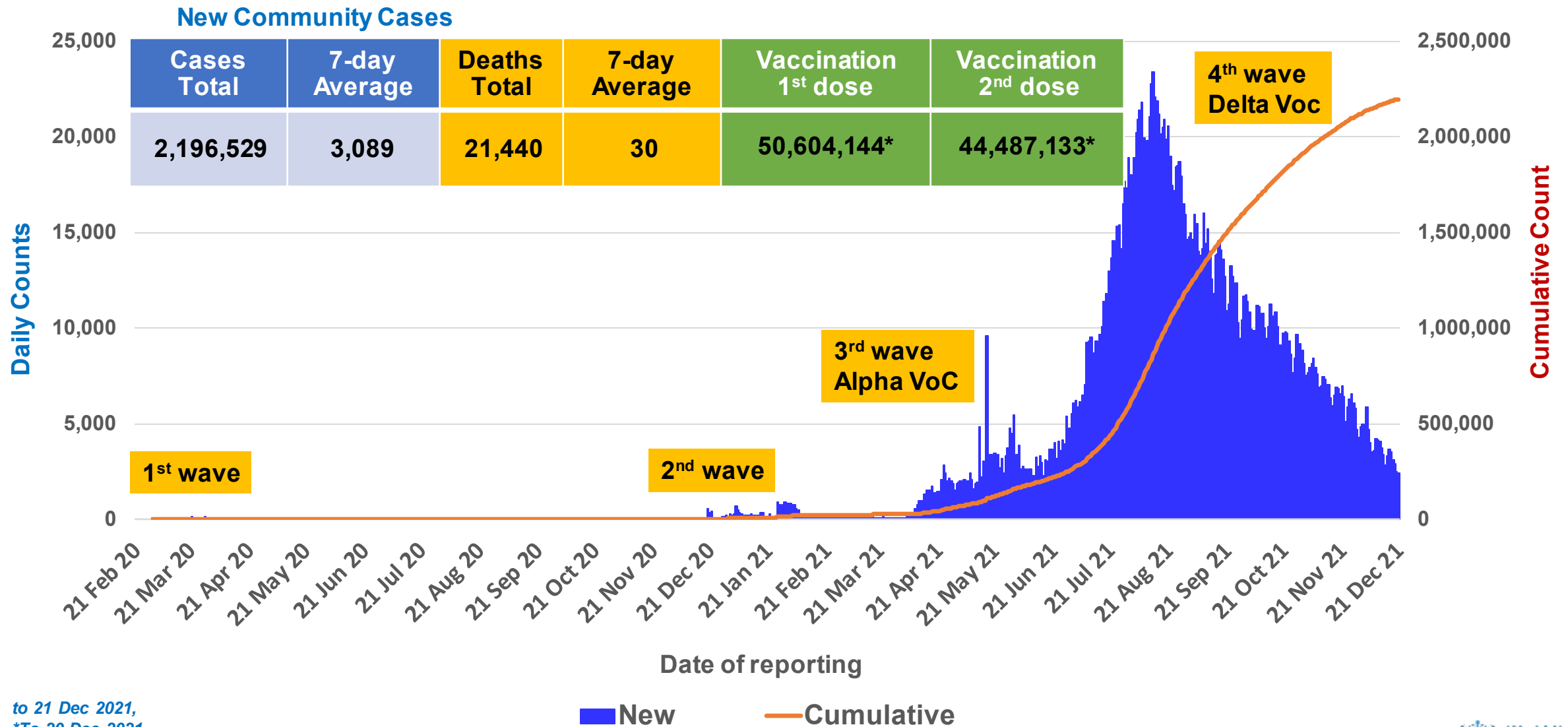
As of 17 December

Source: Worldometers

Source Thai Data: MoPH

# National Situation

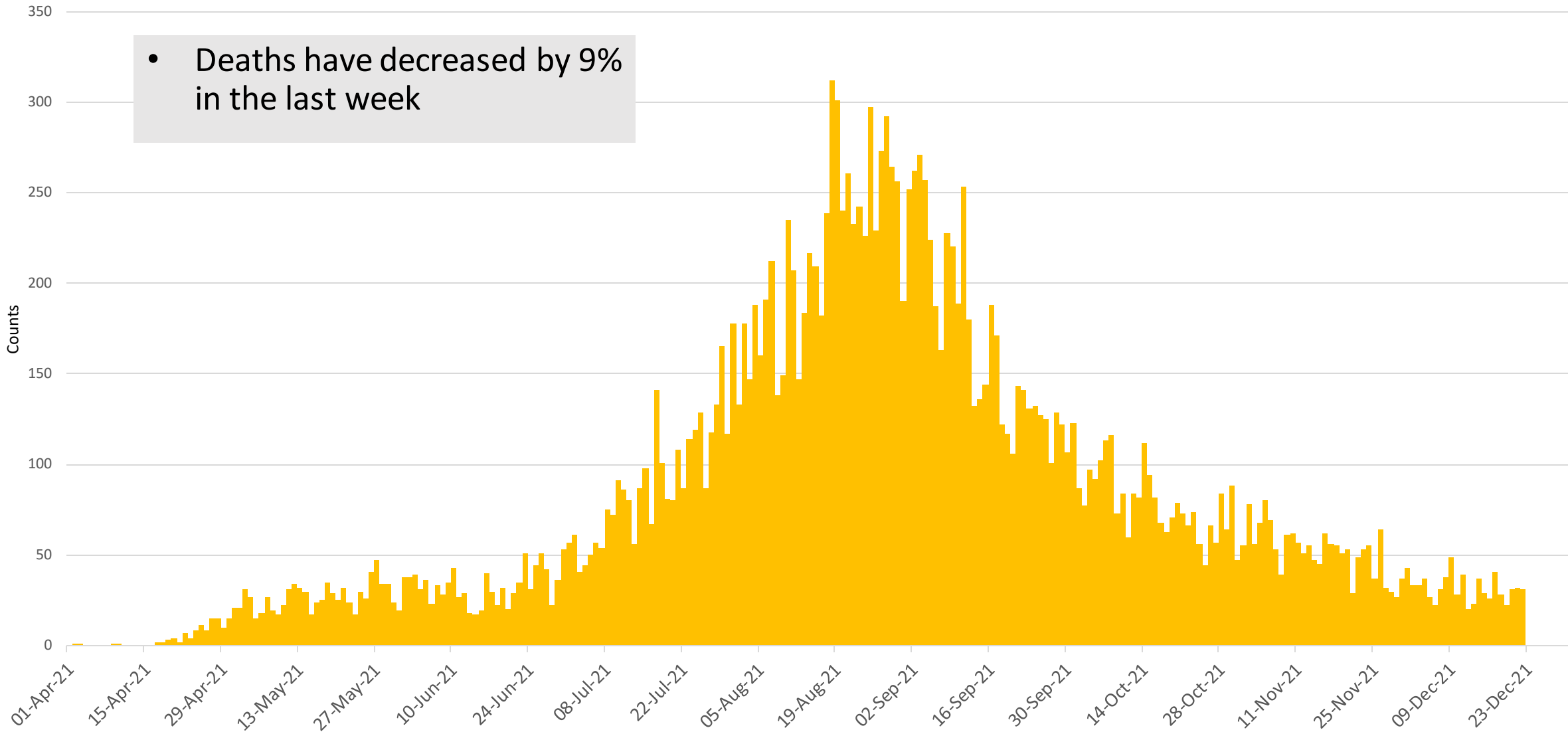
# Thailand COVID-19 cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases per day



