

# UPDATE COVID 19



January 7, 2021

Dear BGA Clients,

As the world turns the page to 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to afflict nearly every country in the world. Vaccines continue to be developed and approved, leading to cautious optimism that the end of the pandemic is in sight. However, the near simultaneous emergence of highly transmittable variants of the virus has complicated the path forward, tempering optimism with realism.

Vaccine approval continues haltingly across the region. Though leading vaccine candidates have been approved for emergency use in many major markets, including the United States and China, other countries, like Japan, are taking a more cautious approach to approval. Moves by the World Health Organization to endorse certain vaccines have accelerated even some of the more conservative approval timelines, as has the emergence of new viral threats.

Despite the progress on the approval front, distributing and administering vaccines remains a hurdle for every country. Even countries that have contracted enough doses to theoretically cover their whole population this year now face the gargantuan task of immunizing enough of their population to achieve herd immunity. Logistical tradeoffs between efficacy and ease of storage are complicating these debates. Meanwhile, though the COVAX facility will help ensure that the poorest nations will be able to obtain enough of the vaccine to immunize the most vulnerable in 2021, even some major markets, like Indonesia, are unlikely to be able to reach widespread vaccine availability before 2022 or even 2023.

Finally, the rapid spread of new variants found in the United Kingdom and South Africa has sent a number of markets back into travel isolation, either with those countries directly or more broadly. Even without the new variants, countries with strong track records so far, such as Thailand, are seeing unprecedented resurgences of cases. A combination of apathy, frustration and exhaustion is undermining containment protocols in many markets, and policymakers have struggled to balance popular resentment with the needs of the moment.

Questions and comments are welcome and can be directed to BGA Head of Research Murray Hiebert at [mhiebert@bowergroupasia.com](mailto:mhiebert@bowergroupasia.com).



Best Regards,

Murray Hiebert  
Director of Research, BowerGroupAsia



*“The Covid-19 pandemic is a test of global solidarity and global leadership.*

*The virus thrives on division but is thwarted when we unite.”*

*Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, World Health Organization Director-General*

Click to jump to a particular country or scroll down to see all:

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 Australia

 Cambodia

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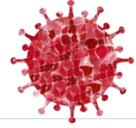
 South Korea

 Sri Lanka

 Taiwan

 Thailand

 Vietnam



## Covid-19 Vaccine Rollout in the Asia-Pacific

Country	1/7 Cases	Weekly Change	Est. Vaccination Start	Main Vaccines/Candidates
Australia	28,536	155	Feb. 2021	Pfizer, AstraZeneca
Cambodia	385	19	2022	TBD
China	97,217	544	H2 2020	Sinopharm, Sinovac, CanSino
Hong Kong*	9,108	0	Feb. 2021	Sinovac, Pfizer, AstraZeneca
India	10,395,278	128,604	Jan. 2021	AstraZeneca, Covaxin
Indonesia	788,402	53,278	Jan. 2021	Sinovac, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Novavax
Japan	258,393	28,089	Feb. 2021	Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca
Malaysia	125,438	14,953	Feb. 2021	Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sinovac, CanSino
Mongolia	1,349	154	Q1 2021	TBD
Myanmar	128,178	4,438	Feb. 2021	Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sinovac, Sinopharm
Nepal	263,193	3,134	H2 2021	TBD
New Zealand	1,832	26	H2 2021	Pfizer, Janssen, AstraZeneca, Novavax
Philippines	480,737	8,205	H2 2021/H1 2022	Pfizer, Sinopharm
Singapore	58,780	211	Dec. 2020	Pfizer, Moderna, Sinovac
South Korea	66,686	5,952	Feb. 2021	AstraZeneca, Moderna
Sri Lanka	46,248	3,546	Q2/Q3 2021	TBD
Taiwan**	822	0	Mar. 2021	AstraZeneca, Moderna
Thailand	9,636	2,946	H1 2021	AstraZeneca, Sinovac
Vietnam	1,505	49	H1 2021	AstraZeneca, Pfizer



