

COVID-19 Situation, Thailand

29 December 2021

2,217,287 total confirmed cases

21,647 total deaths

Daily Average 21 to 28 December 2021 (previous week)

 **2,604 new cases (3,089)**

 **25 deaths (30)**

 **3,250 people recovered (4293)**

 **403,361 vaccinations (366,987)**

Main messages

| **Community transmission of VoC Omicron starting to occur** |

| **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 (33,502), indicates a continuing steady decrease, dropping by 12% compared to one week ago. Today's number is the lowest since the 15th of May 2021. This represents a significant reduction in the burden of hospitals.
- The number of severe COVID-19 cases reported on 28 December 2021 (717) was just 12.7% of the highest number ever reported (5,626) on 16 August, which also reflects a continual steady decrease.
- The number of ventilated cases reported on 28th December 2021 (176) was just 15% of the highest number ever reported, (1,172) on 15 August 2021, also showing an ongoing decrease, though slowing down.
- COVID-19 is still widespread across Thailand – with community transmission in almost every province
- The daily number of imported COVID cases has been rising steadily (116 reported today), likely reflecting an increased incidence of COVID VoC Omicron infections in travelers from affected countries.
- Community transmission of COVID VoC Omicron is now being reported in several locations in Thailand.
- COVID-19 vaccination rates continue to rise and can be expected to significantly reduce levels of severe illness and deaths caused by 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 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.

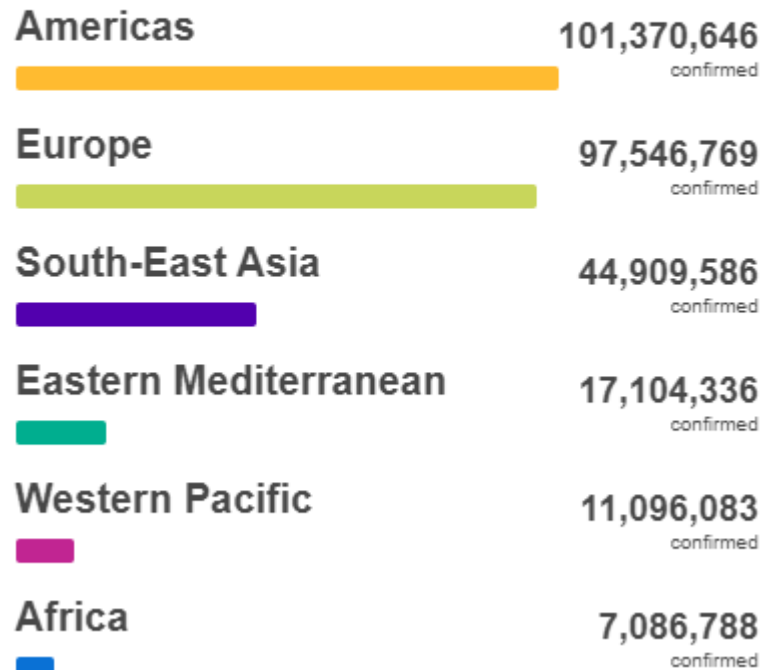
Global COVID-19 cases, deaths and vaccinations to date: chart showing cases reported per week (27 December 2021)

279,114,972 confirmed cases
400,488 new cases in last 24 hours
 New cases remains similar to the previous week

5,397,580 deaths
3,630 new deaths in last 24 hours
 In the last week new deaths decreased by ...%

