WHO Thailand Weekly
Situation Update No. 217

Based on data as reported by the CCSA

COVID-19 Situation, Thailand
05 January 2022

World Health Organization
Thailand

2,239,475 total confirmed cases **21,769 total deaths**

Daily average reported from 30 Dec 2021 - 05 Jan 2022 (compared to week prior)

- 3,170 new cases (2,604)
- 17 deaths (25)
- 2,956 people recovered (3,250)
- 157,921 vaccinations (403,361)

Main messages

- Community transmission of omicron increasing in some provinces
- RTG encourages COVID-free setting and booster vaccinations
- Get vaccinated, maintain universal precautions and stay informed

Contents COVID-19 Update

All data from the RTG MoPH unless otherwise stated

World Health Organization Thailand

Situation Analysis

- The total daily number of 'active' COVID-19 cases has stopped decreasing. The number reported on 01 January 2022 (32,929) was the lowest since 14 May 2021, but since then, every day has seen the number of new COVID cases exceeding the number of recovered cases, and the total number of active cases reported today is 34,887.
- The number of severe COVID-19 cases reported today (541) is only 9.6% of the highest number ever reported (5,626) on 16 August 2021, which reflects an ongoing decrease.
- The number of ventilated cases reported today (149) is only 12.7 % of the highest number ever reported, (1,172) on 15 August 2021, also reflecting an ongoing decrease.
- COVID-19 remains very widespread across Thailand – with community transmission in almost every province.
- The daily number of imported COVID cases has been rising steadily (169 reported today), reflecting an increased incidence of COVID VoC Omicron infections in travelers arriving from heavily affected countries.
- Community transmission of COVID VoC Omicron is now being reported in the majority of provinces in Thailand.
- COVID-19 vaccination rates continue to rise and are expected to significantly reduce levels of severe illness and deaths caused by all currently circulating COVID-19 strains, including VoC Omicron. 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 are fully vaccinated, pregnant women and their families should adhere as strictly as possible to all preventive measures.

Global COVID-19 (total) cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases reported per week (03 January 2022)

