

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 19 JULY 2021

### **1. Walk-in vaccination facility open from today for foreigners aged above 75**

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

All foreigners aged 75 and above, who are residing in Thailand and have yet to receive any Covid-19 vaccines, can walk in from 19 July at the Central Vaccination Centre - Bangsue Grand Station every day, between 9am and 4pm. Those receiving the vaccination must present their passport, as well as proof of residence, eg visa, permanent residence card, or work permit on the day of vaccination, the director-general of the Department of Information and spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tanee Sangrat, said.

### **2. New restrictions on malls, convenience stores in effect from Tuesday**

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

The Thai Retailers Association (TRA) and Thai Shopping Centre Association (TSCA) on Monday effected changes to the opening hours of department stores, shopping malls and retail stores in 13 "dark red" provinces. The new timings will come into effect from Tuesday. The measures are in line with the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration's move to increase restrictions and the number of "dark red" provinces in a bid to curb the virus. A Royal Gazette announcement on Sunday increased the number of "dark red" provinces to 13. They are: Bangkok, Chachoengsao, Chonburi, Nakhon Pathom, Nonthaburi, Narathiwat, Pathum Thani, Pattani, Ayutthaya, Yala, Songkhla, Samut Prakan and Samut Sakhon.

### **3. Only jabbed, Covid-free people can enter Phuket, authorities say**

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

Phuket authorities announced on 19 July that only people who have been vaccinated at least two weeks prior will be allowed to enter the province. The order specified that those who have received their first dose of AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine can enter the province. However, recipients of Sinovac or Sinopharm vaccines should have received both their jabs. Meanwhile, those who have recovered from a Covid-19 infection less than 90 days ago will have to undergo a PCR or antigen test at least seven days before visiting the province. Tests will also be required for youngsters aged six to 18.

### **4. Trade pact with Pakistan nears completion**

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

Thailand aims to conclude talks on a free trade agreement (FTA) with Pakistan by the end of this year, with the expectation that the pact, once implemented, will help boost economic growth by 0.18-0.32 percentage points. Auramon Supthaweethum, director-general of the

Trade Negotiations Department, said Thailand and Pakistan have held nine rounds of talks that have concluded 12 chapters of the agreement's 13 chapters in total. The remaining issues pending negotiations include customs protocol, trade facilitation, as well as related regulations regarding market access. The idea of an FTA between Pakistan and Thailand was originally floated in early 2013, with the first round of negotiations taking place in September 2015 in Bangkok.

### **5. TikTok, YouTube sharpen Thai focus**

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

Short-video platform giants TikTok and YouTube are bearing down on the Thai market, with the former gearing up for a "shoppertainment" concept using e-commerce, and the latter expanding its short video-making service in the country. "This year we are seeing an increase in 'shoppertainment' -- a convergence of content and commerce -- where shoppers expect not just to be sold to, but to be entertained. Instead of people searching for products, products are now searching for people," Sirinit Virayasiri, head of business marketing in Thailand at TikTok, said in a virtual press briefing. A Nielsen Global Authenticity Study commissioned by TikTok found 83% of users prefer to see video ads from brands over gifs or text posts.

### **6. Chamber of commerce urges financial aid for businesses to cope with partial lockdown**

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

The Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC) has urged the government to roll out aid measures, as it estimates that the two weeks lockdown in 13 provinces will cost the economy up to THB120 billion. The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration on July 12 imposed a partial 14-day lockdown, including night curfew in Bangkok and nine other "Dark Red" provinces that have high infection rate. These provinces are: Nakhon Pathom, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and Songkhla. Three more provinces were later added to the list, namely Ayutthaya, Chachoengsao and Chonburi. "It has been almost one week since the lockdown started but the situation has yet to improve, with rising infections and deaths," TCC chairman Sanan Angubolkul said on 18 July.