

THAI NEWS UPDATES: 30 APRIL 2021

1. Govt hardens Covid measures

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

The government has increased its Covid-19 controls, widening restrictions in "dark red" maximum- and strict-controls zones, calling for everyone to work from home for at least 14 days and extending the quarantine period for arrivals. Six provinces will tomorrow be designated maximum- and strict-control zones, since their new infections are now topping 100 every week. They are Bangkok, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Samut Prakan, Chon Buri and Chiang Mai. The goal is to prevent their surging infection rates from reaching neighbouring provinces, which have not yet been as badly affected. Officials are most focused on infections among office workers and their close associates because they are still commuting, eating and holding meetings together, said Dr Taweetilp. The government is therefore requesting a "100% level of support" for people to work from home.

2. Stimulus schemes expected to help domestic tourism gain momentum

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

The third phase of "Rao Tiew Duay Kan" [We Travel Together] travel subsidy campaign will start on May 7, while the "Tour Tiew Thai" package tour scheme will kick-off on May 27. Both should help encourage more people to travel domestically," he said. Under Rao Tiew Duay Kan, eligible registrants can receive up to 40 per cent discount on hotel rooms and restaurants. They also will receive an e-voucher when checking into a hotel as well as a 40 per cent flight refund when they check out. The subsidy is capped at 2 million room nights whereas registrants must reserve the room at least 7 days in advance. The new Tour Tiew Thai co-payment scheme will see the government covering up to 40 per cent of tour package cost for a maximum of one million people. The subsidy is capped at Bt5,000 per trip. Eligible people can reserve the trips starting May until August.

3. Ministry announces vaccination registration dates for public via Mor Phrom

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

The ministry has been providing Covid-19 vaccination to medical professionals and volunteers at high risk of infection from interacting with patients since February 28. So far, more than a million people in this group have been given the first jab and about 200,000 have already got their second jab. The ministry aims to vaccinate 16 million people in the first batch of registration, with priority given to those who carry risks of developing severe symptoms if they contract Covid-19.

4. AIS engineers virtual mall

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

Largest mobile operator Advanced Info Service (AIS), in partnership with retail operators, has launched virtual shopping mall V-Avenue.Co to support retail business and help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) during difficult times amid the pandemic. This virtual mall, which can be accessed through V-Avenue.Co website, aims to provide a new shopping experience for customers and boost their engagement through virtual reality (VR) technology. Some 210 local SMEs providing more than 10,000 products are now present on the platform. SMEs are allowed to board the platform without revenue-sharing requirement from AIS. The SMEs are also projected to benefit from AIS's 42 million subscribers.

5. Thailand, Singapore link real-time payment systems in world first

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

The linkage allows customers of participating banks in Thailand and Singapore to transfer funds of up to THB25,000 or S\$1,000 daily across the two countries, using just a mobile number. The funds will flow seamlessly and securely between customers' accounts in Thailand and Singapore. The linkage is the culmination of years of collaboration between the Bank of Thailand (BOT) and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the payment system operators, and bankers. Transfers will be completed within a matter of minutes, representing a marked improvement over the average of 1-2 working days needed by most cross-border remittance solutions.

6. SCG set to finish IPO plan study

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

SET-listed Siam Cement Group (SCG), Thailand's largest cement maker, expects to complete its feasibility study on an initial public offering plan for its SCG Chemicals unit and restructuring in 2022. "The chemical business has good potential because of high demand in Thailand and Asean and a shift in trend towards green chemicals and the food packaging business caused by the pandemic," said SCG president and chief executive Roongrote Rangsiyopash. The company saw its revenue in the first quarter increase by 15% to 122 billion baht and profit soar by 114% to 14.91 billion baht, driven by the chemical business.

7. Thailand to issue international vaccine passport for travellers

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

An international vaccine passport, certifying Covid-19 immunisation, will be an official travel document for those travelling overseas, according to an order by the Public Health Ministry's Disease Control Department. A copy of the vaccine passport along with an order outlining the

issuing process, both approved by the department's director general Opas Karnkawinpong, were published in the Royal Gazette, making it official. Vaccines must be registered in Thailand or certified by the World Health Organisation, according to the order. Authorised disease control officials must sign the passport to validate the vaccination.

8. All foreigners eligible for Covid-19 vaccine under Thailand's vaccination plan

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

All expats living in Thailand are eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, according to deputy spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Natapanu Nopakun. He says Thailand plans to roll out a "massive vaccination plan" to vaccinate all people who are living in Thailand, including foreign residents. "All people residing in Thailand, regardless of nationality, are eligible to receive the vaccine under the plan." He made the announcement during the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration's daily briefing today. Natapanu says more information on the vaccination plan for foreigners residing in Thailand will be released at a later date. Health officials in Phuket and Koh Samui, tourist destinations that have been said to be of "economic significance," have already been rolling out mass vaccination campaigns in an effort to reach herd immunity and reopen the islands to foreign tourists by July.