

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Thailand to offer 10-year visas to ‘wealthy global citizens’

Source: Financial Times ([Link](#))

Thailand aims to lure up to 1m wealthy residents and cash in on remote-working professionals uprooted by Covid-19 by offering long-term visas to foreigners who invest \$250,000-\$500,000 in property or government bonds. The visa scheme, unveiled by Prayuth Chan-ocha’s cabinet this week and subject to legal changes, will target “affluent global citizens”, wealthy pensioners, digital nomads working remotely and skilled professionals. The launch of the visa scheme comes as the pandemic guts Thailand’s tourism industry, hurting business confidence and hitting the baht, which is one of Asia’s worst performing currencies this year. Thailand is cautiously reopening its biggest island Phuket and some other resorts to vaccinated foreigners, but officials acknowledge that mass tourism is unlikely to return to the record 40m visits recorded in 2019 anytime soon.

2. Govt plans out booster shots

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

The government will provide a booster shot against Covid-19 for those who received alternative vaccines, according to Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul. The minister was responding to questions concerning recipients of the Sinopharm vaccine which was distributed by the Chulabhorn Royal Academy (CRA). Many recipients of the Sinopharm vaccine, which was rolled out on June 24, wondered if they were eligible to receive a third dose. The two-dose vaccine was administered three weeks apart. Sinopharm is an alternative vaccine consisting of dead virus particles.

3. South hotels to woo domestic tourists with premium packages

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

Hotel operators in the South are launching premium packages this month to attract domestic tourists looking to visit Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga and Surat Thani. The campaign follows relaxation of Covid-19 measures in the four tourist provinces under the government’s Phuket Sandbox and Samui Plus programme. Surachat Iawsakul, a director of Thai Hotels Association (Southern Chapter), said on Thursday that the campaign aims to provide a premium travel experience from luxurious hotels and restaurants as well as marine activities, such as diving and sailing, at reasonable prices.

4. Thailand's Food and Drug Administration Expands Authorisation of COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna for Use in Adolescents 12 to 17 years old

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

Thailand, 16 September 2021 – ZP Therapeutics, a division of Zuellig Pharma, a leading healthcare services provider in Asia, today announced that Thailand Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expanded the authorisation of the COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna for use in adolescents aged 12 to 17 years old. The vaccination regimen is the same as that for adults – two doses of the vaccine to be administered 28 days apart. The approval of COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna for use in adolescents expands the vaccine arsenal that Thailand has to combat the pandemic. We are grateful that the Food and Drug Administration has authorised the use of the COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna for adolescents so that they can be offered protection against the coronavirus, especially in light of the highly contagious Delta variant.

5. Export industry making most of FTA, GSP pacts, says trade dept

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

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has not affected Thailand's free trade agreements (FTAs) or the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), the Department of Foreign Trade (DFT) said on Thursday. In the first seven months of this year, deals under the pacts had risen by 36.23 per cent compared to the same period last year, while the industries using the privileges most were agriculture and food, DFT said. Keerati Rushchano, DFT director-general, said the total value of deals made by Thai exporters under the FTA and GSP pacts between January and July this year stood at US\$46.4 billion, up 36.23 per cent from the same period last year. Between January and July, Thailand has increased its use of trade incentives under various FTA and GSP frameworks in a bid to boost exports. Besides, several markets have started recovering in the wake of the Covid-19 fallout. For instance, export to India has risen by 4.91 per cent, while Thailand's shipments to Asean and Japan has expanded by 3.89 per cent.