to 21 Dec 2021,  
\*To 20 Dec 2021,  
source MoPH

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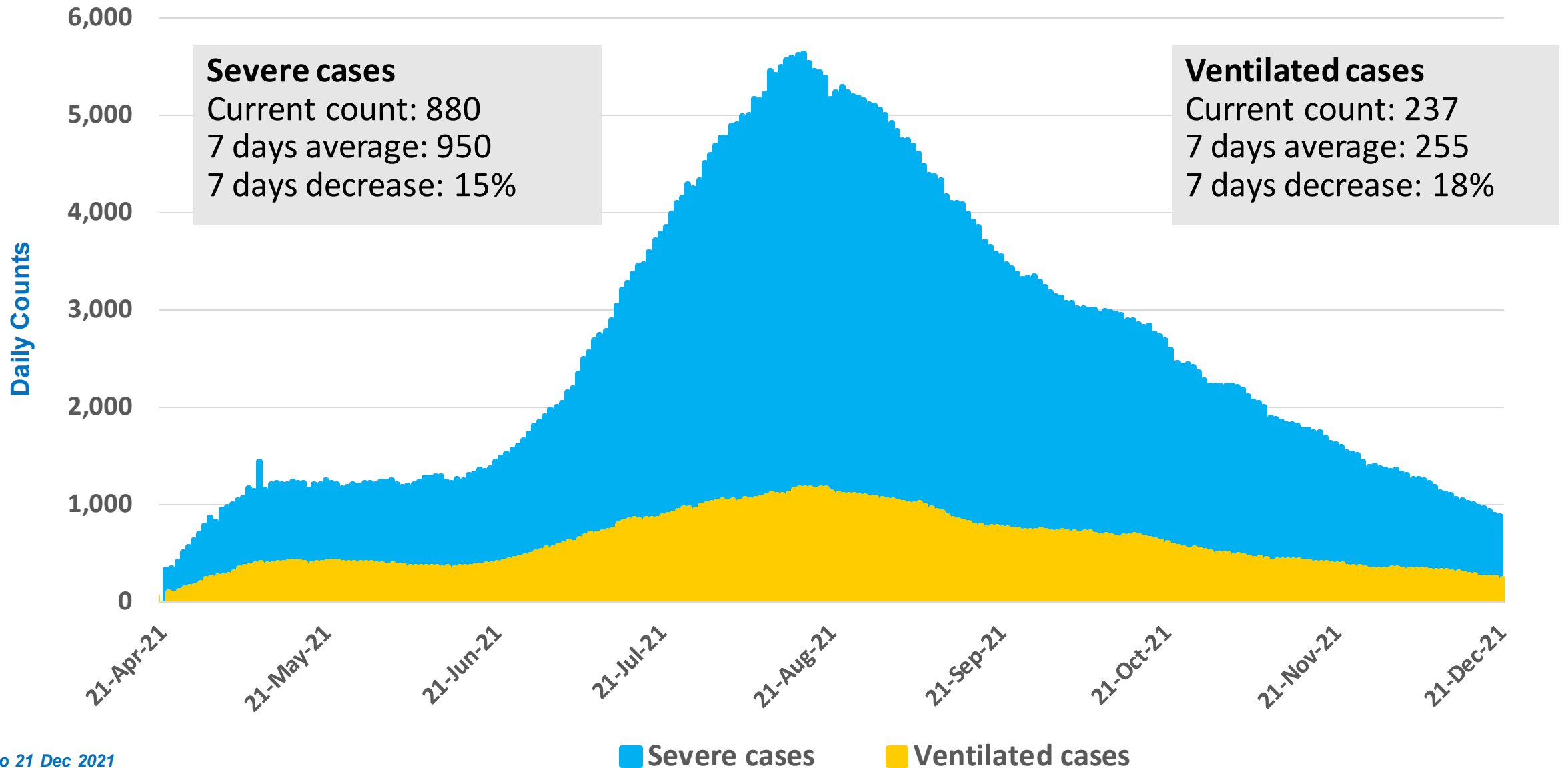
# Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in Thailand since April 2021



