

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

9 December 2021  
**WHO Thailand Weekly Situation Update No. 213**

Based on data as reported by the CCSA

## DAILY AVERAGE (3 December - 9 December 2021)



4,408 new cases



6,276 people recovered



369,799 vaccinations

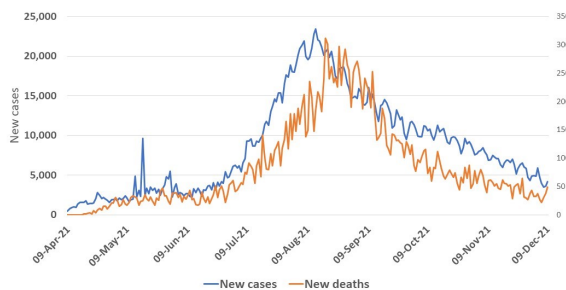


34 deaths

**2,156,587 total confirmed cases    21,084 total deaths**

## WEEKLY TRENDS

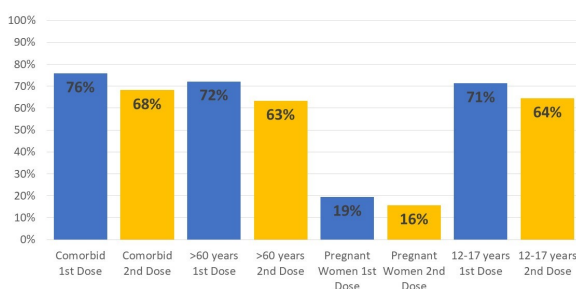
- The total number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in Thailand since January 2020 increased 1.5% (30,858) in the last week. The average number of community-acquired cases reported per day over the last seven days decreased by a further 17% in the last week compared to the week prior (from 5,049 to 4,189). Three of the past four days have also all seen counts of community acquired infection below 4,000.
- The total number of deaths caused by COVID-19 infection since January 2020 increased 1.1% (237) in the last week. The average number of COVID-19 deaths reported per day in the last seven days decreased by 11% (34) compared to the average of 19% (38) for the week before.
- There continues to be a steady decline in severe cases averaging 1,254 per day in the last week, a decrease of 9% compared to 13% (1,378) the week before, and 11% (1,586) before that.
- The average number of ventilated COVID-19 cases reported per day over the last week, 328, is a decrease of 2%, compared to 335 (11%) the week prior and 377 (10%) the week before that.



Source: DDC, MOPH 09 Dec 2021

## VACCINATIONS

- Nearly 50 million people have now received a first vaccination dose, representing 98% of the government target.
- Nearly 43 million people have received a second dose, representing 84% the Government target.
- Although vaccinations have greatly surpassed RTG targets of 80% first dose and 70% second dose, they are lower for vulnerable groups and much lower for pregnant women.





Source: DDC, MOPH 06 Dec 2021

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

- The number of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases (60,415), continues to decrease, dropping by 18% compared to last week. This is lowest since the 5th of July 2021 and is over 70% lower than the 214,786 active cases seen at the peak on the 8th August. This is an important easing to the overall burden on the healthcare delivery system.
- The 1,254 severe COVID-19 cases reported today is almost 80% lower than the highest number (5,626) ever reported on 16th August and reflects a continual steady decrease.
- The 328 ventilated cases reported is 73% lower than the highest number (1,172) reported on 15th August. However, the rate of decrease of ventilated cases has slowed, reducing by just 2% compared to the previous week.
- 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.

**The more COVID-19 circulates, the more opportunities the virus has to change to variants such as Omicron and Delta.**





**We know we can all reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants through:**

-   
Hand Cleaning
-   
Physical distance of at least 1 meter
-   
Wearing a well-fitting mask
-   
Contact tracing
-   
Testing, isolation & quarantine measures
-   
Opening windows, avoiding crowded places
-   
Full vaccination

## EXPLAINER: Omicron

As of the 7th December Omicron has been reported in 57 countries across all 6 WHO regions of the world. The variant has multiple mutations that may impact how it behaves. WHO and technical partners are conducting studies to understand more about the spectrum of disease caused by this variant of concern and how well current vaccines protect against it. Here is what we know so far about Omicron.

**Effectiveness of vaccines:** The main goal of COVID-19 vaccination is to reduce severe disease and death. The COVID-19 vaccines currently listed by WHO for emergency use continue to provide protection against severe disease and death, including against the dominant circulating COVID-19 virus which in most countries is the Delta variant. It is expected that they may be effective against Omicron, but it will take time before we have clear evidence of the vaccines' performance against this new variant.

**Symptoms of disease:** There is currently no information to suggest that this variant causes different symptoms from other variants.

**Severity of disease:** It is too early to know the severity of disease caused by Omicron. Though initial reports from South Africa (where the variant was first recognized) and the UK have indicated mild COVID-19 disease.

Understanding the level of severity of the Omicron variant will take time and we will learn more in the coming weeks as more reports from around the world emerge. However, all variants of COVID-19 can cause severe disease and death, especially for the most vulnerable people; thus, prevention is always key.

**Transmissibility:** It is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible than other variants, including Delta. Increasing cases are being seen in countries where Omicron has been found, and so it may supersede other variants in due course in a similar way that the Alpha strain did to the earlier versions of the virus, and the way the

## Can current vaccines protect us from Omicron?



A: Probably. Right now, there is no evidence that we need to change our vaccines to deal with Omicron. Studies are underway but we know for sure that the current vaccines are effective against the dominant Delta strain currently circulating globally, so you should get vaccinated regardless.

Delta variant superseded Alpha. The key question is whether it is more transmissible than Delta or other variants of concern. This we will learn in the coming weeks.

As we prepare ourselves for Omicron, we must not forget that the world is already dealing with the Delta variant. Delta is proven to be highly transmissible and dangerous, and accounts for almost all cases globally.

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 Dr Mike Ryan, WHO's Programme Executive Director, talk about the best protective measures against the Delta and Omicron variants.

## 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)



[www.who.int/thailand](http://www.who.int/thailand)



WHO Thailand



@WHO Thailand



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