

August 2, 2021

Thai Enquirer Summary

COVID-19 News

- Thailand continues to see a daily rise in COVID-19 infections.
- Today's numbers are as follows:



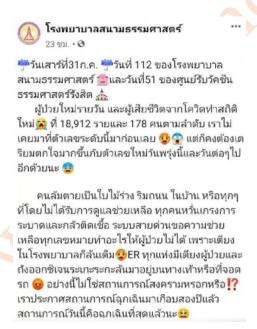
❖ Total New Infections = 17,970

Community Infection = 17,795

➤ Prison Infection = 175

❖ Total New Death = 178

- The field hospital of Thammasart University hospital has come out to warn that within next 2-weeks
 - ❖ There will be shortage of medicine to help the Covid-19
 - Favipiravir which is used is likely to become short in case the cases continued to rise the way they have been rising.
 - This the medical association said comes after
 - ➤ Shortage of ICU beds
 - Shortage of ventilators
 - > Shortage of beds in hospitals
 - ➤ Shortage of medical staff



- Thailand has announced extension of the 'semi lockdown' until August 31
 - ❖ Although the decision was initially made to have the lockdown from 21:00 to 04:00 hrs for 14-days but the announcement was made until the end of the month.

- ➤ No movement of people
- ➤ No movement of goods and services
- ➤ No more than 5-people can gather
- Eateries can open but only for delivery and have to close at 20:00 hrs.
 - ✓ Eateries in shopping complexes can open only for delivery not for dine-in.
- ➤ Barbers, saloons, spas etc. along with sports centre and educations centres such as tutorials have to be closed as well.
- ❖ The announcement also put a total of
 - > 29 provinces under deep 'red zone'
 - ✓ Bangkok, Nonthaburi, Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Pathum Thani, Nakhon Pathom, Ayutthaya, Chon Buri, Chachoengsao, Kanchanaburi, Tak, Nakhon Nayok, Nakhon Ratchasima, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Prachinburi, Phetchaburi, Phetchabun, Rayong, Lopburi, Ratchaburi, Sing Buri, Samut Songkhram, Saraburi, Suphan Buri, Ang Thong, Narathiwat, Pattani, Songkhla and Yala.
 - > 37 provinces have become 'red'
 - ➤ 11 are in 'orange'
 - No more provinces in the Yellow or Green zones in Thailand.
- ❖ The 'workers camps' in various deep red zone of the 29 provinces have to be 'bubble & seal'.
- During the meeting more than 30,000 beds in hospitals were used and all are nearly used up.

- Prayut orders to increase the number of beds and not to make the people feel that there are no more beds.
- ❖ The discussion was of how the infection is likely to continue to rise for 1-2 months
- Also the meeting discussed that as many as 10 million doses would be used.
 - ❖ There was also a decision to raise the procurement of Pfizer to 30 million doses from 20 million doses.
- There are also reports that Prayut is looking at any vaccine and it could include buying Johnson & Johnson as there is a need for only 1dose for J&J vaccines.

Inoculation Drive

- The inoculation drive continues to remain weak although only on Friday did Thailand see an good inoculation number but the weekend once again saw few people being inoculated.
 - The inoculation drive faced uphill battle due to the lack of vaccines and yesterday reports emerged that 25 inoculation centers around the city were not going to inoculate due to vaccine shortages.
 - ➤ Inoculation for the month of July as follows...

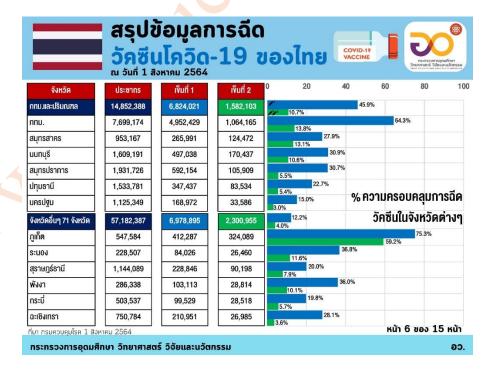


• As for the inoculation targets of 100 million doses by December 31, 2021.

- ❖ The target inoculation per day to achieve that 100 million doses target is moving further away as current inoculation drive remains slow.
- ❖ Now there is a need for 538,001 doses of inoculation per day for the next 153 days remining during the course of this year to achieve the 100 million doses target set by the government.



• The good news for residents of Bangkok is that about 64% of the residents are vaccinated with at least 1st dose as of August 1st. Bangkok is 2nd only to Phuket with 75.3% of the population being inoculated with as least 1st dose.