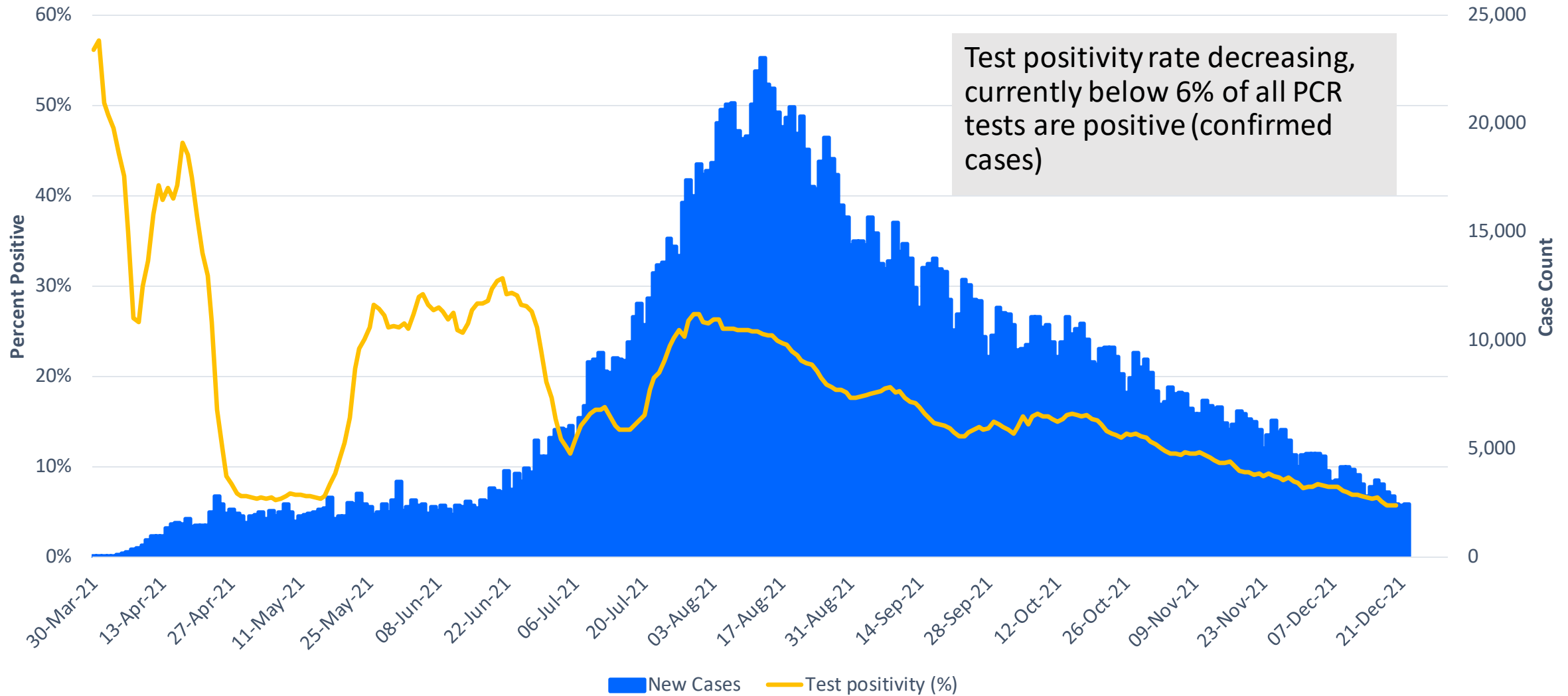
- Deaths have decreased by 9% in the last week