281,808,270 confirmed cases

1,351,175 new cases in last 24 hours

New cases remains differed to the previous week

5,411,759 deaths

7,605 new deaths in last 24 hours

In the last week new deaths increased by 52 %

8,693,832,171 vaccine doses administered

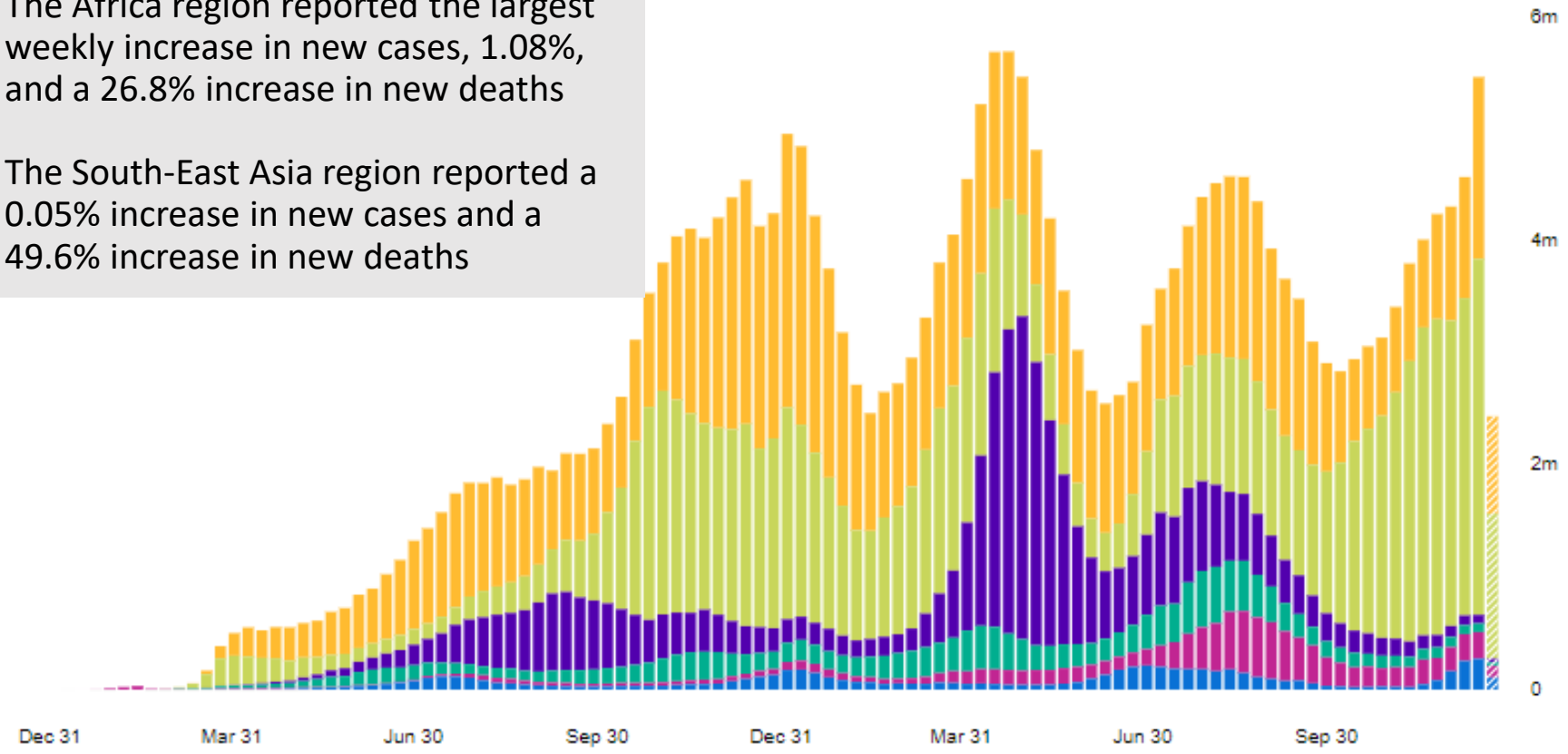
3,629,138,941 persons fully vaccinated

Situation by WHO Region

Americas	102,287,397 confirmed
Europe	99,133,183 confirmed
South-East Asia	44,933,587 confirmed
Eastern Mediterranean	17,122,988 confirmed
Western Pacific	11,165,866 confirmed
Africa	7,164,485 confirmed

The Africa region reported the largest weekly increase in new cases, 1.08%, and a 26.8% increase in new deaths

The South-East Asia region reported a 0.05% increase in new cases and a 49.6% increase in new deaths