- Phuket and Samui both have been open to foreign tourists but have seen a spike in new infections with last week witnessing more than the set goal of 90-infections per week to shut down the sandbox.
 - ❖ Although last week saw more than 90 cases, Phuket Sandbox remains open.
 - Samui's cluster has been from a bar and the number of infections continues to rise unabated.
- The low vaccination also means that the planned opening of the country's borders are likely to be delayed or may not happen.
 - ❖ Even the 'Phuket Sandbox' is receiving negative reviews around Europe the market that the Thai government was looking to tap into.
 - Media outlets in Switzerland have come out to write accounts of Swiss nationals stuck in Phuket Sandbox as they are unable to fly out of Phuket due to flights being cancelled.
 - Link to one of the many stories in Swiss media
 https://www.blick.ch/wirtschaft/thailand-touristen-sitzen-fest-das-ist-absoluter-betrug-id16717462.html
 - ❖ Despite all this Prayut plans to go ahead with its plans to open the country by October 14, 2021
 - This is the day that Prayut had said would be the D-day in a televised address to the country on June 16th that Thailand's borders will open within 120-days from that day.



Political News

- During the meeting held by the 2014 coup leader and incumbent Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, came out to instruct National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) to be put in as the centre point for the 'information center' especially during this pandemic
 - This would be headed by the NBTC and under Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA).
- There are reports that the work-from-home Prime Minister of Thailand Prayut Chan-o-cha, is listening to former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.
 - ❖ Thaksin on Tuesday July 27th had come out to say that if he was the Prime Minister he would go and spend the money to buy PPE suite and go out to the field hospitals, the various hospitals around the country and give encouragement to the people who are fighting the disease and also the frontline workers who are caring for those who are sick.
 - Prayut reportedly is planning to make such a trip this week.
 - ❖ This would not be the 1st time that Prayut has followed Thaksin's recommendations
 - ➤ Thaksin was the 1st person to come out blasting the Prayut govt.'s reliance on AstraZeneca and SinoVac

- ✓ He had asked for all vaccines to be procured and then Thailand decides on which one it wants and which ones it can donate or resell to other countries (if there is no need for the vaccine similar to what Israel has done).
 - Prayut followed through with the decision to procure Pfizer and give go ahead to procurement of Moderna vaccines.
- Thaksin was the 1st person to come out with the opening up of the country to tourism through Phuket Sandbox etc plans but after people were vaccinated similar to what UAE and Mauritius has done.
 - ✓ Prayut followed with opening of Phuket Sandbox and Samui +
- Political situation continued to remain volatile yesterday with the 'Car Mob' that took place across the country. A total of 25 provinces saw 'Car Mob'
 - ❖ The car mob saw the participation of former Deputy Agriculture Minister Natthawut Saikua, who was one of the key leaders of the 2010 'Red Shirt' movement.
 - Natthawut has in the past said that he would one day participate but his participation helped being in a lot more people than was expected.





- The honking and racket created by those participating were heard more than a kilometre away.
- ❖ The military regime as usual has barricaded the key areas such as the Government House and the residence area of Prayut at the 1st Infantry Division.
 - > There was use of rubber bullets and tear gas later in the evening after the protest was nearly over as many protestors decided not to go back home after the protest leaders announced the end of the protest.







- Among the protest leaders who participated were the likes of Parit Chiwarak and Anon Nampha, the leader of the student lead protest, and former staunch supporter of People's Democratic Reform Council (PDRC) lead by Suthep Thaugsuban.
 - ✓ Tanat Nat Thanakitamnuay, who made global headlines by driving his Porche into a 'Red Shirt' protest at Ratchaprasong area in 2010 and was seen driving around Ferraris, also participated in the anti-Prayut protest.





(LEFT) Tanat or Nat with a sign yesterday 'How have you managed the country that a Salim has flipped (to oppose you)'

(RIGHT) – Tanat when he had taken his Porsche to smash into the protesting 'Red Shirt' demonstrators.

• After the protest another protest has been called for on August 7th



The students at Chulalongkorn University where the twin daughters of 2014 coup leader

 Prayut, are studying, were asked by friends and classmates to ask their father to resign
 from the position of Priem Ministership as the country was suffering while he continued
 to remain in power.