# Daily severe & ventilated Covid-19 cases (bed occupancy)



# COVID-19 Daily new community cases and test positivity

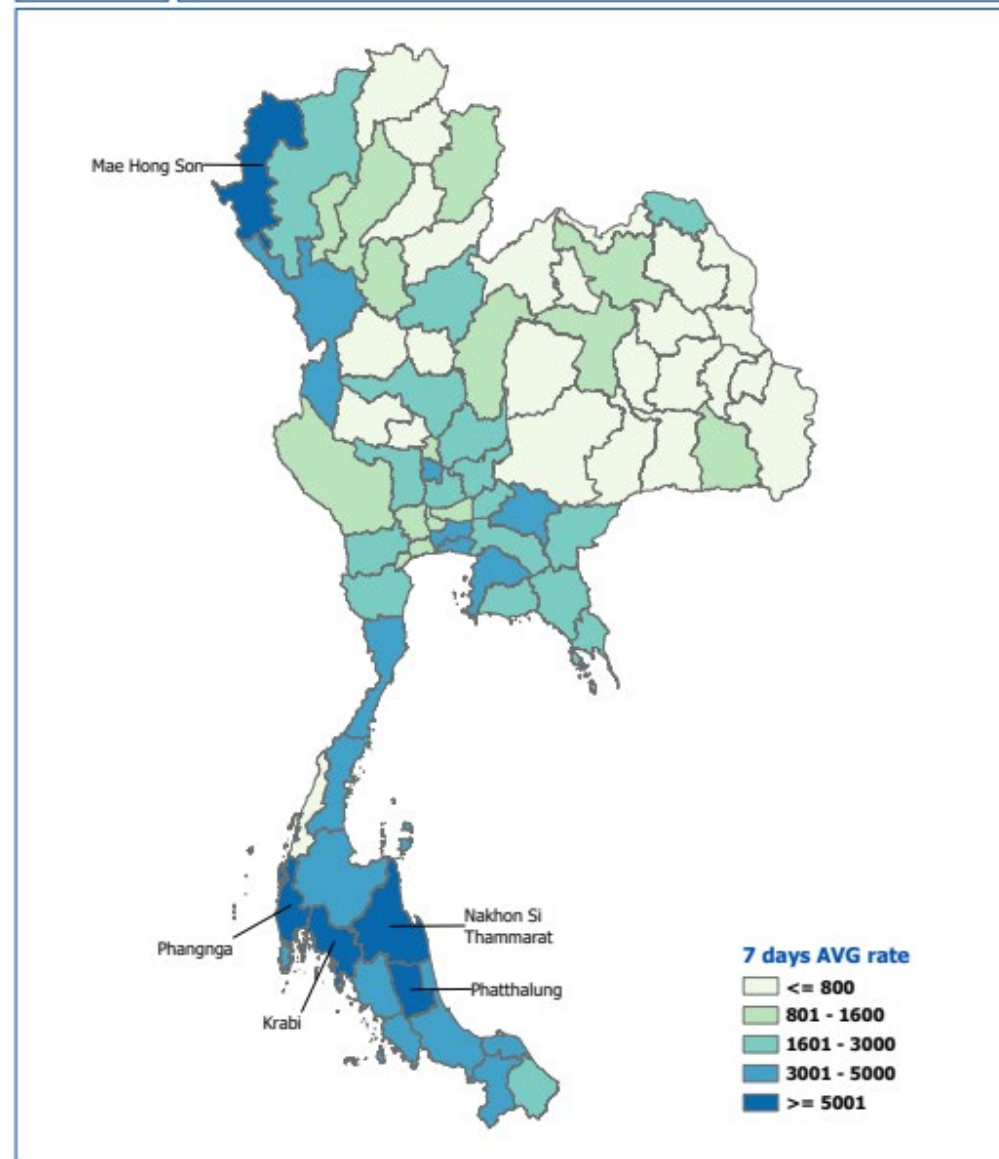


# Provincial situation

# Map of new cases per million population by province 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December

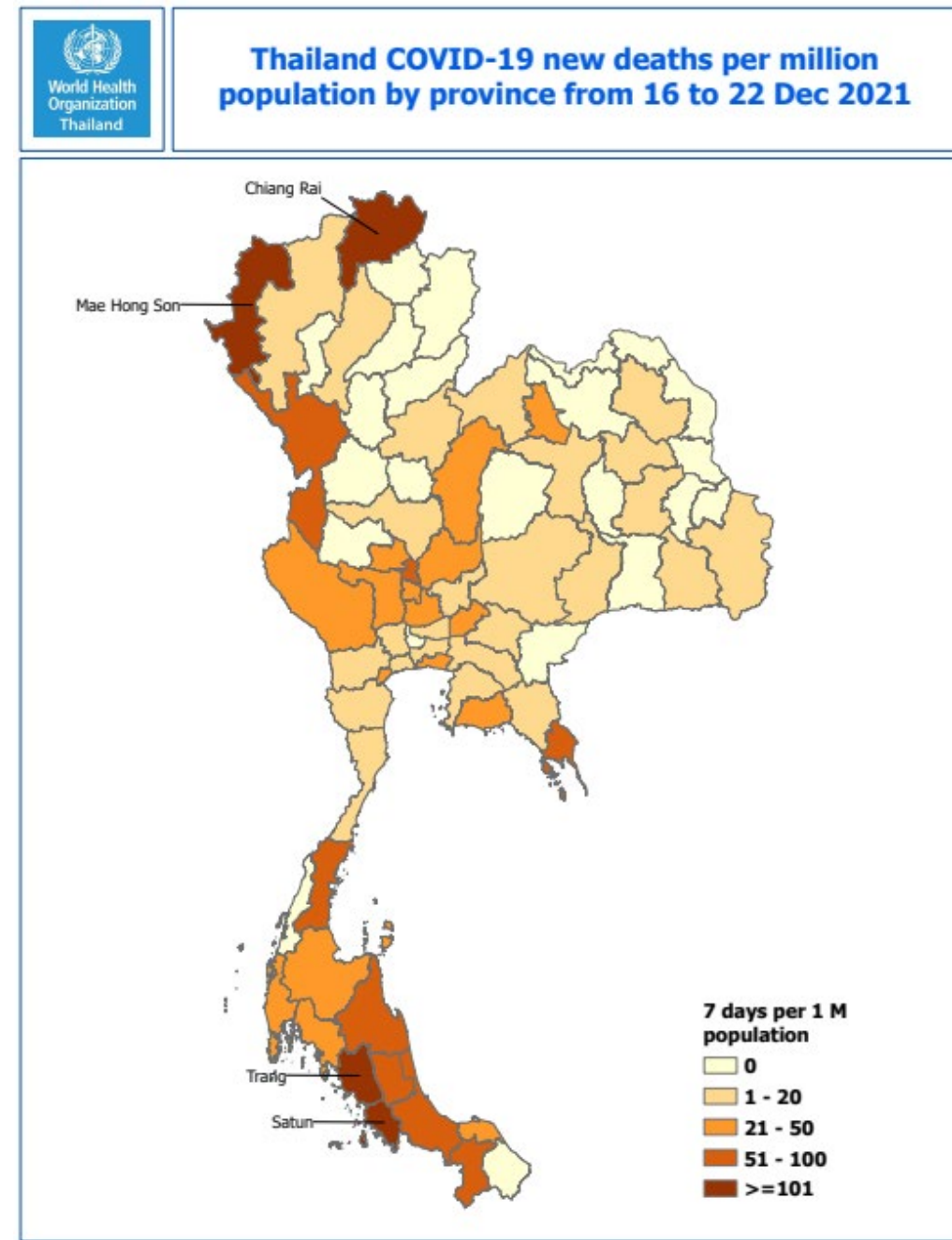
- There is widespread ongoing transmission across Thailand
- Most provinces reporting high cases per million population are in the south and north-west
  - Tourist destinations are included among the southern provinces reporting the high case counts per capita
  - North-west provinces with the highest case count per capita bordering Myanmar
- The provinces reporting lower new cases per population are in the central and lower eastern areas
- The Provinces reporting the lowest cases are mainly in the north- east