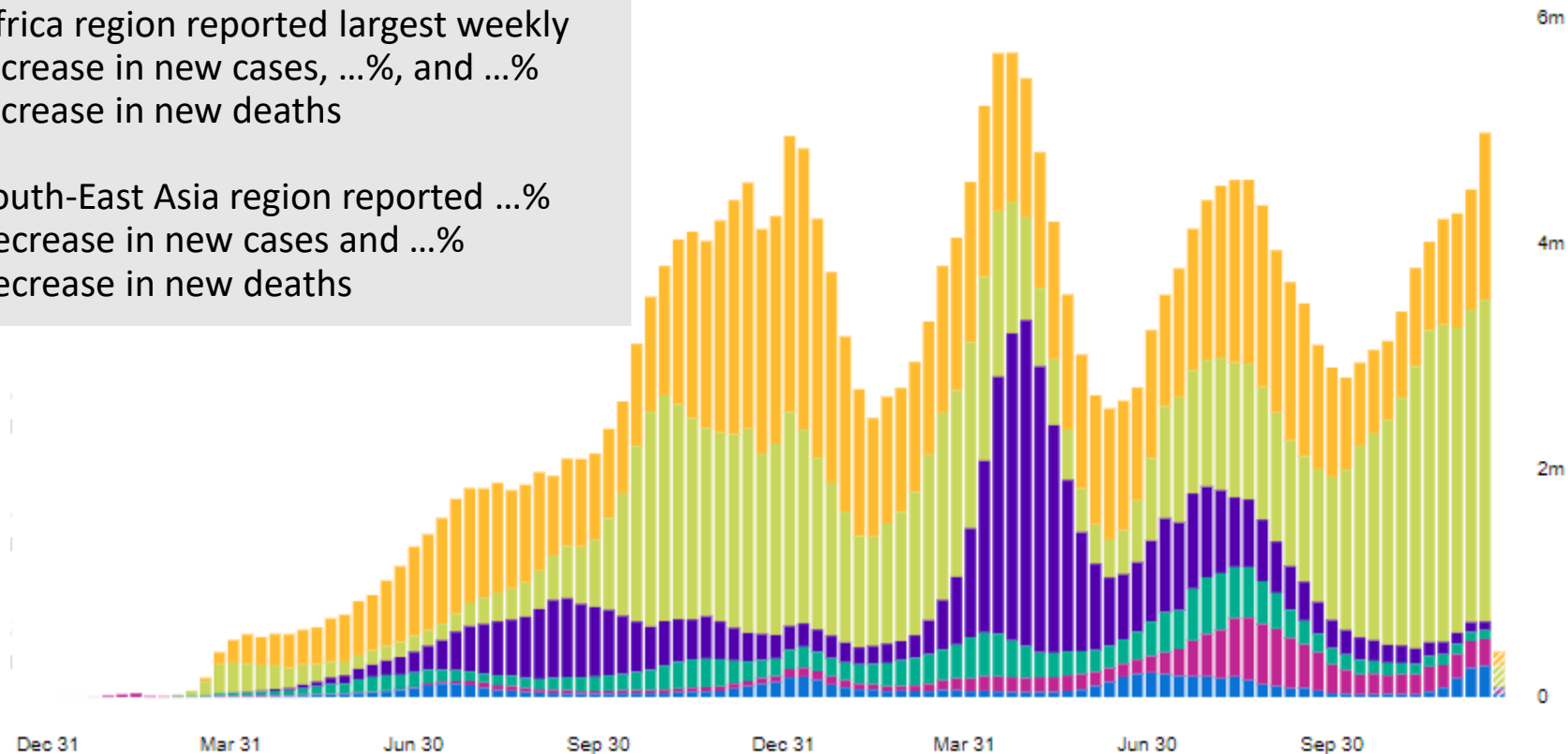
8,649,057,088 vaccine doses administered
3,612,030,562 persons fully vaccinated