https://covid19.who.int/

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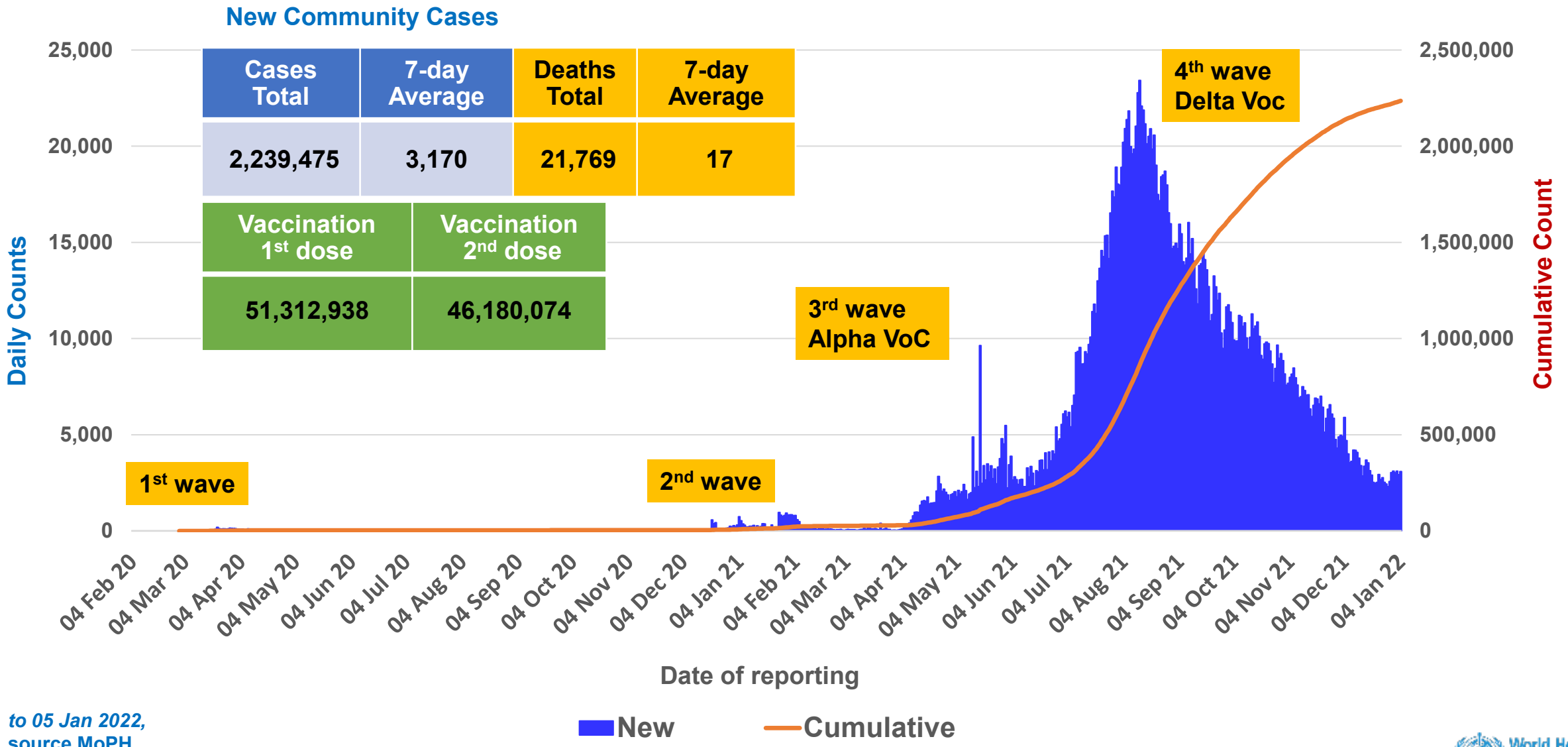
National Situation

