

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Unesco declares Chiang Mai's Doi Chiang Dao as new biosphere reserve

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

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) on Wednesday approved Chiang Mai's Doi Chiang Dao as a new biosphere reserve – the fifth site in Thailand to receive the prestigious listing. The other biosphere reserves are Sakae Rat in Nakhon Ratchasima, Suan Sak-Huai Nak in Lampang, Huai Khok Ma in Chiang Mai and the Ranong Mangrove Forest. The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation said Unesco's International Coordinating Council on the Man and the Biosphere Programme held an online meeting on 15 September to review 22 international areas, including Doi Chiang Dao, for listing as biosphere reserves.

2. Bangkok's reopening to be postponed

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

Bangkok's reopening for inoculated tourists will be delayed by two weeks as most of the city's residents are still waiting for their second jabs, while the tourism ministry has pledged to open the city to bring at least 1 million international tourists this year. Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, the tourism and sports minister, said the appropriate timeline for Bangkok should be postponed from Oct 1 to Oct 15 as the capital city is expected to have administered Covid-19 vaccines to 70% of its residents by then. At present, 37% of population is fully vaccinated, while another 33% are in the 8-12 week interval following their first AstraZeneca shot.

3. Govt devises jab plan for students

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

The Education Ministry has laid out a timeline for vaccinating students amid reluctance by some parents and students to join the nationwide inoculation campaign. Senior ministry officials attended an online teleconference on 15 September where they went over the timeline of vaccinations for students aged 12-18 in both state and private schools and institutions nationwide next month. The Pfizer jabs will be launched in 29 provinces in the dark-red zone, which are hardest-hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. Education permanent secretary Supat Jampathong chaired Wednesday's teleconference which was also joined by school districts staff, schools and educational outlets.

4. Thai traders surge into crypto market

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

The number of cryptocurrency trading accounts grew 27.6% month-on-month, vastly outpacing a 2.9% monthly increase in new stock trading accounts, as investors seek assets with higher returns to offset low deposit account interest rates, Kasikorn Research Center said. There are currently a total of 1,379,373 cryptocurrency trading accounts in the Thai market, less than half the number of stock market accounts, but with an explosive monthly growth rate. Kasikorn Research recently conducted a survey to explore the investment behaviour of high-income private company employees living in Bangkok and its vicinity.

5. Thailand logs 13,897 new cases, 188 deaths

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

Thailand's daily numbers rose slightly to 13,897 new cases and 188 deaths over the past 24 hours on 16 September. Of the new cases, 394 were in prisons. Meanwhile, 13,527 patients have recovered and been discharged over the past 24 hours. Thailand's total caseload from Covid-19 stands at 1,434,237 – 1,290,556 of whom have recovered, 128,728 are still in hospitals and 14,953 have died. Separately, another 316,107 people were given their first Covid-19 shot in the last 24 hours, 512,728 their second shot and 1,578 a booster shot, bringing the total Covid-19 vaccine doses administered nationwide to 42,477,514.

6. CCSA sets up guidelines for reopening Thailand in time for high season

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

The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) on 15 September released new guidelines for reopening the country to tourists from October. This was in response to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's call on agencies to devise a system for reopening the country during the high season this year. The CCSA's new guidelines are:

- Survey what areas can be reopened under sandbox conditions in line with the Phuket Sandbox scheme. If they are islands, they can join the 7+7 sandbox extension. If they are areas that have airports, then a system can be set up to conduct Covid-19 tests on new arrivals.
- Come up with prevention and control measures in areas that will be opened. Ensure locals are prepared and make enough vaccines available to curb the spread of the virus.