Source MoPH



# Map of new deaths per million population by province 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> December

- Highest deaths per population occurring in north-western and southern provinces
- Deaths also occurring in the central and central western areas and into the south-eastern area of Thailand



Source MoPH

# Variants in Thailand

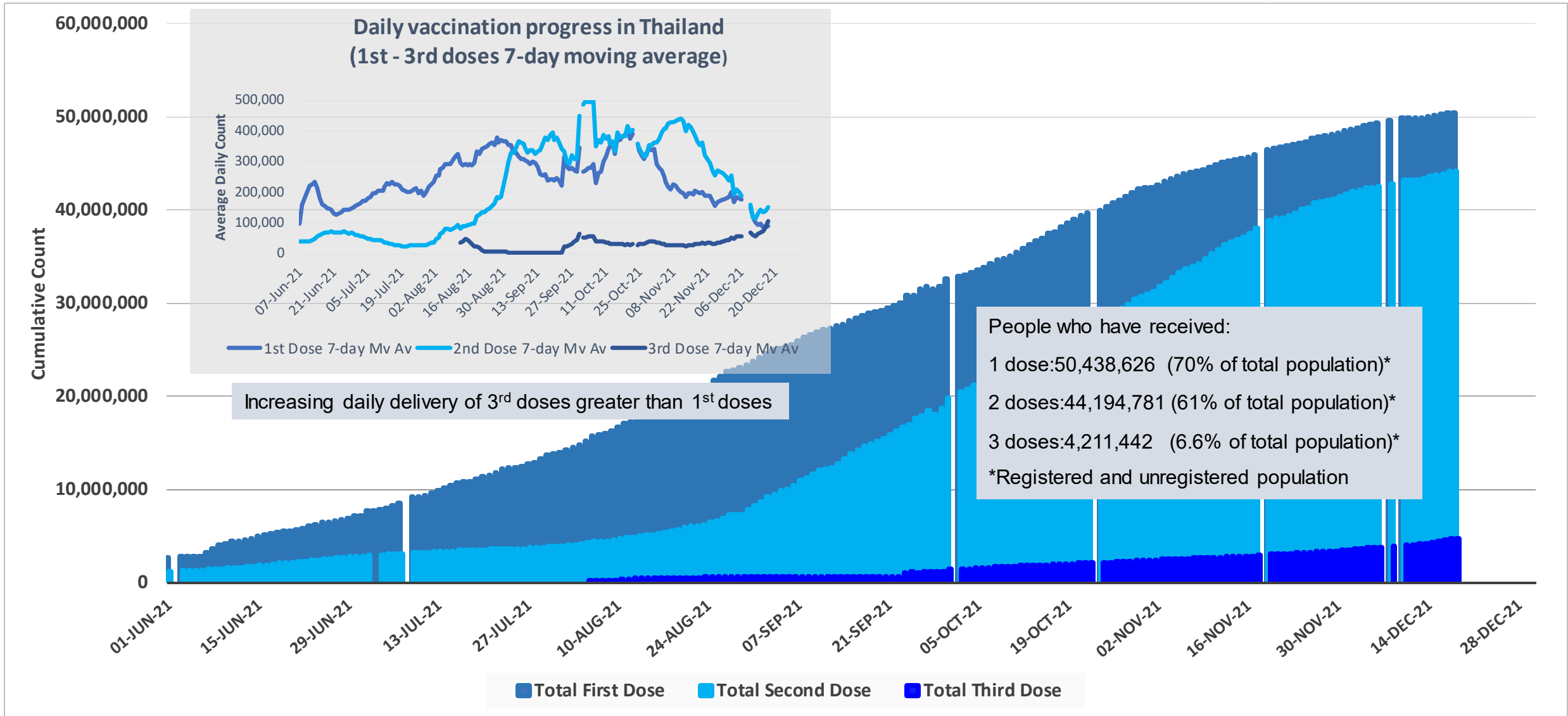
# Variants of Concern in Thailand – current situation

- **Between 11-19 December 2021, 1,595 samples have been monitored for VoCs.**
  - Of these, 1,541 (96.61%) were Delta, 1 (0.06%) was Alpha, 1 (0.06%) was Beta, and 52 were Omicron (3.26%).
- **As of 19 December 2021, 63 cases were detected with the Omicron variant (20 confirmed)**
  - 25% of cases reported in international travellers were Omicron.

