

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 8 NOVEMBER 2021

1. PM satisfied country ranks 18th in vaccination rate

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha is satisfied Thailand's Covid vaccination rate has surpassed 80 million doses, ranking 18th out of 184 countries, government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkonghchana said on Monday. The Public Health Ministry is also expediting negotiations for the purchase of Paxlovid and Molnupiravir, he said. Prayut is additionally satisfied with the current Covid-19 situation, which has continued to show signs of improvement, Thanakorn said. The spokesman said that the latest information on the Bloomberg website as of Saturday indicates Thailand is ranked 18th in the world and 3rd in Asean, while countries with the highest vaccination rates are China, India, the US, Brazil and Indonesia.

2. Some clarifications on Thailand Pass system

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

People heading to Thailand have been warned to beware of a fake registration website that looks very credible, while officials on Sunday listed four reasons why some Thailand Pass applicants did not receive a QR code. Government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkonghchana told reporters on Sunday that in the first five days of Thailand's reopening on November 1, 16,595 foreigners had entered the country. He went on to say that 90,165 people had registered for the Thailand Pass and 33,788 had been approved. He also warned people against the www.thailandpass.org website, which scammers have set up to steal personal information.

3. Taiwan's food chains eyeing Thai market

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

More than 20 Taiwanese food and dessert chains are exploring business opportunities in Thailand this year. Brands that are seeking to open franchises in Thailand include Fried Chicken Master, Frozen Heart, Monga Taiwanese style fried chicken, Morn Coo Coo, Yu Fu Yuan restaurant, I.H Art, Thefeen burger, Tea Top, MR Sun, Presotea and HWC Roasters. "Thailand has become a country with high opportunities and potential for the development of Taiwanese chain brands," said a source from the Association of Chain and Franchise Promotion Taiwan who requested anonymity. "Rapid urbanisation and development have been taking place in Thailand for the past few years and a mature business model of the retail channel has already been formed in major cities," said the source.

4. Thailand reopens -- what next?

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

International airports in Thailand have come alive over the past week, with more than 12,000 travellers flying in, mostly from 63 countries which have been exempted from quarantine or area restrictions. If this momentum continues, the total number of incoming travellers this month is likely to overtake the total for the past 19 months, which saw zero tourists during the first nationwide lockdown in the second quarter of last year. It will also be a big leap from the four months of sandbox programmes, which have seen Phuket and Koh Samui attract 12,000-18,000 international tourists per month. The current flow of tourists might create a positive vibe for the travel industry, but it is still in stark contrast to the pre-pandemic era, which saw over 3 million tourists on average visit Thailand every month.

5. Chiang Mai welcomes its first group of foreigners – golfers from Incheon

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

Chiang Mai International Airport welcomed a Jeju Air chartered flight carrying 83 South Korean travellers from Incheon on Friday night. orapong Moochaotai, an advisor to the Chiang Mai Tourism Council, said this was the first international flight to land in the North after nearly two years of travel restrictions. The group had been booked into the Artitaya Golf & Resort Chiangmai in Lamphun province.