

Thai News Update: 20 April 2021

1. Thai FDA gives 3 private companies right to import Covid-19 vaccines

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

So far, 14 companies have applied for permission to import the vaccine but only four have submitted the necessary documents. The FDA has been carefully considering all candidates with a focus on public safety and health,” he said. Paisan added that the FDA has never blocked any private party from importing vaccines as claimed on some media channels. “Up until now, the Government Pharmaceutical Organisation has been the sole importer of Covid-19 vaccines and the FDA has been inviting qualified private firms to register as importers,” he said. “We will hold a meeting with the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Thai Industries and representatives from private hospitals to address procedures that importers need to follow.

2. BOT acts to help hard-up companies

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

The Bank of Thailand (BOT)'s latest steps to help ease the strain on business operators hit by the Covid-19 pandemic are scheduled to come into force this week. The central bank will implement two measures: 250 billion baht worth of soft loans and debt restructuring through an asset warehousing programme costing 100 billion baht. They are going ahead in accordance with the state of emergency announced in the Royal Gazette on April 10, said the BoT's deputy governor for financial institutions stability, Ronadol Numnonda. Institutions keen to take advantage of the assistance must apply by next Monday and in the meantime can inform their creditors.

3. Phuket tightens rules for visitors to enter the province from tomorrow

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

The measure will be enforced from April 21 until 30,” said the announcement on its Facebook page on Monday. “The test for Covid-free certificate must be taken within 72 hours of entry into the province. Those who do not have a certificate can take a rapid test at Phuket International Airport and Tha Chatchai border checkpoint, at a cost of Bt300 per person.” The checkpoint at the airport will screen travellers from every province who wish to enter Phuket, while the Tha Chatchai checkpoint will screen only those who have travelled from 17 red zone provinces. “Every entrant must check in via MorChana platform and register their entry at www.gophuket.com,” said the announcement. “This measure is for everyone except product

delivery staff who will not spend the night in the province and they must display a certificate issued by their employers at Tha Chatchai checkpoint.”

4. Gulf poised to acquire InTouch

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

SET-listed Gulf Energy Development, the country's biggest private power producer by market value, has announced its intention to acquire InTouch Holdings, the parent firm of the country's biggest telecom operator, Advanced Info Service (AIS), through a share purchase worth 168.9 billion baht. Smith Banomyong, Gulf's chief for asset management and investment, said the buyout is expected to be completed within July. "E-commerce and digital platform-based businesses are growing and will become a promising new business for Gulf," he said. Gulf informed the Stock Exchange of Thailand on Monday it aims to invest in InTouch's shares through a conditional voluntary tender with the tender offer price of 65 baht per share. The tender offer covers 2.59 billion shares of InTouch, or up to 81.07% of the total issued and paid shares in the firm.