

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 21 MAY 2021

1. Phuket getting ready for tourism sandbox campaign

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

Under the sandbox scheme, tourists who can verify they have been inoculated with two doses against Covid-19 and test negative can fly into Phuket and move around freely without having to quarantine. Similar schemes will be applied to other tourist destinations like Pattaya, Chiang Mai, Krabi, Phang Nga and Surat Thani later when more people have been vaccinated and more preventive measures have been put in place. “Tourists must provide the test result not later than 72 hours prior to arrival, and they will be tested again at the airport when they land,” said Phichet. “They can move freely in Phuket for seven nights before they can travel to other parts of the country.”

2. Bangkok convenience stores to offer jabs from June 7

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

We are now asking operators to help to reserve vaccinations through convenience stores, malls and hospitals,” said Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) spokesperson Pongsakorn Kwanmuang. Guidelines for people aged 18-59 who want to reserve a jab from June 7 would be announced next Tuesday (May 25), he added. The announcement came after the National Communicable Diseases Committee instructed all provincial governors to launch on-site registration for jabs from June 7. Bangkok has reserved all of its allocated vaccine to inoculate at-risk medical and frontline staff battling 34 cluster outbreaks in the capital. The Public Health Ministry is deploying additional vaccine doses to the worst-hit districts. So far, 519,022 doses have been administered in Bangkok. Another 2.5 million jabs are expected to arrive in June, allowing vaccination centres across Bangkok to open to all adults aged 18-59.

3. Thailand vows closer ties with Mongolia

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

The government vows to boost bilateral trade between Thailand and Mongolia to reach US\$100 million (3.1 billion baht) by 2023. Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit said on 20 May after a meeting with Tumar Amarsanaa, the Mongolian ambassador to Thailand, the two sides discussed ways to reinvigorate economic relations and explored how to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries. It was the first meeting between a Thai commerce minister and a Mongolian ambassador to Thailand since the establishment of the Mongolian embassy in Bangkok in 2000. Mr Jurin said Thailand and Mongolia are working on a five-year cooperation

plan (2019-2023) to serve as a mechanism to expand bilateral trade and investment, as well as strengthen Thai-Mongolian cooperation in a more tangible manner.

4. Govt rolls out three vaccine channels

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

Covid-19 vaccination will be provided via three channels with onsite registration instead of walk-in services, said government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has stressed that the inoculation campaign to be launched by the government from June 1 will be via three channels -- the Mor Prom (Doctors Ready) platform, onsite registration and special groups, said Mr Anucha. About 7.4 million people, who are either the elderly or people with seven chronic diseases, have registered with Mor Prom platform, including 800,000 in Bangkok. The general public aged under 60 can register on May 31.

5. Bangkok aims to inoculate 1,000 people per day

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

While the public is waiting for the government's vaccination scheme, Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok City Hall and members of the private sector have joined hands to inoculate up to 1,000 people per day starting some time in June. The Thai Chamber of Commerce, Iconsiam and Charoen Pokphand Group, along with City Hall and Siriraj Hospital, are offering the public vaccination against Covid-19 at Iconsiam and True Digital Park. Dr Prasit Watanapa, dean of the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, said this scheme will also help vaccinate at-risk groups such as teachers and public transport drivers.