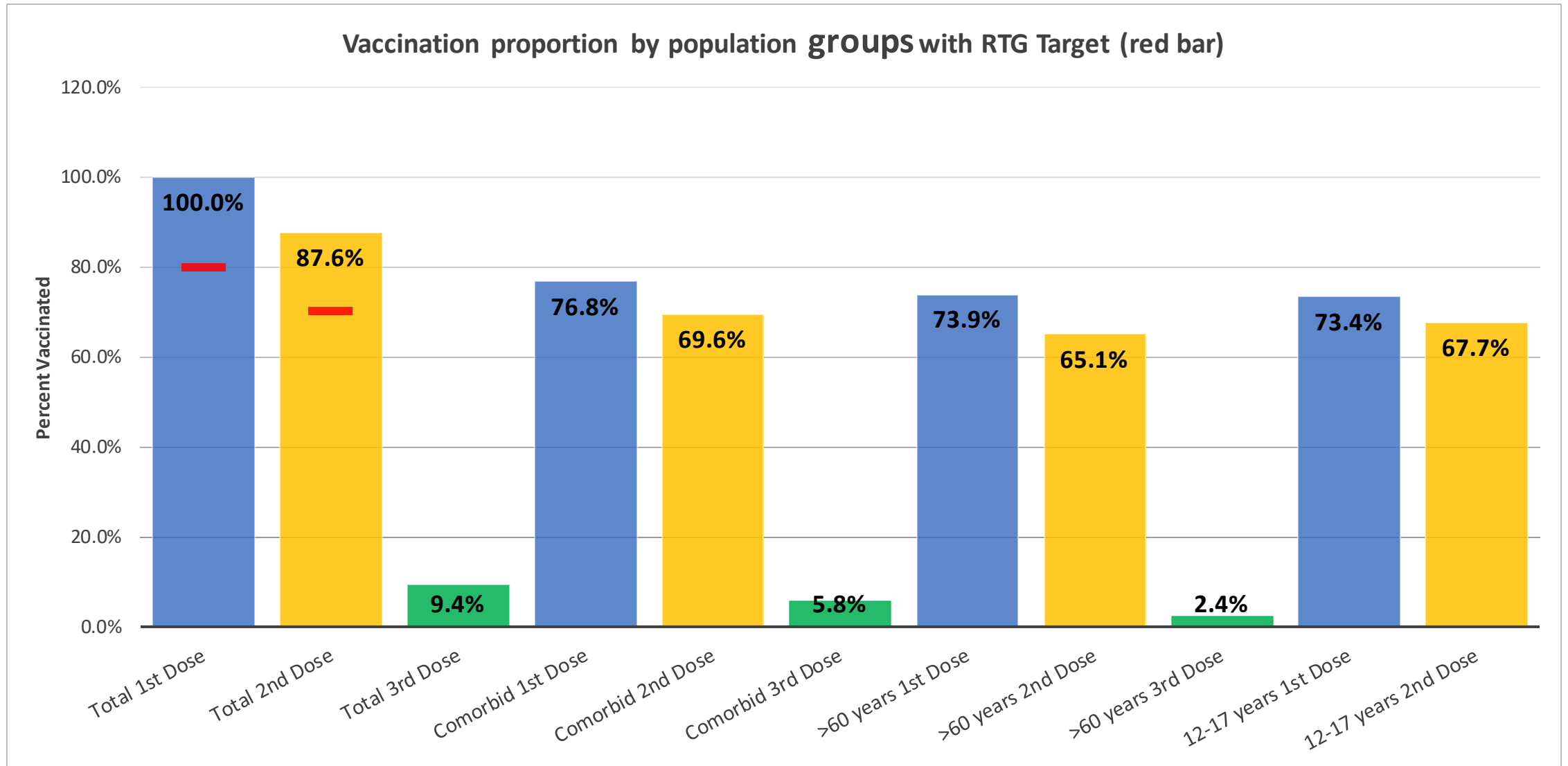
# Vaccination



# National COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage





# Vaccination coverage among high risk groups & adolescents (1st dose, 2<sup>nd</sup> doses, 3<sup>rd</sup> doses)



# COVID-19 burden on vulnerable population groups

# COVID-19 in Older Persons

Cumulative cases in older persons (1 April - 11 December 2021)		Cases in last 7 days	
198,154 (9% of total confirmed cases in Thailand during the same period)		2,919 	
Thai: 186,690 (94%)	Non-Thai: 11,464 (6%)	Thai: 2,582 (88%)	Non-Thai: 337 (12%)

Deaths cumulative (1 April – 18 December 2021)	Deaths in last 7 days
14,578 <b>Case Fatality Rate = 7.36% (0.98% total population)</b>	161 

Vaccination uptake*		
1 dose	2 doses	3 doses
8,061,434 (74%)	7,097,665 (65%)	257,294 (2%)

\* Vaccination data for the period 28 February – 17 December 2021  
Vaccination target: 10,906,142

10 provinces with highest reported COVID cases in older persons in the past week (12 - 18 Dec 2021)	Region	Total cases in older persons in past week (60 years +)	Vaccination 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose coverage (28 Feb – 17 Dec 2021)
Bangkok	Capital	407	93.2%
Songkhla	South	180	77.3%
Trang	South	133	75.9%
Surat Thani	South	127	76.0%
Satun	South	117	64.4%
Phatthalung	South	90	69.2%
Samut Prakarn	Bangkok & vicinity	77	65.5%
Chiang Mai	North	71	74.8%
Pattani	South	69	<b>42.8%</b>
Chonburi	East	67	73.5%

# COVID-19 in Pregnant Women



Cumulative cases in pregnant women (1 Apr- 18 Dec 2021)		Cases in last 7 days	
6,208 (0.29% of total confirmed cases in Thailand during the same period)		106	
Thai: 4,371 (70%)	Non-Thai: 1,837 (30%)	Thai: 91 (86%)	Non-Thai: 15 (14%)

Deaths	Deaths cumulative (1 Apr – 18 Dec 2021)	Deaths in last 7 days
Pregnant women	104 <b>Case Fatality Rate = 1.68%</b> <b>(0.98% total population)</b> (Thai: 88, Migrant: 14, Unknown: 2)	1
Perinatal	59 (37 stillbirths, 22 early neonatal deaths)	4