## Australia

1/7 Cases

**28,536**

Weekly Change

**155**

Est. Vaccination Start

**Feb. 2021**

Vaccine Candidates

**Pfizer, AstraZeneca**

- Since mid-December when Australia witnessed a rise in Covid-19 cases, several states have imposed hard interstate border rules and tightened restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the virus. New South Wales recorded nearly 200 cases in recent outbreaks, mostly in the northern beaches of Sydney where residents are under a lockdown until January 9. Victoria has also reported an increase in cases and a new cluster. Both states reintroduced tougher restrictions on movement and made masks mandatory.
- Prime Minister Scott Morrison has called an urgent meeting of his Cabinet to discuss a proposal to strengthen international border protocols, given the emergency of a virus variant in the UK. The prime minister will meet with state and territory leaders on January 8 to discuss a proposal from the national expert medical panel to strengthen Covid-19 safety practices of “end-to-end international travel processes.”
- Morrison has said that Australia is now able to commence vaccinations in mid- to late-February. The government plans to complete a mass inoculation program for its 25 million citizens by the end of this year. The vaccination campaign will begin with doses from Pfizer-BioNTech, while the AstraZeneca vaccine is expected to be in use by the end of March. Australia has committed to buy 10 million doses from Pfizer-BioNTech and 85 million from AstraZeneca.



## Cambodia

1/7 Cases

**385**

Weekly Change

**19**

Est. Vaccination Start

**2022**

Vaccine Candidates

**TBD**

- The Ministry of Health is working closely with the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI), the World Health Organization (WHO), and other partners to ensure that the vaccine reaches those in need. Cambodia has set aside around \$200 million to purchase 26 million vaccines certified under the COVAX initiative — an international program to facilitate vaccine distribution — which would cover 13 million people or about 80 percent of the population. The government has placed an order for 1 million doses of vaccines from COVAX to cover the first 500,000 priority recipients.
- While Cambodia has thus far not been subject to new waves of Covid-19, the virus has broken out in Cambodia’s neighbors. The Thai Ministry of Health reported on January 6 that 108 Cambodians in Thailand tested positive for Covid-19, and Cambodia’s Ministry of Health announced on January 7 that it had found two new cases of Covid-19 among returning migrant workers, bringing their total to 20 cases. The government has already begun setting up quarantine centers in provinces bordering Thailand for workers who return home.
- All visitors entering Cambodia are now required to undergo mandatory quarantining under government supervision and pay an upfront deposit to authorities to guarantee that they adhere to the guidelines and to cover the cost of their accommodation and testing over the 14-day period. The government has also tightened the border with neighboring Vietnam and Thailand over Covid-19 concerns.



	<b>China</b>	1/7 Cases <b>97,217</b>	Weekly Change <b>544</b>	Est. Vaccination Start <b>H2 2020</b>	Vaccine Candidates <b>Sinopharm, Sinovac, CanSino</b>
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- China’s vaccination effort is well underway, with Sinopharm’s vaccine candidate receiving approval for widespread domestic use on December 31 after trials suggested it is 79 percent effective. Over 70,000 people were immunized in Beijing in the first two days of 2021, and the government aims to immunize 50 million before the Lunar New Year in February. Beyond this widespread program, the government has already administered nearly 5 million doses to key and high-risk groups: a mix of officials, medical personnel and those with medical conditions.
- There has been a rise in local transmission over the last month, with cases rising to 104 in December. This marks a 76 percent increase from November but is still indicative of the strong results that China’s containment measures have achieved. While nationwide policies have remained unchanged, local regulations have been evolving. Beijing has instituted a 21-day quarantine, while restrictions appear to be the most acute in Hebei province.

	<b>Hong Kong</b>	1/7 Cases <b>9,108</b>	Weekly Change <b>0</b>	Est. Vaccination Start <b>Feb. 2021</b>	Vaccine Candidates <b>Sinovac, Pfizer, AstraZeneca</b>
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- Vaccinations are scheduled to begin in February 2021, as the government has procured 7.5 million doses each of the Sinovac, Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines. Those in priority groups will receive the first vaccinations at care homes for the elderly, hospitals and public vaccination centers. Inoculations with the Sinovac and AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccines will be done at the Department of Health and Hospital Authority clinics, because those vaccines can be stored at temperatures of between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius. Pfizer-BioNTech shots are likely to be administered in community halls because of the ultra-cold storage requirement. The government is also in talks with other countries to allow the e-records for vaccinations to be used for travel.
- Hong Kong is beginning to see a downward trend in the fourth wave of Covid-19 infections, with approximately 30-40 new cases identified each day in early January. About a third of new infections are from unknown (untraceable) sources, however, and officials say the epidemic is still severe. The government’s screening strategy includes mandatory testing for buildings with outbreaks and people in certain “high-risk” occupations. Under social distancing rules, restaurants cannot offer dine-in services after 6 p.m. and schools will be closed until the end of the Lunar New Year holiday in mid-February. Bars, fitness centers and beauty salons remain closed. In December, the government banned flights from the UK and South Africa following the discovery of a more infectious strain in those countries.