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

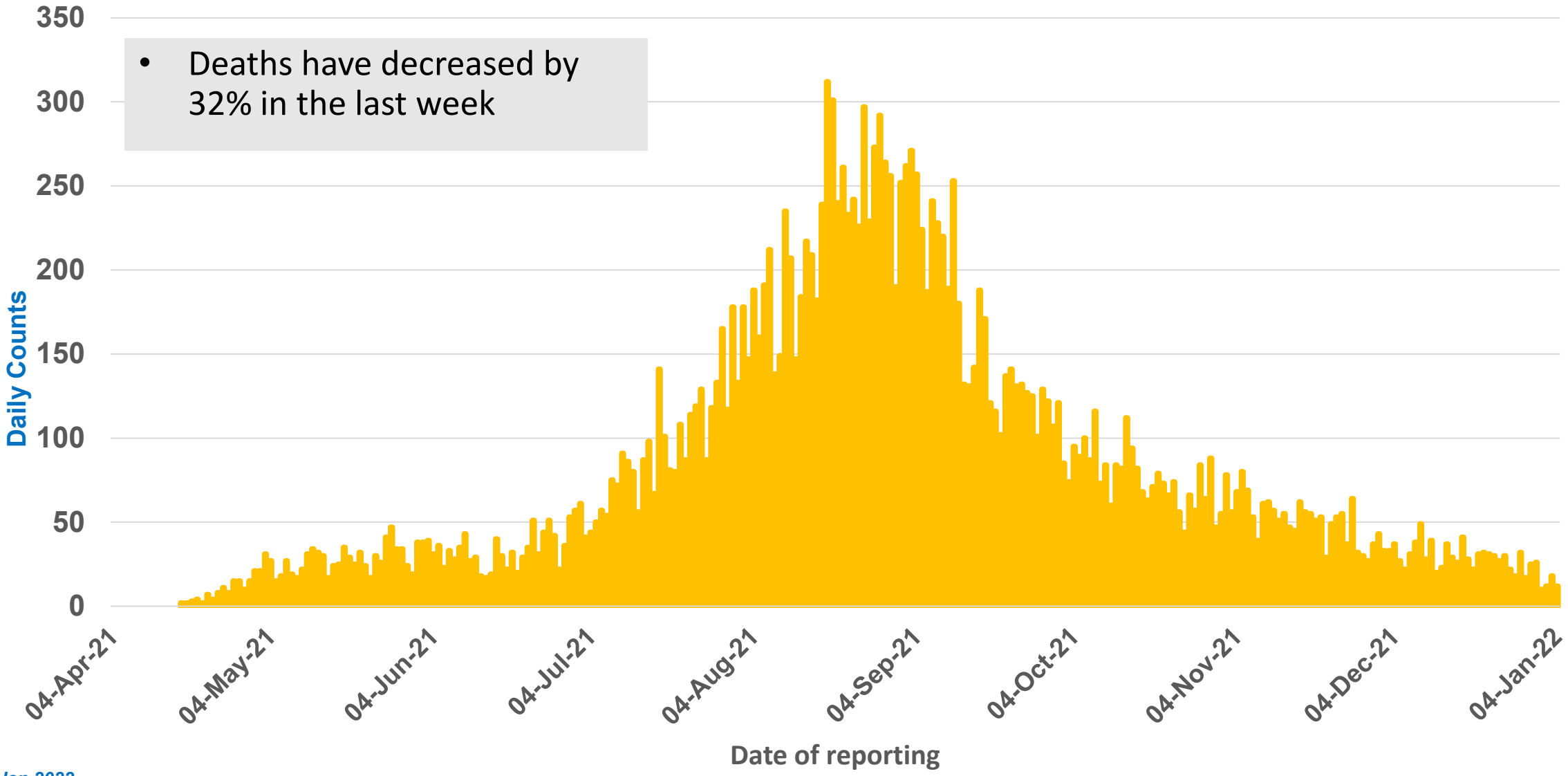


to 05 Jan 2022,
source MoPH

Back to Contents

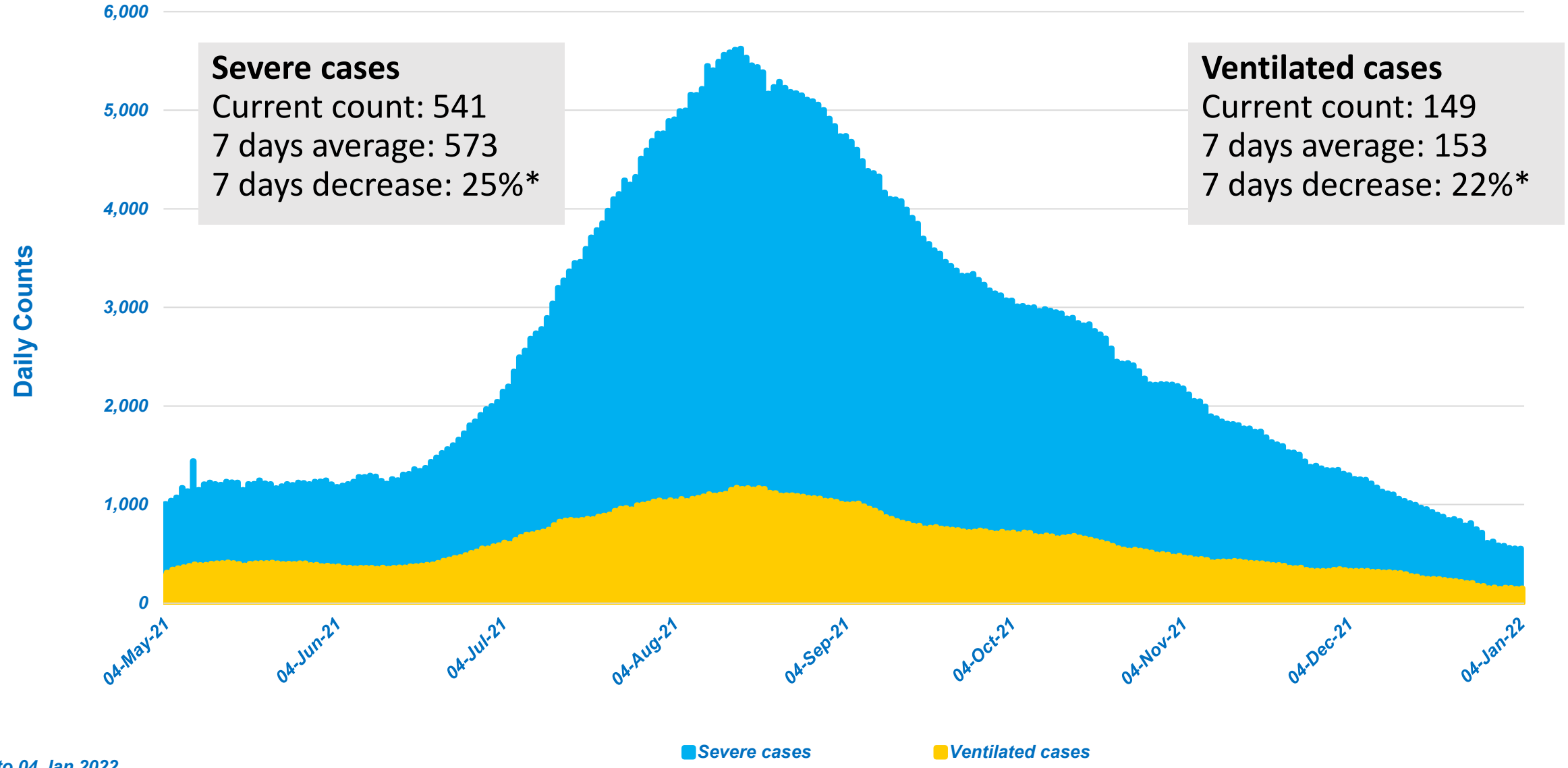
World Health Organization Thailand

Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in Thailand since April 2021



