

Thai News Update: 16 April 2021

1. Provincial governors urged to stimulate investments

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

Provincial governors and administrative organisations are being urged to play a more proactive part to help boost investments in their provinces. Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow, who recently instructed provincial governors and administrative organisations nationwide to stimulate investment activities in their provinces, said governors have an important role to play in each province. If governors can attract more investments in their provinces, it will help bolster the country's overall economy this year, he said. "Investors need confidence. If governors can help supervise and build up confidence, investors will be ready to implement their projects," said Mr Supattanapong.

2. Public health minister says Thailand will continue with the use of AstraZeneca vaccine

Source: Thai PBS World ([Link](#))

Thailand will go ahead with its COVID-19 vaccination program using the AstraZeneca vaccine, because authorities have not found any rare, but significant and serious side effects among the vaccine's recipients in Thailand, Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said today (Thursday). Mr. Anutin chaired a meeting today of the National Communicable Disease Committee, during which he informed those present of the problem with the AstraZeneca vaccine in Denmark. On Tuesday, Denmark announced it will stop using the AstraZeneca vaccine altogether, becoming the first European country to do so, over suspicions of rare but serious side effects. Danish Health Authority director Soren Brostrom told the media that Denmark's vaccination campaign will go ahead without the AstraZeneca vaccine.

3. 8,000 beds prepared for Bangkok's Covid cases

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

About 8,000 beds at hospitals, hospitels and field hospitals were prepared for Covid-19 cases in Greater Bangkok, Government House said on 15 April. Of them, about 6,000 beds are at existing hospitals and hospitels, 450 at the hospitels run by the Department of Medical Services, 100 beds at the hospitels operated by Ramathibodi Hospital, 700 beds at the field hospitals of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration in Bang Khunthian and Bang Bon districts, and 1,000 beds at the field hospital at Bangkok Arena in Nong Chok district. The move supports the government's requirement that all Covid-19 patients be treated at hospitals and hospitels. Those waiting for hospital beds could contact the hotline number 1669.

4. Hotels urged to become temporary 'hospitals'

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

The Thai Hotels Association (THA) is inviting its members to become “hospitals” by turning their hotels into temporary hospitals to treat Covid-19 patients, association president Marisa Sukosol Nunbhakdi said on 15 April. “The move aims to reduce crowdedness at hospitals and promote continuous care for Covid-19 patients after new cases increased rapidly since late March,” she said. The Ministry of Public Health has set the guidelines for hotels that wish to join the programme

5. Thailand to Tighten Curbs as Virus Wave Risks Tourism Plans

Source: Bloomberg Quint ([Link](#))

Thailand is set to ban sale of alcoholic beverages in restaurants, close schools and amusement parks for two weeks to stem a fresh outbreak of coronavirus, potentially jeopardizing its plans to reopen borders to foreign tourists. The closure of bars, pubs, karaoke and massage parlors in areas including Bangkok, the epicenter of the latest outbreak, may be extended nationwide until the end of April, the National Committee on Communicable Diseases decided on Thursday. While Bangkok and 17 other provinces will be designated as maximum controlled areas because of the severity of the outbreak, 59 others will be designated as controlled areas, the panel said.