## India

1/7 Cases	Weekly Change	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
<b>10,395,278</b>	<b>128,604</b>	<b>Jan. 2021</b>	<b>AstraZeneca, Covaxin</b>

- Two vaccines have been approved for emergency authorization: the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India and the indigenously developed Covaxin manufactured by Bharat Biotech Ltd in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Both are being produced in India. Approximately 30 million frontline and healthcare workers are to be vaccinated in the first phase through March 2021. The next phase, with 300 million to be vaccinated by July, will cover those over 50 and those under 50 with comorbidities.
- India's Covid trajectory continues to improve, with daily new infections having fallen below the 20,000 mark — a six-month low. Active cases have also declined below 230,000 following a continued trend of daily reductions.
- Flights from the UK were banned from December 22 to January 7. Starting January 8, limited flights will be allowed to resume with strict measures, with institutional quarantining for those testing positive and a mandatory 14-day home quarantine for all others. Arrivals from the UK will undergo a mandatory RT-PCR test. While general international travel remains suspended until January 31, some travel continues through air bubble agreements with 24 countries.



## Indonesia

1/7 Cases	Weekly Change	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
<b>788,402</b>	<b>53,278</b>	<b>Jan. 2021</b>	<b>Sinovac, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Novavax</b>

- The second batch of 1.8 million doses of Sinovac vaccines have arrived in the country, and the government began distribution during the first week of January. Indonesia has secured 125 million doses of Sinovac so far. The government has also secured orders for vaccines from AstraZeneca (50 million doses), Pfizer (50 million doses), COVAX/GAVI (54 million doses) and Novavax (50 million). Total orders stand at 329 million doses, sufficient for just over 180 million people, with another 334 million more doses under option. The vaccinations will be given to those aged 18-59, with priority given to health and frontline workers, the elderly and population groups in areas with high rates of infection.
- Indonesia faces a growing surge of cases and a shortage of hospital beds and intensive care facilities for Covid-19 patients, with average occupancy rates well above 70 percent. Most of the hotspots are centered in the cities and provinces of the islands of Java and Bali, while other highly populated provinces in the islands of Sulawesi, Sumatra and Kalimantan have also recorded high positive rates over the Christmas and New Year holidays, during which average daily rates have soared to around 6,700-9,300 since late December.
- The government has announced that the entire islands of Java and Bali will undergo tighter movement restrictions from January 11 to 25, while foreigners have been banned from entering Indonesia from January 1 to 14, except for those holding temporary stay permits and diplomatic passports. The movement restrictions include limiting working from offices, enforcing full online learning, limiting dine-in capacity in eating establishments and reducing the operating hours of shopping centers and malls.



	<b>Japan</b>	1/7 Cases <b>258,393</b>	Weekly Change <b>28,089</b>	Est. Vaccination Start <b>Feb. 2021</b>	Vaccine Candidates <b>Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca</b>
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- The Japanese government has executed contracts with Moderna and AstraZeneca to procure 40 million and 120 million vaccine doses, respectively. The contract with Moderna includes an additional 10 million doses for Q3 2021, while AstraZeneca will provide 30 million doses of the total amount during Q1 2021. The government has signed an MOU with Pfizer to procure an additional 120 million doses. The Pfizer vaccine was submitted for approval on December 18, while the Moderna and AstraZeneca vaccines are undergoing clinical trials. So far, no vaccines have been administered outside of those trials; official vaccination is likely to start in February.
- Since last November, Japan has been going through a third Covid-19 wave, with a record high of 6,004 cases recorded on January 6. Case counts for January 7 in Tokyo alone have surpassed 2,000, and it is highly likely that a new record will be set. Deaths and patients with serious conditions and Covid have also been on an upward trend. As of January 6, there have been 25 cases confirmed of the new UK and South African variant of the Covid-19 virus.
- The government announced a month-long state of emergency on January 8, which is still less strict than the lockdowns seen elsewhere and laxer than during the first emergency in April. The declaration currently only applies to Tokyo and three neighboring prefectures, giving each municipal leader the option to ask people to stay home after 8 p.m. and demand that restaurants limit alcohol serving from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and close after that. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has decided to continue the business travel bubble with 11 countries and regions, which had earlier been expected to end.