- The opposition Pheu Thai party has said that it would file for a no confidence motion against the government of Prayut Chan-o-cha by August 12, 2021 for its mismanagement of the crisis.
 - ❖ Pheu Thai's Yuthapong Charat Sathien, a constituency MP from the province of Maha Sarakham, came out to say that all this would be done before the 2nd and 3rd reading of the 2022 budget reading that is slated to take place later this month.

Economic News

- The extension of the 'semi-lockdown' is likely to have continued severe impact on the overall economy.
 - ❖ Sanan Angubolkul, the chairman of Thai Chamber of Commerce, came out to say that the impact would be around 250-350 billion baht per month from the original projection of 200-300 billion baht.
 - ❖ He said that the government needs to take the necessary steps in order to stimulate the economy which has been lagging and could see further dip if no steps are taken.
- As air travel remains restrictive and Thai Air Asia announced no pay or partial pay from August onwards until ate least September, there are growing calls for the government to come out to help the industry.
 - ❖ The Ministry of Finance has come out to say that the compensation would depend on each sector
 - Airlines would be given low interest rate loans and focus on local airlines as priority and could include things as service fees, parking fees etc for aircrafts.
 - The airlines have also sought to lower their demand for soft loans to about 5 billion baht from more than 24 billion baht they sought earlier.
- Shares of Ananda Development Plc (ANAN) is likely to have a major impact today after the lower court on Friday evening announced the suspension of the 6.5-billion-baht project Ashton Asoke, as being illegally constructed with there being no road wider than 12-meters around the project for the project to be so large.
 - Ananada has said that this was not the final decision by the courts and that it would appeal the decision by the lower court and will go all the way to the Supreme Court.
 - ❖ The decision by the lower court has prompted many residents of the 50-stories high building completed in 2017 to start to sell out their units amid uncertainties.

- ❖ There are 783 units in this building that has become synonymous with high end condo in Asoke area with per square meter prices ranging from 250,000+ per square meter.
 - > Some residents have been looking to divest it at cost or minor losses
- ❖ Meanwhile many residents have come out to say that they will not pay the banks the mortgage they owe on this project as there are uncertainties going forward.

Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- On Sunday, the government decided to extend its lockdown decree until the end of August. According to the doctors working at the Ministry of Public Health, the lockdown has prevented the number of infections from reaching uncontrollable highs.
 - o Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/30670/opinion-our-political-class-and-political-culture-must-change-after-the-pandemic/
- On July 29, an order by the Prime Minister was published by the Royal Gazette prohibiting the presentation or dissemination of information that will incite fear among the public or that intentionally distorts the truth to cause a misunderstanding about the emergency situation, which may impact national security, public order, or public morals.
 - Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/30659/deconstructing-thailands-new-information-decree/
- Nattawut Saikua on Thursday broke the political silence he has held since his release from detention in December when he announced the #ไล่ประยุทธ์ (Ousting Prayut) campaign.
 - o Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/30630/talking-protests-and-car-mobs-with-nattawut-saikua/
- The army has been denied next year's fund to buy Javelin missiles and related equipment worth some 2.5 billion baht from the United States, according to an army source.
 - https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2158231/massive-2-5bn-baht-missile-agreement-put-on-ice

- Prime Minister Prayut Chan-Ocha trended on social media on Friday, with the hashtag # ไล่ประชุทธ์ (Ousting Prayut), as netizens criticized his government for its repeated attempts to suppress free media and called for the PM to be removed from office.
 - o Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/30597/chase-away-prayut-trends-on-twitter-after-passage-of-fake-news-decree/
- The daily number of Covid cases could have surpassed 40,000 per day without the lockdown, the Ministry of Public Health said on Friday, as the government was assessing whether to increase restrictions.
 - o Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/30643/covid-cases-could-have-hit-more-than-40000-cases-per-day-without-lockdown-government-says/
- Poem: Get Angry!
 - o Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/30591/poem-get-angry/
- Thammasat field hospital has asked Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha to set up a war room, so he meet with his ministers and senior officials every morning to assess the latest COVID-19 situation and to deploy measures to deal with any problems immediately, instead of meeting every Tuesday via video conference and working from home.
 - Link- https://www.thaipbsworld.com/thai-frontline-medics-heartfelt-plea-to-prime-minister-prayut/
- Anti-government protesters took to the streets in cars and motorcycles in Bangkok and other provinces on Sunday, demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha over his handling of the Covid-19 crisis.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2158147/nationwide-protests-call-for-pm-to-resign-amid-covid-surge
- The government has extended lockdown measures for two more weeks from Tuesday, with another 16 provinces added to the dark red zone of maximum restrictions to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2158135/lockdown-extended-16-provinces-added
- The Royal Thai Police is currently investigating a suspect who allegedly posted fake news related to a military coup, police deputy spokesman Pol General Krisana Pattanacharoen said on Sunday.

