

## Thai News Update: 26 April 2021

### **1. Certificates of entry issued to non-Thai nationals flying from India in May cancelled**

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

The Thai embassy in New Delhi has cancelled certificates of entry (COE) issued to non-Thai nationals scheduled to take flights to Thailand on May 1, 15 and 22. The embassy said the move follows restrictions imposed on non-Thai nationals wanting to enter Thailand by the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration due to the Covid-19 situation in Thailand. The embassy said that all COEs that had been issued to non-Thai nationals to enter Thailand from India with the arrival date from May 1 have been cancelled. The embassy also said that issuance of COEs for non-Thai nationals who would be arriving in Thailand from India from May 1 would be suspended until further notice.

### **2. Registration opens on May 1 via app for second phase of vaccination**

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

In the first phase of the Covid-19 vaccination plan, medical personnel and public health personnel from the public and private sectors at risk were given priority. A new version of MorPrompt [Doctor ready] reservation on Line application will launch from April 28 with 12 functions, including registration, vaccination date record, symptom follow-up, and reminder for second vaccine dose, for people willing to be vaccinated. They will be given the AstraZeneca jab in June and July. Phase 3 inoculation will start in August for the general population aged 18-59 years with Sinovac, Sputnik V, AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines.

### **3. Phuket reopening still in the works**

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

Despite daily infections reaching a record high of 2,070 cases in Thailand last week, the country is determined to reopen to international tourists starting with Phuket on July 1. The Tourism and Sports Ministry on Friday committed to its plan to welcome vaccinated foreign tourists without quarantine requirements. However, that leaves only two months to prepare and it will require a massive effort to ensure the plan can proceed. Tourism operators are demanding clarification from the government about entry regulations, international flights administration, travel bubble agreements, and Covid-19 vaccination efforts.

#### **4. Value of food exports to rise amid global jab drive**

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

The value of Thai food exports is expected to increase by 5-7% this year to 1 trillion baht as a global Covid-19 vaccination drive continues, says the Federation of Thai Industries' (FTI) food processing industry club. Export value stood at 981 billion baht last year after the pandemic forced countries to impose strict lockdown measures. However, distribution of vaccines is boosting economic confidence, people's purchasing power and business activities, all of which stimulate demand for food and processed food products. "Thailand primarily aims to export food and processed food products to support local farmers," said club chairman Visit Limlurcha. "In addition, some 75% of raw materials for manufacturing are bought locally."

#### **5. Public Health Ministry mulls new lockdown**

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

The Public Health Ministry has proposed "targeted lockdown" measures and a new colour-coding system to identify provinces most at risk of the latest Covid-19 outbreak. Dr Kiattiphum Wongrajit, permanent secretary of the ministry, said on Sunday the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre called an urgent meeting in response to the severity of the latest wave of Covid-19. Thailand yesterday logged 11 new deaths, a record high that included a pregnant woman, raising the toll to 140. The government recorded 2,438 new coronavirus cases, all but five contracted locally, bringing the accumulated total since the pandemic began to 55,460. He said it was agreed at the meeting that disease control measures will be tightened with zoning based on a revised colour-coding system to identify provinces hit by Covid-19.

#### **6. 2 million Favipiravir tablets arrive from Japan, 1m more expected next month**

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

The GPO added that another million tablets would arrive in May, and would be distributed to medical places nationwide as fast as possible. The GPO said that 2 or 3 million tablets were in the procurement process. Treatment of each Covid-19 patient requires up to 70 tablets of Favipiravir, the GPO explained.

#### **7. State quarantine hotel now ready to serve as hospital**

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

On Saturday, Bangkok Governor Aswin Kwanmuang oversaw the preparation of a hospital at Elegant Airport Hotel in Prawet district. Elegant Airport Hotel has two seven-storey buildings and includes state quarantine and hospital. The hospitel has 230 rooms with a medical team that can provide treatment to Covid-19 patients all day. Patients who wish to be treated at a hospitel must have eligibility, such as age less than 50 years without risks of severe symptoms and able

to communicate and take care of themselves. Meanwhile, hospitals can take patients back if there are any changes in patients' symptoms. This hospital will gradually open rooms for patients as follows: 70 rooms on April 26, 80 rooms on April 30, 40 rooms on May 15, and another 40 rooms on May 30.