Situation by WHO Region



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

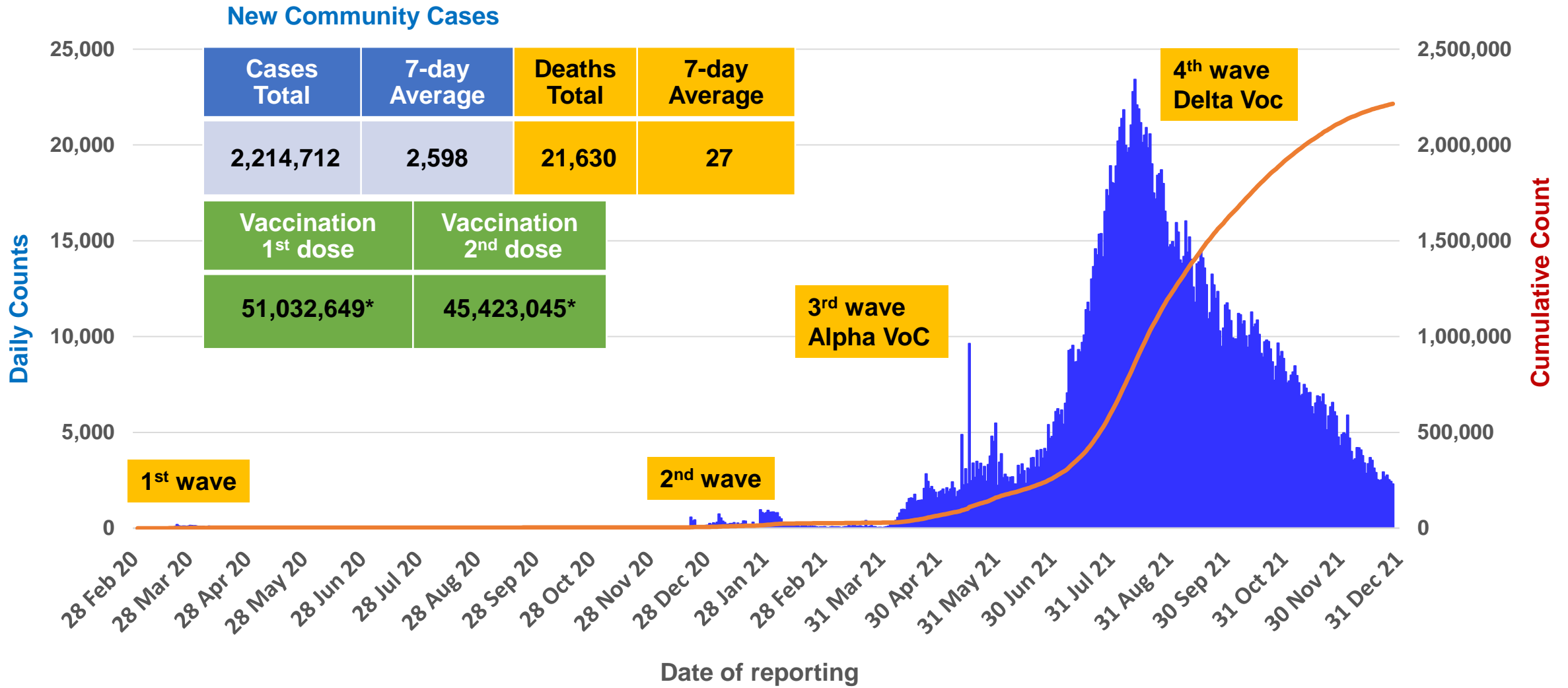
South-East Asia region reported ...% decrease in new cases and ...% decrease in new deaths