10 provinces with the highest cumulative number of COVID cases in pregnant women (1 Apr – 18 Dec 2021)	Region	Total cases in pregnant women
Bangkok	Capital	918
Samut Sakhon	Bangkok & vicinity	694
Narathiwat	South	399
Tak	West	321
Yala	South	292
Songkhla	South	224
Samutprakarn	Bangkok & vicinity	209
Pathum Thani	Bangkok & vicinity	178
Chonburi	East	163
Pattani	South	154

# COVID-19 in children and adolescents



6-18 years old

Cumulative cases in children & adolescents (1 Apr- 18 Dec 2021)		Cases in last 7 days	
236,527 (11% of total confirmed cases in Thailand during the same period)		2,801 ↓	
Thai: 215,389 (91%)	Non-Thai: 21,138 (9%)	Thai: 2,489 (89%)	Non-Thai: 312 (11%)

Deaths cumulative (1 Apr – 11 Dec 2021)	Deaths in last 7 days
34 <b>Case Fatality Rate = 0.01% (0.98% total population)</b>	0 =

Vaccination uptake*		
1 dose	2 doses	3 doses
3,304,263 (73%)	3,046,048 (68%)	-

\* Vaccination data above covers **only population aged 12-17 years**  
 Vaccination data for the period 28 February – 17 December 2021  
 Vaccination target: 4,500,000

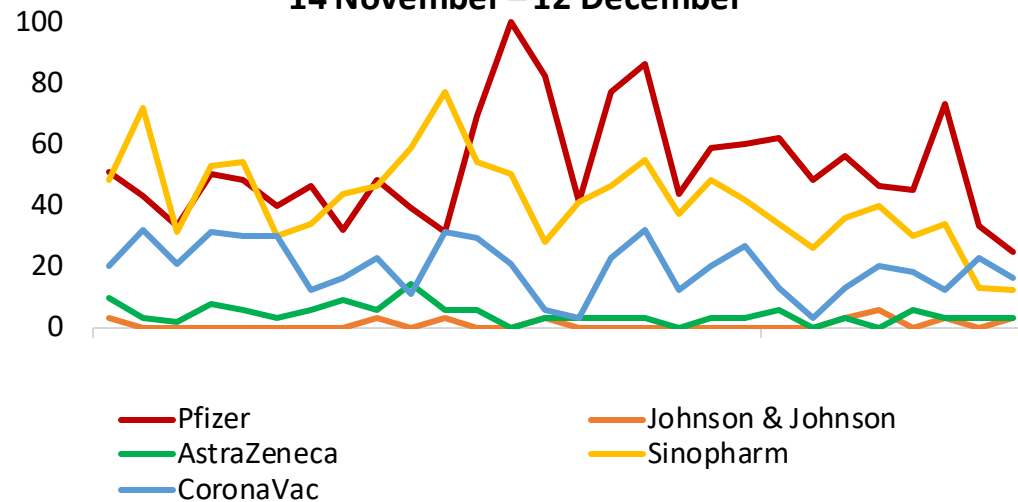
10 provinces with the highest number of reported COVID cases in children and adolescents in the past week (12 - 18 Dec 2021)	Region	Total cases in children & adolescents in past week (6-18 years old)
Bangkok	Capital	345
Songkhla	South	131
Chonburi	East	95
Surat Thani	South	87
Tak	West	86
Pattani	South	77
Phatthalung	South	74
Nakhon Sawan	Central	72
Samut Prakarn	Bangkok & vicinity	72
Krabi	South	71

# Public opinion

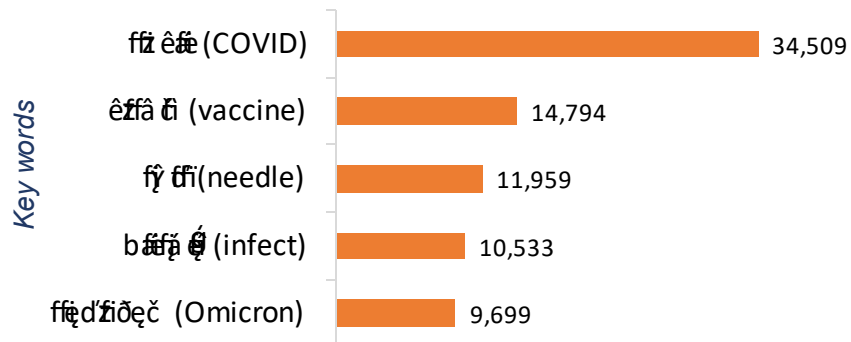
# COVID-19 Infodemic Surveillance Data – Key themes

## (6 – 12 December 2021)

Indexed Google searches for COVID-19 Vaccines in Thailand  
14 November – 12 December



Top keywords in COVID-19 social media conversation: 06 – 12 December



## TESTING

- Testing was the **most discussed topic**.
- Driven by news reporting that the first case of the Omicron variant has been identified in Thailand via the **Test & Go scheme**.
- This theme also drove the **Research and Development** topic, which grew by **1285.2%**.

## VACCINES

- Vaccines fell to the **third most discussed topic**.
- The top engaged-with post shared that **Pfizer** has confirmed that three doses of its vaccine will be effective in protecting against the **Omicron** variant.
- Social media users were worried about when they can receive a **booster dose** and were frustrated over the **recipe** of vaccines they received.
- This theme was also a key driver of the **protection** topic, which saw a **431.1% increase** in mentions.



# Policy Update

# Updated measures for international entry



The graphic features a dark blue background with white and light blue virus-like icons. In the top left corner is the Royal Seal of Thailand. The main text is in white and red, announcing the closure of the Thailand Pass for new Test and Go and Sandbox applications, with an exception for Phuket Sandbox, starting on December 22, 2021. Below this, four numbered points detail the new measures for applicants. At the bottom, there is a call center contact number in Thai and English, along with a small logo for DC (Department of Consular Affairs).

