

Thai News Update: 15 April 2021

1. Firms offer spaces to boost vaccine drive

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

More than 200 businesses nationwide have offered their premises as Covid-19 vaccination centres to help speed up inoculations, Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC) chairman Sanan Angubolkul said on 13 April. A total of 234 businesses, all TCC members, have rallied behind the national vaccination programme, he said, adding 49 are in Bangkok. They include hotels, commercial outlets and shopping malls. The TCC will examine the sites before recommending them to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA). It is not clear during what hours they are offering the premises.

2. Partial lockdown on the table

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The government is discussing the possibility of imposing a partial lockdown in Bangkok and surrounding provinces, Chiang Mai, Prachuap Khiri Khan as well as Chon Buri while heightening Covid-19 control measures in outbreak red-zone areas, as the number of new Covid-19 cases hit a new record high on 14 April. The partial lockdown proposal was discussed on Wednesday, said Gen Natthapon Nakpanich, secretary-general of the National Security Council, in his capacity as chairman of a Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) sub-committee. However, the sub-committee will have to discuss the lockdown and other proposals with Public Health Ministry further today, Gen Natthapon said, before adding the decision will be based mainly on opinions from health authorities.

3. Malls, shops told to shut by 9pm

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

Retailers and malls nationwide have been asked to close earlier at 9pm, following the private sector's most recent bid to help curb the country's third Covid-19 outbreak. Yol Phokasub, president of Thai Retailers Association (TRA), said on 14 April the TRA and Thai Shopping Centre Association (TSCA) jointly announced to their members and trade partners nationwide that they must maximise their Covid-19 screening measures. Both associations asked their members to close earlier at 9pm, starting from today and until further notice.

4. General public can register for vaccinations starting May 1

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

The Public Health Ministry will start vaccinating the general public against Covid-19 around mid-May, when the first lot of the locally manufactured AstraZeneca vaccine will be ready, Public Health permanent secretary Dr Kiattiphum Wongrajit said. “The government aims to have 50-60 per cent of the population vaccinated as soon as possible to effectively control the outbreak,” he said. “We will also expand the vaccination units by collaborating with the private sector, which will provide locations such as at shopping malls or other modern trade venues. This will maximise the number of people getting vaccinated per day from the current rate of 500 per day per hospital,” Kiattiphum said.

5. State rushes to complete studies on CPTPP pact

Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))

The Finance Ministry is speeding up its study on the pros and cons of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), as well as working on protective measures to cushion against the impact of the pact if Thailand decides to join. Finance Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith said he sees greater opportunities to expand exports if Thailand joins the CPTPP. The CPTPP was launched in 2019 to remove trade barriers among 11 nations representing nearly 500 million consumers in Asia-Pacific.

6. Top tourist destinations temporarily closed to visitors

Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

People have been travelling in droves from main cities, especially Bangkok, to their hometowns or to famous attractions during the Songkran holidays. However, many tourist sites have shut their doors amid a dreaded third Covid-19 wave that has seen the number of infections soar. The list of the closed destination are available [here](#)