

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 21 JULY 2021

1. Covid-19 vaccine importers asked to draw up purchase plan to deal with more virus mutations

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

The Public Health Ministry urged six Covid-19 vaccine importers on Tuesday to prepare a procurement plan for next year in order to deal with expected virus mutations. ix Covid-19 vaccine importers attended the meeting – AstraZeneca (Thailand), Pfizer (Thailand), Zuellig Pharma, Janssen-Cilag, Biogenetech and the Government Pharmaceutical Organisation (GPO). Department of Disease Control director-general Opas Karnkawinpong said the National Vaccine Committee has resolved to procure 120 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines next year covering mRNA, viral vector and inactivated types. He said six Covid-19 vaccine importers have reported progress in new vaccine development, production capacity, delivery schedules and vaccination methods.

2. Cabinet okays THB10.98 billion more for employers, workers

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

The cabinet on 20 July approved an additional budget of THB10.98 billion for both employers and employees under Section 33 of the Social Security Act who have been affected by the lockdown of 13 provinces in the maximum control zone (dark red zone), government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said. This will be added to the previously approved THB2.51 billion in aid, which makes it an overall budget of approximately THB13.50 billion,” Anucha said. The measure was proposed by the Labour Ministry, aiming to compensate employers and workers who have been affected by the government’s 14-day lockdown that commenced on July 12 in a bid to curb Covid-19 from spreading in ten high-risk provinces – Bangkok, Nakhon Pathom, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and Songkhla.

3. Thailand signs contract for 20 million Pfizer jabs

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

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) signed a contract with Pfizer-BioNTech to procure 20 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.. The event, held at the Public Health Ministry offices in Nonthaburi, saw the contract signed by DDC director-general Dr Opas Karnkawinpong and Deborah Seifert, Pfizer country manager for Thailand and Indonesia. Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and other ministry officials were also present. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been registered with Thailand’s Food and Drug

Administration since June 24, and deliveries are expected to kick off in the fourth quarter of this year.

4. Cabinet cuts budget for e-voucher scheme

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

The cabinet on 20 July cut the spending budget for the "Ying Chai Ying Dai" (the more you spend, the more you get) e-voucher cashback scheme to 9.8 billion baht from 28 billion baht because of fewer-than-expected participants. Meanwhile, the cabinet also raised the budget to support the relief packages for people and businesses affected by the government's latest partial Covid-19 lockdown measures implemented in Bangkok and nine other provinces classified as high-risk or dark red zones to contain the outbreak to 13.50 billion baht from 2.51 billion baht. Such a budget excludes that to be slated to three additional provinces -- Chachoengsao, Chon Buri and Ayutthaya -- the government announced in the Royal Gazette on Sunday.

5. FTI to table relief plan

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

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) and the Thai Listed Companies Association (TLCA) will on 22 July propose four debt and health-related measures to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) survive the Covid-19 crisis. They badly need help to deal with debt and liquidity problems and at the same time must be equipped with a better shield against disease transmission. Without effective measures, many SMEs will go bankrupt, warned Supant Mongkolsuthree, chairman of the FTI.

6. Centara inks pact to run Al Hail Waves

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

Thailand's leading hotel operator Centara Hotels and Resorts and Oman's Ibn Saleh Al Hashmi Construction (ISAHC) have announced the signing of a hotel management agreement for Al Hail Waves to be managed by Centara. The management deal will come into effect on Jan 1, 2022 after which Centara will start refurbishing the property to align with its brand and operational standards. The Omani government has laid out an ambitious roadmap to achieve long-term goals set forth in Oman's tourism strategy. "With ISAHC as our partner, we are confident we will attract travellers with our sharing and caring family values," said Thirayuth Chirathivat, chief executive of Centara Hotels and Resorts.