**Thailand Pass will be closed for all new Test and Go and Sandbox applications (except Phuket Sandbox), starting from 00.00 hrs. on 22 December 2021 until further notice**

**New measures apply for all applicants on Thailand Pass, as follows;**

- 1. Applicants who have received their Thailand Pass QR Code can enter Thailand under the scheme they have registered.**
- 2. Applicants who have registered, but have not received their QR Code must wait for their Thailand Pass to be considered / approved. Once approved, they can enter Thailand under the scheme they have registered.**
- 3. New applicants will not be able to register for Test and Go and Sandbox measures (except Phuket Sandbox). Thailand Pass will only accept new applicants seeking to enter Thailand under Alternative Quarantine (AQ) or Phuket Sandbox only.**
- 4. Passengers who will arrive in Thailand under Test and Go and Sandbox Programme must undergo their 2nd COVID-19 test using the RT-PCR technique (not ATK self-test) at government-designated facilities (no additional cost).**

DC Call Center นสพ.รท.สุภาภรณ์ โทร. 02-572-8442

# Updated measures for people returning to Thailand

- People returning to Thailand through the following schemes:
  - Sandbox (7-day quarantine)
  - State Quarantine (7-day quarantine)
  - Test & Go schemes (1-day quarantine)

are requested to continue to quarantine themselves at home to complete 14 days.

If symptoms appear (coughing, sneezing, loss of smell and taste, shortness of breath), they should seek COVID-19 test immediately.

# Recommendations for COVID-19 booster dose

For those who have received the same type of vaccine as primary doses.

1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose	3 <sup>rd</sup> dose	Interval
Sinovac – Sinovac Sinopharm – Sinopharm	AstraZeneca/ Pfizer/Moderna	At least 4 weeks after 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose
AstraZeneca – AstraZeneca	Pfizer/Moderna	At least 3 months after 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose
Pfizer – Pfizer Moderna – Moderna	Pfizer/Moderna	At least 6 months after 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose

For those who have received different types of vaccine as primary doses.

1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose	3 <sup>rd</sup> dose	Interval
Sinovac/Sinopharm – AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca/ Pfizer/Moderna	At least 3 months after 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose
Sinovac/Sinopharm – Pfizer	Pfizer/Moderna	At least 3 months after 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose
AstraZeneca – Pfizer	Pfizer/Moderna	At least 6 months after 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose

Department of Disease Control, 17 Dec 2021

# EXPLAINER: Omicron

## Some reports suggests Omicron is not that serious, should we be concerned?

Absolutely. Much remains unknown about the severity of disease from the Omicron variant, nevertheless it does cause disease, and even if mild, a surge in cases could overwhelm health services, particularly if it is more easily transmissible, and could result in severe disease and deaths in vulnerable people.



As of the 21<sup>st</sup> December Omicron has been reported in 106 countries across all 6 WHO regions of the world, 29 more countries than reported last week. It is likely that Omicron is present in many more countries even if it has not been reported yet.

Recent evidence indicates that Omicron variant has a growth advantage over the Delta variant and is spreading rapidly, even in countries with documented community transmission and high levels of population immunity. Preliminary data suggest that there is a reduction in neutralization of Omicron in those who have received a (2-dose) primary vaccination series or in those who have had prior SARS-CoV-2 infection, which may suggest a level of immune evasion. However, the full impact of Omicron is still not clear and considerable uncertainties remain at the moment.

There are still limited data on the clinical severity of Omicron, though some reports suggest COVID-19 Omicron may not be as mild as first thought. Hospitalizations in the UK and South Africa continue to rise, and given rapidly increasing case numbers, it is possible that healthcare systems may become overwhelmed.

As a result of this, the overall risk related to the new variant of concern Omicron remains very high.

While Thailand is not currently experiencing widespread Omicron transmission, there remains widespread ongoing community transmission of COVID-19 in Thailand, mainly driven by the Delta variant.

All variants of COVID-19 can cause severe disease and death, especially for the most vulnerable people; thus, prevention remains the most important way to protect ourselves and our families.

The same protective measures that work against Delta will protect against Omicron. So even with many uncertainties surrounding Omicron, we can be very confident that the basic protective measures continue to work. Stay protected by getting yourself vaccinated, wearing correctly fitted and correctly wearing masks, keeping hands clean, coughing or sneezing into a bent elbow or tissue, and avoiding poorly ventilated or crowded spaces. This is especially important as we reach the end of the year and we gather with work colleagues, friends and family. Close proximity gatherings in unventilated spaces continue to demonstrate high rates of virus transmission.



Click the image to watch WHO's Dr Maria Van Kerkhove updates on the transmissibility, severity, symptoms and ways to protect yourself against COVID-19 including the Omicron variant

# 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](mailto:sethawebsite@who.int)



**World Health Organization**

## WHAT IS THE OMICRON VARIANT OF CONCERN?

- Omicron** is a variant of the virus that causes COVID-19
- It has been detected in multiple countries and is likely to be present in many others
- It is not yet known how easily **Omicron** spreads, how serious symptoms are or how it affects protection from vaccines

Do it all to protect yourself and others from COVID-19

We are learning about Omicron more every day. Find out the latest at [who.int](http://who.int)

09/12/2021

**World Health Organization**

## HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND OTHERS AGAINST OMICRON?

- Getting vaccinated and practicing the protective behaviours are highly effective ways to protect yourself against serious illness and death from the currently dominant variant, Delta
- We expect the vaccines to provide some protection against **all** variants

Do it all to stop COVID-19, including getting vaccinated as soon as it's your turn

We are learning about Omicron more every day. Find out the latest at [who.int](http://who.int)

09/12/2021