to 04 Jan 2022
Source MoPH

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



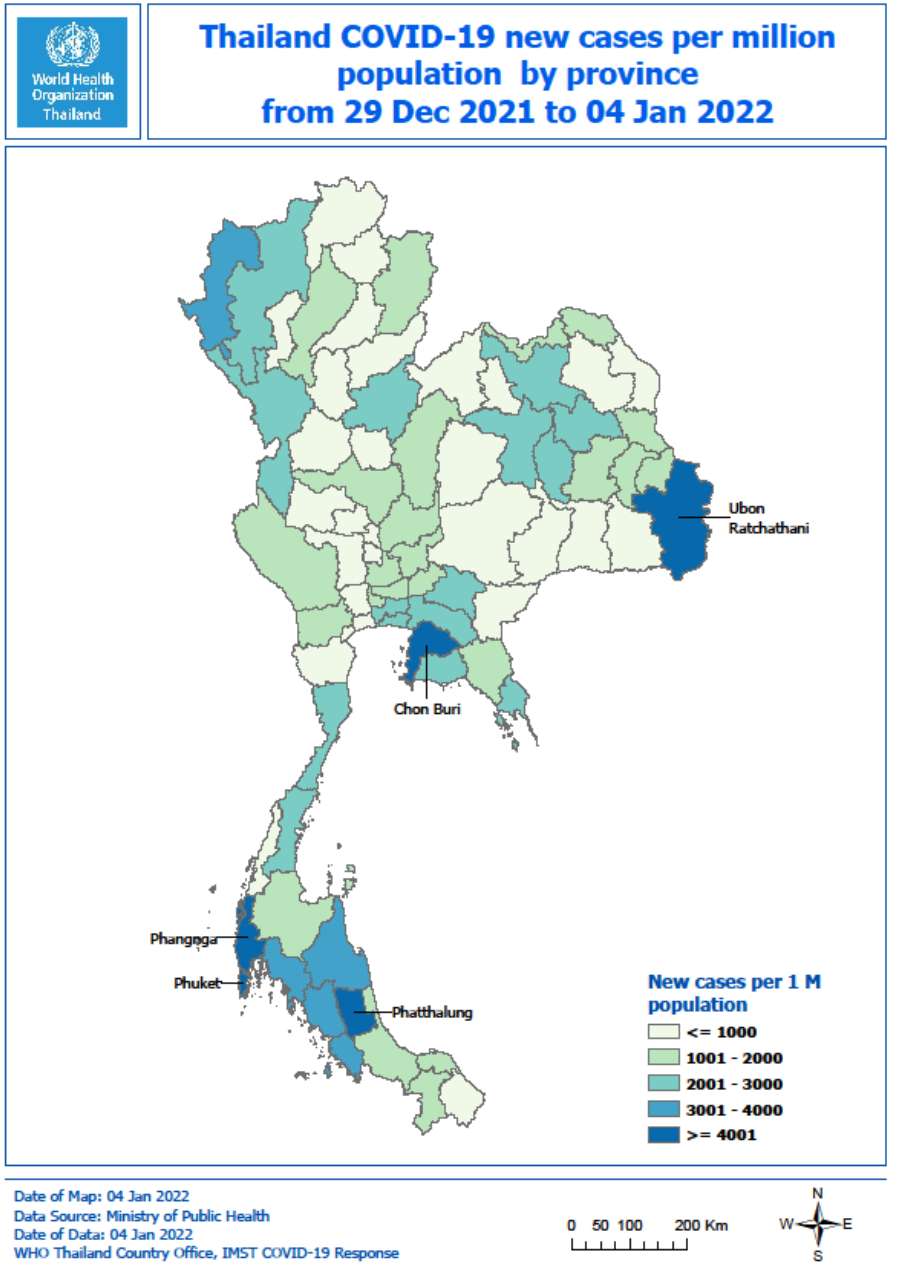
to 04 Jan 2022
Source MoPH

**Compared to the week prior*

Provincial situation

Map of new cases per million population by province; 29 December – 04 January

- There is widespread ongoing transmission across Thailand
- Provinces reporting high cases per capita include those where relatively large numbers of VoC omicron are being reported
