

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 24 MAY 2021

1. Experts urge more jab variety

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

Health experts are calling on the government to procure a variety of Covid-19 vaccines for its national vaccination drive to ensure effective protection against the virus' more contagious variants. "Blanket vaccinations must be launched to cover as many people as possible, using the AstraZeneca vaccine which is already at our disposal, followed by second shots. We should also try to buy vaccines from other producers because it is necessary to constantly boost immune responses," Dr Yong said. He also stressed the need to study the possibility of changing coronavirus vaccines.

2. All in Phuket tourism sector to be vaccinated by July 1

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

All people directly involved in the tourism sector in Phuket will be vaccinated against the novel coronavirus before the holiday island reopens to international visitors, still planned for July 1. Phumkit Raktaengam, president of the Phuket Tourist Association, said on Monday that 94,000 people employed in the province's tourist industry would be inoculated against Covid-19. All residents with household documents registered in the province were also targeted to receive vaccines, he added. Phuket has about 400,000 people registered as native residents. The island employs about 500,000 Thai and foreign workers in tourism and other businesses.

3. CBRE sets B300m sales target for Elite partnership

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

Government stimulus schemes, a successful vaccination rollout, easing of travel restrictions and a partnership with Thailand Elite Card can triple the growth of residential sales from foreign buyers by the end of this year, says property consultant CBRE Thailand. Charinya Youngprapakorn, head of advisory and transaction services for residential projects at CBRE, said residential purchases by foreign buyers through CBRE dropped to 5% of the total last year, attributed to the pandemic. That figure could rise to 15-20% this year, said Ms Charinya.

4. US-Thailand Strategic Dialogue reaffirms defence alliance, vows closer cooperation

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

US principal deputy assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Atul Keshap led the US delegation, while the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thani Thongphakdi, led the Thai delegation. The Strategic Dialogue is an integral part of the US-

Thai relationship, which has spanned over two centuries and covers political, security, and economic cooperation. The dialogue addressed a wide variety of issues of mutual interest, including regional security, economic prosperity, health cooperation, and joint efforts to combat transnational crime. Both sides reaffirmed the longstanding commitment to the US-Thai defence alliance, which benefits both nations and supports peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region. The two delegations explored ways to deepen cooperation in many areas, including climate change and clean energy, business, technology, and people-to-people connections.

5. 11 provinces to vaccinate 70 per cent of population by August

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

Dr Opas Karnkawinpong director-general at the Department of Disease Control, as a member and secretary of the National Communicable Diseases Committee, on May 17 issued guidelines to provincial governors on Covid-19 vaccination. The document states that the first dose of AstraZeneca will be allocated from June - September. The government has set a target to vaccinate 47 million people nationwide, equivalent to 70 per cent of the national population. Since March, over 2 million people have been given the first dose of the vaccine. In some provinces, the government aims to vaccinate 70 per cent of the population within August. One province that aims to hit the target in June is Phuket, three provinces -- Bangkok, Krabi and Phang Nga -- aim to achieve the target in July, and seven provinces -- Pathum Thani, Nonthaburi, Samut Prakan, Chonburi, Samut Sakhon, Nakhon Pathom and Surat Thani -- will reach the target in August.