

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 8 JUNE 2021

### **1. King and Queen provide biosafety vehicles for Covid-19 tests**

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

Their Majesties King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida on 7 June granted 16 biosafety vehicles and six biosafety trailers at the Amphorn Sathan Residential Hall in Bangkok's Dusit Palace to the Ministry of Public Health for Covid-19 testing among people in risky areas. The vehicles were received by Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, Public Health Permanent Secretary Dr Kiattiphum Wongrajit and ministry executives. They were equipped with necessary testing equipment and state of the art information technology system for fast and accurate testing. The Palace said that they were bought with the money that groups of people had presented to Queen Suthida to celebrate her birthday on June 3. So far, Their Majesties have donated 36 biosafety vehicles to facilitate testing for Covid-19 in remote areas to reduce crowding at local hospitals. They also donated five vehicles for express analysis mobile units and two vehicles for digital x-ray units.

### **2. Thailand on course for 300,000 jabs on 1st day of rollout**

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

Thailand was on course to administer around 300,00 anti-Covid vaccinations on 7 June, the first day of the national jab rollout. The Department of Disease Control (DDC) said 143,116 people had been vaccinated as of midday on 7 June. DDC chief Opas Karnkawinpong said the rollout was going smoothly with no crowding at a total of 986 vaccination sites around the country. However, some lists of people who had registered via the Mor Prom app were missing, he added. Staff at vaccination sites were able to solve the problem by downloading the app to check the information. Among those jabbed on Monday were 73,273 people aged over 60, 21,924 people with chronic diseases, and 12,081 health personnel including volunteers.

### **3. Banpu buys solar farms in Australia**

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

SET-listed Banpu Plc, a non-oil energy conglomerate, has acquired two utility-scale solar farms in New South Wales, Australia, in a deal worth A\$97.5 million (2.33 billion baht) to further increase its clean power generation capacity. The new assets are Beryl Solar Farm (BSF) with a capacity of 110.9 megawatts (MW) and Manildra Solar Farm (MSF) with a capacity of 55.9MW. The purchase marks another step in Banpu's move toward renewable generation in Australia where it has been operating coal mines for more than two decades.

#### **4. Foreign expats in Bangkok can now book a jab**

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

Foreigners living in Bangkok can register for their Covid-19 jab via the <http://thailandintervac.com> website as of 7 June afternoon. Initially, registration will be limited to those above the age of 60 or those living with the following conditions: Severe chronic respiratory disease; Coronary artery disease; Chronic kidney disease (fifth stage); Stroke; Cancer patients receiving chemotherapy; Diabetes and others.

#### **5. Thailand orders 25 million doses of J&J and Pfizer vaccine**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha kicked off Thailand's delayed mass vaccination drive on 7 June by insisting there would be enough jabs to cover the whole population. He added that Thailand had ordered 20 million doses of Johnson & Johnson (J&J) and 5 million Pfizer vaccine. Prayut made the pledge on a visit to Bang Sue Central Station, Bangkok's main vaccination hub. The premier said more locally made AstraZeneca jabs and Chinese Sinovac vaccine would also be available soon. The government aims to vaccinate 50 million people or 70 per cent of the population to achieve herd immunity by the end of this year. Vaccine supplies to each province would vary according to their infection rate, the PM added. Vaccination is being offered at hospitals, health centres and public buildings across the country, though limited supply of vaccines means some areas have received fewer doses than expected.

#### **6. Factory workers to get Sinopharm**

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

The state-private partnership expects to start distributing Chinese-made Sinopharm vaccines to factory workers in five industrial estates and a deep-sea port in Map Ta Phut on July 9, with a target of 1,000 vaccines administered per day. The inoculation will be carried out for workers at WHA Eastern Industrial Estate (Map Ta Phut), Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate, Padaeng Industrial Estate, RIL Industrial Estate, Asia Industrial Estate and Map Ta Phut deep-sea port in Rayong. Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit said vaccine distribution in industrial complexes is crucial because workers in the manufacturing sector are important to help drive supply chains and the economy.