  - Some tourist destinations are reporting high rates of case numbers
  - Some provinces bordering Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar also have high reporting rates
- Provinces reporting relatively lower new cases per capita are in the north, central and north-eastern areas



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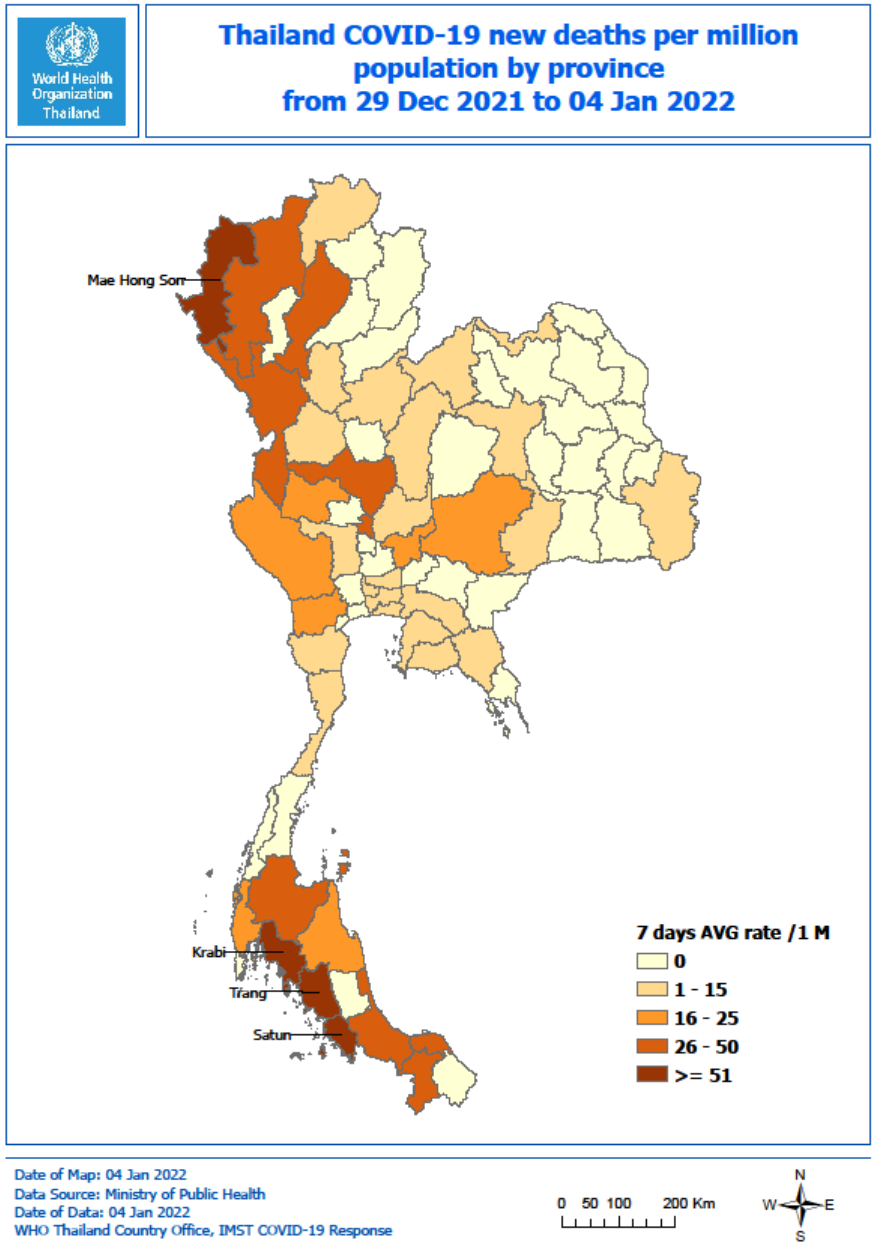
Map of new deaths per million population by province 29 December - 04 January