- o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40004042
- A slight majority of people think their freedom of expression has been restricted during the Covid-19 pandemic at a time when many have questioned the government's handling of the crisis, according to an opinion survey by Suan Dusit Rajabhat University, or Suan Dusit Poll.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2158047/most-think-free-speech-is-restricted-during-pandemic-poll
- Police are hunting those who spread a rumour that the army staged a coup to topple the
 government after the army filed a complaint with them against a social media user and
 dismissed it as fake news.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2157767/army-strikes-back-at-coup-fake-news
- At least 7,000 people have bought Covid-19 vaccination slots at Bang Sue Grand Station that were illegally acquired through a loophole in the the national vaccine recipient's database, police said.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2158223/cops-crack-down-on-jab-slot-sales
- A shortage in supplies of Covid-19 vaccines led to the weekend closure of 25 vaccination centres in Bangkok, while the "Mor Prom" app also cancelled all bookings scheduled for Friday and Saturday and has yet to resume offering new appointments.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2158215/weekend-city-jab-shutdown

Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

• Shares of Thai Oil Plc (TOP), a subsidiary of the country's largest state-owned corporation PTT Group, slipped by almost 8 per cent on Friday after it announced plans to acquire a 15-per-cent stake in a leading Indonesian energy firm Chandra Asri Petrochemical (CAP).

- o Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/30637/thai-oil-stocks-plunge-after-company-said-it-would-take-stake-in-indonesian-energy-firm/
- A spa and wellness brand Karmakamet sparked online outrage on Friday after one of its founders questioned if footage of people laying on the street and suffering from Covid-19 was staged on social media.
 - Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/30599/karmakamet-on-the-receiving-end-of-online-fury-after-owner-dismisses-covid-images/
- Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha says the government will continue to carry out the Phuket Sandbox model under stricter measures to curb the spread of Covid-19.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2157771/phuket-sandbox-to-press-on-pm
- Wooing back tourists to Koh Samui comes attached with the danger of a Covid-19 infection flare-up which could deliver the island's much-hyped sandbox programme a knock-out blow.
 - Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2157867/covid-outbreak-wont-deter-latest-sandbox
- The Office of Insurance Commission (OIC) on Saturday said Covid-19 patients in home and community isolation programmes are eligible for reimbursements from insurance companies.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2157775/homecare-cases-now-eligible-for-insurance-payouts
- A highly placed source at SET-listed True Corporation has rejected a media report suggesting it will acquire Total Access Communication (DTAC), the country's third largest mobile operator, from Norway-based telecom giant Telenor, insisting the story is baseless.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2157523/true-denies-reported-interest-in-buying-dtac
- The one-month closure of construction worker camps to curb the spread of Covid-19 has decreased domestic demand for cement and building materials by 20%, says Siam Cement Group (SCG), Thailand's largest cement maker and industrial conglomerate.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2157527/demand-for-cement-hit-by-shutdowns

- A survey carried out by the Bank of Thailand has discovered concerns over the soaring Covid-19 infections in the industrial sector, pressuring the supply chain and Thai exports.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2157519/industries-fret-over-potential-spread
- The majority of Japanese investors -- more than 60 per cent -- have confidence to invest in Thailand, a survey Japanese joint venture companies in Thailand by the Japan Foreign Trade Organisation (Jetro) showed.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40004046
- Thai Airways International (THAI) on Saturday announced the sale of its assets at prime locations, such as Lan Luang, Si Lom, Don Mueang and Phuket, to boost cash flow.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/40004044
- That AirAsia will temporarily cease all operations in August, due to zero revenue following the ban on domestic flights in the "dark red" provinces, in order to meet the conditions of social security assistance.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/40004043
- Thailands aviation industry is still moving in a downward trajectory due to uncertainty over the Covid-19 outbreak among Thai and foreign tourists, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) said on Saturday.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/40004041
- The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) Index closed at 1,521.92 on Friday, down 15.86 points or 1.03 per cent. Transactions totalled THB87.72 billion with an index high of 1,539.03 and a low of 1,516.77.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/40003977
- A three-month trial run of the Red Line electric train service begins on Monday, with carriages limited to half-capacity to allow passengers to maintain social distancing during their ride.
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2158315/free-rides-on-red-line-during-trial
- Pattaya plans to adjust its reopening plan as Thailand may not be able to control the high rate of infections and provide sufficient vaccinations until the fourth quarter.

Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2158335/pattaya-reopening-likely-to-be-delayed

Issues to be watched out for

- ➤ June-September, 2021 Thailand plans to administer 1st doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to 36 million people, according to the Public Health Ministry.
- ➤ June 30, 2021-year-end The Bank of Thailand (BoT) extended its targeted debt moratorium measures for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- ➤ July, 2021 TMB-Thanachart Bank (TMB-TBank) expects to complete the integration of the 2 financial entities.
- ➤ July 29, 2021 The Finance Ministry is reassessing its economic projection in light of the recent lockdown, and will announce an adjusted number.
- ➤ August, 2021 A 3.1-trillion-baht budget spending bill for the fiscal year 2022 will be tabled for 2nd and 3rd readings.
- ➤ August 28, 2021 The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) has rescheduled the auction of four satellite orbital slot packages.
- ➤ September 1, 2021 The government will collect value-added tax from Netflix, Youtube, Google, Facebook as well as other e-commerce services.
- > September 18, 2021 Parliament goes into recess.
- ➤ October, 2021 Bangkok governor election is set to be held.
- ➤ October December, 2021 The 2nd doses of AstraZeneca would be administered.
- ➤ October 1, 2021 Hua Hin's reopening to vaccinated foreign visitors.
- ➤ October 1, 2021 The quarantine measure will be lifted in Krabi, Phang Nga, Pattaya and Chiang Mai.

Key Data

SET Index 1,521.92 -15.86

• Link - https://www.set.or.th/en/company/ipo/upcoming_ipo_set.html

Global Commodities

Metal -Link http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/commodities/futures/metals/

Energy -Link - http://www.bloomberg.com/energy/

Baltic Dry Index (BDI)-Link - http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND

Global Equity Market's Movements

Link - http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/asia-pacific/

Asian Equity Markets Movement

Link - http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/

Information on July 30, 2021

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
AIMIRT	74,000	11.7	Purchase
AIMIRT	252,000	11.7	Purchase
BCH	20,000	26	Sale
KKP	80,000	51.56	Purchase
UTP	40,000	19.23	Purchase

XD, XE or XM or other notifications

For list of Companies that have dividend payment and AGM meeting schedules click on http://www.set.or.th/set/calendarofevents.do

Trading Breakdown on the Stock Exchange of Thailand

						Unit: M.Baht		
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net			
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%		
Local Institutions	5,679.75	6.47	5,463.47	6.23	216.28	-		
Proprietary Trading	8,197.41	9.34	8,266.94	9.42	-69.53	-		
Foreign Investors	38,180.85	43.53	38,887.86	44.33	-707.01	-		
Local Individuals	35,662.53	40.65	35,102.26	40.02	560.27	-		
Monthly Cumulative between 1-30 Jul 2021								
	_					Unit: M.Baht		
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net			
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	0/0		
Local Institutions	106,161.49	6.82	109,717.35	7.05	-3,555.86	-		
Proprietary Trading	147,590.01	9.49	144,677.92	9.30	2,912.09	-		
Foreign Investors	618,675.38	39.77	635,695.46	40.86	-17,020.08	-		
Local Individuals	683,281.81	43.92	665,617.97	42.79	17,663.85	-		
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan - 30 Jul 2021								
T T.	D		G.II		NT . 4	Unit: M.Baht		
Investor Type	Buy	0./	Sell	0./	Net	0.7		
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%		
Local Institutions	893,568.13	7.08	937,915.73	7.43	-44,347.59	-		
Proprietary Trading	1,253,957.58	9.94	1,244,496.68	9.86	9,460.91	-		
Foreign Investors	4,650,135.13	36.85	4,743,417.39	37.59	-93,282.26	-		
Local Individuals	5,820,323.38	46.13	5,692,154.43	45.11	128,168.95	-		

Total Trading Value 87,720.54 Million Baht

Background Information –

The strength of each party in the Thai Parliament as of May 8, 2019 as per the report by the Election Commission of Thailand. Elections took place on March 24, 2019

• https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/news_all.php?cid=24

• List of MPs - https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/download/article/article_20190508184334.pdf

Information provided here is copyright of ThaiNews Corp and no part maybe reproduced in any form without the prior written permission. The opinions expressed are only those of the writer's and is analysed based on the situation.