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

National Situation

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

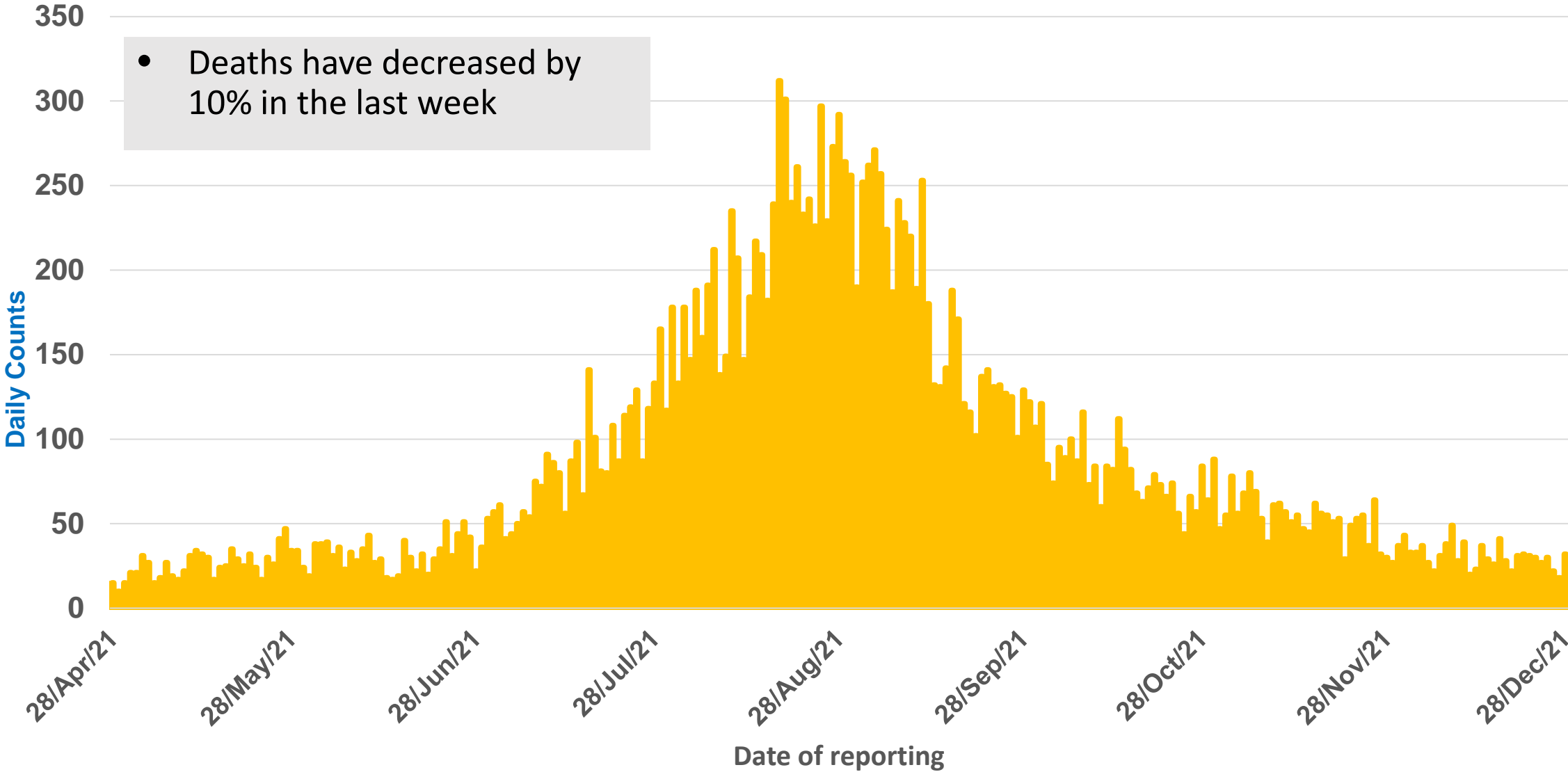