- The highest number of deaths per capita are still occurring in northern and southern provinces
- Deaths are also occurring in some central provinces



Source MoPH

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Policy Update

Back to Contents

World Health Organization
Thailand

Recommendations for COVID-19 booster dose

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

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

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

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

Department of Disease Control, 17 Dec 2021

World Health Organization Thailand

EXPLAINER: Omicron

Should we still be concerned if Omicron infection is milder than Delta?

Because omicron is more transmissible, without strong preventive measures, case numbers can increase rapidly. Even if a smaller ***proportion*** of people become unwell, a large surge in numbers will still overburden healthcare systems. Hospitals in some countries are also badly impacted by infections in healthcare workers

What do we know about omicron transmissibility?

There is now consistent evidence from an increasing number of countries that Omicron is spreading much faster than the Delta variant, with the number of reported cases in some settings doubling every 2-3 days. The factors underlying this rapid growth rate are still unclear but can probably be explained by a combination of increased transmissibility and an ability to evade immune responses.

What do we know about omicron severity?

Data on clinical severity of patients infected with Omicron is growing but is still limited. Early data from South Africa, the United Kingdom and Denmark suggest a reduced risk of hospitalization for Omicron compared to Delta. However, the risk of hospitalization might not be a very good indication of severity since it may reflect admission policies and practices. More data from different countries are needed to better understand the typical course of disease progression for omicron, as well as the need for oxygen, requirements for mechanical ventilation and the likelihood of dying.

What do we know about protection against omicron from vaccination or prior infection?

Preliminary data from studies have suggested that people who received a vaccination course or who have previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2 infection may produce relatively lower levels of antibodies against omicron. In addition, studies in England suggest that people who have previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2 are more likely to be reinfected with omicron that with other strains. An increasing trend of reinfection cases has also been observed in Denmark and Israel, suggesting some immune evasion by omicron.

Studies from the UK have also suggested that as with other strains, a reduction in vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease caused by omicron may be combatted by a booster vaccination – suggesting a way to enhance protection for the most vulnerable.

What do we know about reliability of laboratory tests to diagnose omicron?

The diagnostic accuracy of routinely used PCR and antigen-based rapid diagnostic test (Ag-RDT) assays does not appear to be impacted by Omicron; although studies of the comparative sensitivity of Ag-RDTs are ongoing.

What do we know about treatment of omicron?

Treatment used to manage patients with severe or critical Omicron-associated COVID-19 infection - that target host responses - (such as corticosteroids, and IL 6 receptor blockers) are expected to remain effective.

What can we do to protect ourselves against omicron?

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.

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**

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