to 28 Dec 2021,
*To 26 Dec 2021,
source MoPH

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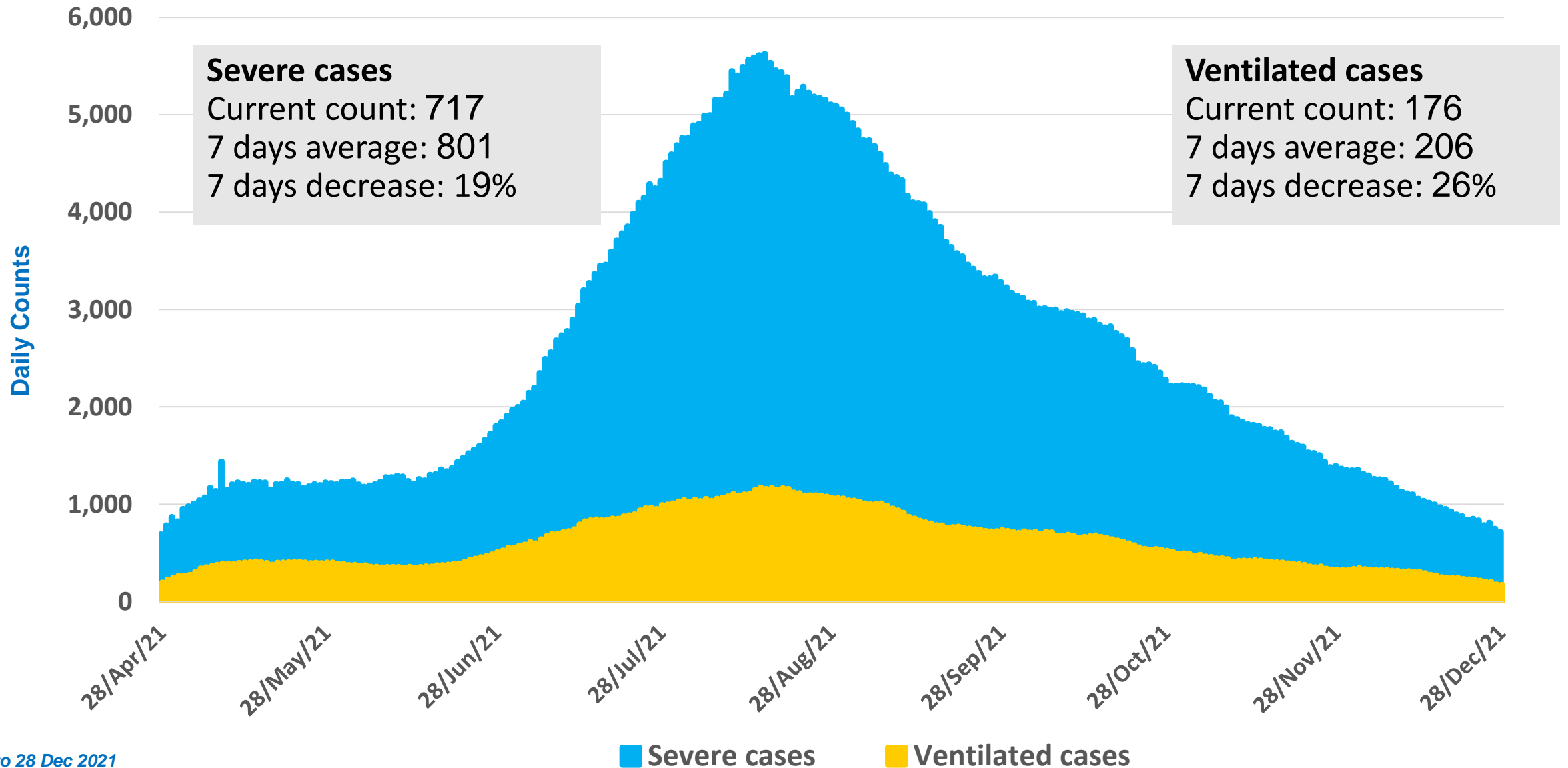
■ New — Cumulative

Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in Thailand since April 2021



to 28 Dec 2021
Source MoPH

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

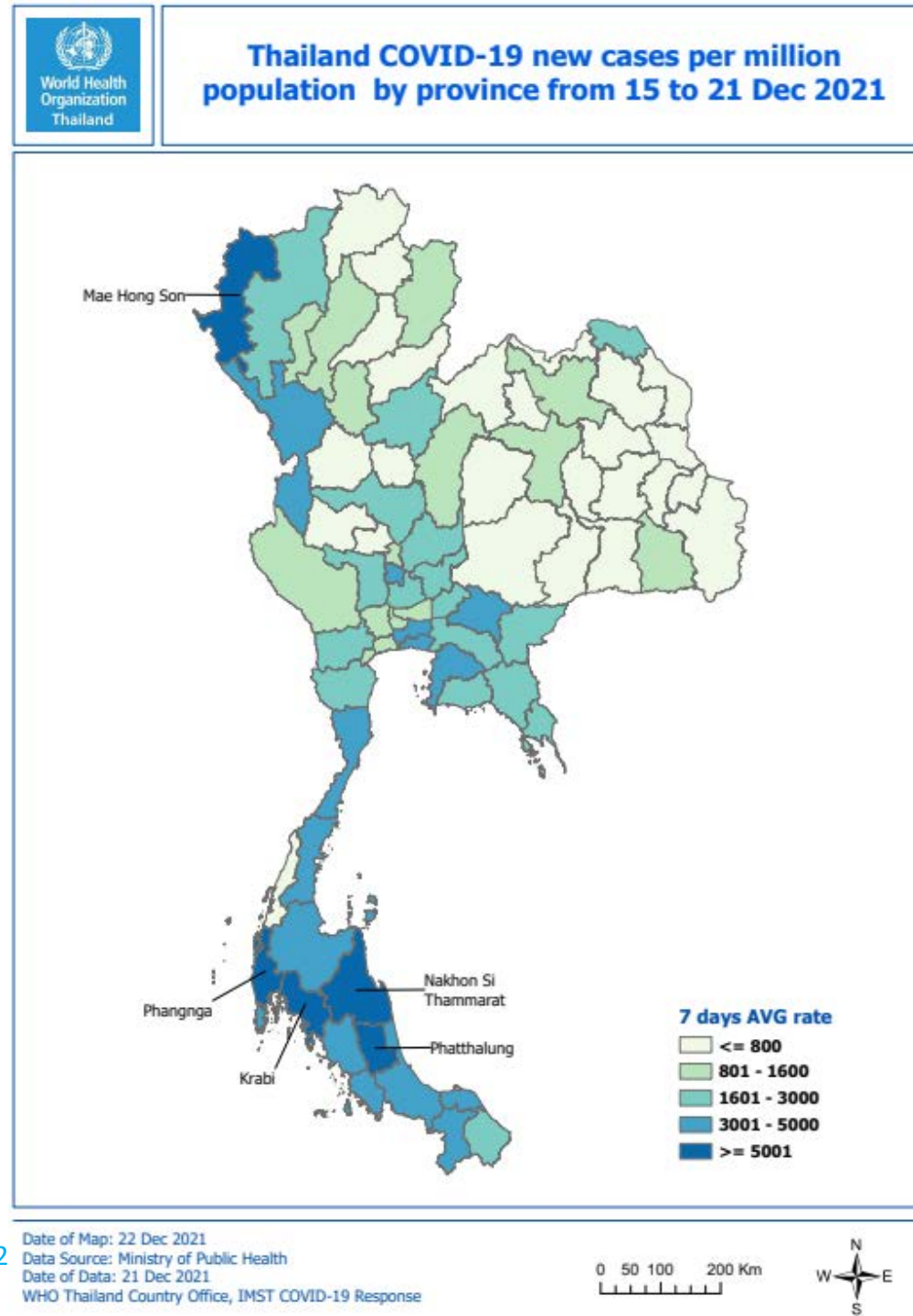


Provincial situation

Map of new cases per million population by province 15th-21st December

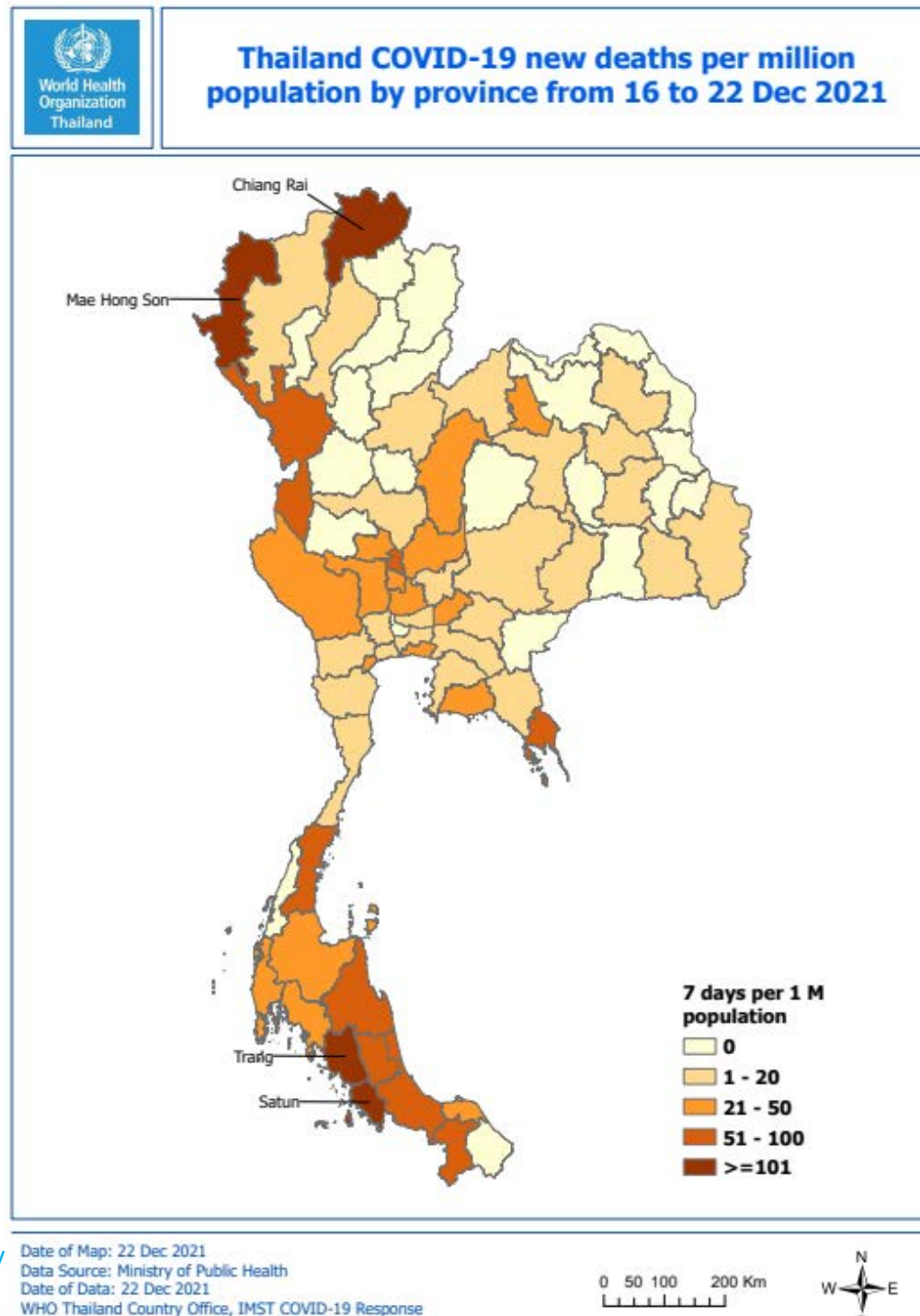
- There is widespread ongoing transmission across Thailand
- Most provinces reporting high cases per million population are in the south and north-west
 - Tourist destinations are included among the southern provinces reporting the high case counts per capita
 - North-west provinces with the highest case count per capita include those 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 16th-22nd December

- The highest number of deaths per capita are occurring in north-western and southern provinces
- Deaths are also occurring in some central and central western areas and into the south-eastern area of Thailand



Policy Update

Recommendations for COVID-19 booster dose

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

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

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

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

Department of Disease Control, 17 Dec 2021

EXPLAINER: Omicron

Why should we be concerned if symptoms of Omicron are milder than Delta?

Some of the mutations that are identified in Omicron allows it to be more transmissible. As we know, more cases mean more hospitalisations, more hospitalisations could put healthcare systems that are already overburdened, into a state where people will not get the proper care that they need.



The overall risk related to the new variant of concern Omicron remains very high.

Increasing evidence is showing that the Omicron variant has a growth advantage over the Delta variant; in some settings the number of cases is doubling every 2-3 days, resulting in rapid increases in reported cases in some countries, including those where the variant has become the dominant SARS-CoV-2 variant, such as the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The rapid growth rate is likely to be a combination of increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant and an ability to evade immune responses.

However, a decline in the incidence of cases has now been observed in South Africa, where the peak of the epidemic has passed

Early data from the United Kingdom, South Africa and Denmark does appear to suggest a reduced risk of hospitalization for the Omicron compared to the Delta variant, however, further data are still needed to fully understand situation, including on the use of oxygen, the need for mechanical ventilation and the mortality rates. More information is also needed to assess how severity may be impacted by vaccination and/or prior SARS-CoV-2 infection.

It is expected that treatment proven to be important in treating COVID, including corticosteroids and interleukin 6 receptor blockers will remain effective in the management of patients with severe disease, however, preliminary data suggest that monoclonal antibodies may be less able to neutralize the Omicron variant.

Reassuringly, preliminary data suggests lab testing using either PCR or antigen-based rapid diagnostic tests (Ag-RDT) assays does not appear to be impacted by the Omicron 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 and should be avoided.



Click the image to watch WHO's Dr Maria Van Kerkhove provide an update on 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](#)

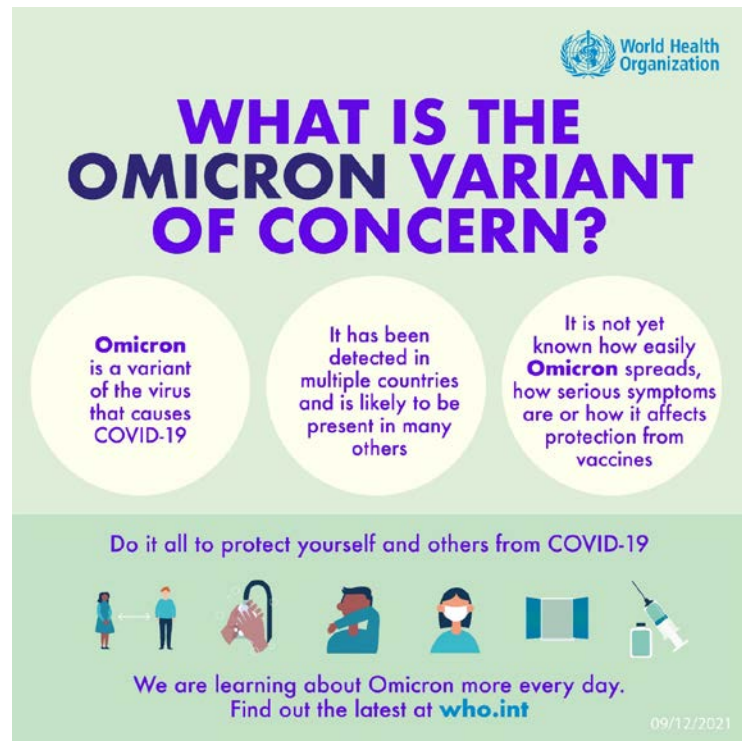
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World Health Organization

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

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

09/12/2021

Seasons Greetings & Best Wishes

From us all



Wishing you all a Happy and Health New Year