	<b>Malaysia</b>	1/7 Cases <b>125,438</b>	Weekly Change <b>14,953</b>	Est. Vaccination Start <b>Feb. 2021</b>	Vaccine Candidates <b>Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sinovac, CanSino</b>
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- By late December, Malaysia had allocated MYR 2 billion (\$500 million) to secure Covid-19 vaccines. Malaysia plans to secure enough vaccines to cover 80 percent of the population (26.5 million). Currently, the country has secured enough vaccines for about 50 percent of the population: 20 percent from Pfizer, 20 percent from AstraZeneca and 10 percent from the COVAX facility. Malaysia is also in the final stages of negotiations with Sinovac, Cansino and Gamaleya (Sputnik V) to secure more vaccine doses.
- The average daily case count in Malaysia has remained above 1,000 a day, with a significant number of these cases arising in part due to the mass screening of foreign workers. Malaysia reached a high of 2,593 confirmed Covid-19 cases on January 6, 2021.
- Malaysia has been under various degrees of its Movement Control Order since March 2020. Currently, all districts in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Sabah are under intermediate level of restrictions until January 14, while nationwide movement controls have been extended until at least March 31. Under these conditions, interstate travel is permitted, and businesses are operating under extended opening hours. Malaysia is also in discussion to open its borders to “green zone” countries such as Singapore, Brunei, Korea, Japan, Taiwan and New Zealand.



	<b>Mongolia</b>	1/7 Cases <b>1,349</b>	Weekly Change <b>154</b>	Est. Vaccination Start <b>Q1 2021</b>	Vaccine Candidates <b>TBD</b>
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- Mongolia is expected to begin vaccinations by the end of March free of charge and under the COVAX facility, beginning with a priority group of 10,000, including frontline workers, older people and the chronically ill. A series of challenges including the lack of refrigerators to store and transport vaccines to remote areas may create logistical problems. Direct vaccine procurement requests from AstraZeneca and Pfizer have not yet been successful. Authorities are considering other measures, including developing a digital system to verify vaccinated people such as immunity/vaccine passports.
- After initially being largely spared by Covid-19, Mongolia had its first domestic spread and lockdown in November followed by the first recorded death in December 2020. The local virus spread has been increasing in the most populous city of Ulaanbaatar, prompting an extended lockdown until January 11. While sparsely populated rural areas are going back to pre-Covid normalcy, Ulaanbaatar’s mobility in retail and workplaces is down by 50-60 percent compared to the pre-Covid level. No cases of the new variant of the virus have been reported thus far.
- The government has focused on initiatives such as stay-at-home measures and travel restrictions. It is planning to relax the lockdown in Ulaanbaatar after January 11, allowing retail and services to reopen. Borders are closed and there are no schedules for any chartered flights to repatriate citizens.

	<b>Myanmar</b>	1/7 Cases <b>128,178</b>	Weekly Change <b>4,438</b>	Est. Vaccination Start <b>Feb. 2021</b>	Vaccine Candidates <b>Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sinovac, Sinopharm</b>
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- The government has prepared a vaccination program, beginning with healthcare workers in February when supplies are expected to arrive. In December 2020, Myanmar signed a memorandum of understanding with the Serum Institute of India to purchase enough of the AstraZeneca vaccine for 15 million people. The Myanmar Embassy in Beijing announced that vaccines developed in China should arrive in Yangon in early 2021 from China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) and Sinovac Biotech. The plan is to start vaccinations for about 20 percent the population in April, under the auspices of the global COVAX program. The Ministry of Health and Sports has targeted 40 percent of the population to be vaccinated by the end 2021.
- There has been a steady decline of daily Covid-19 cases and of deaths since December 19, 2020, when it last topped 1,000 cases per day. The government was able to shut down half of the nearly 10,000 quarantine centers across the country and has allowed two private hospitals to admit Covid-19 patients. Since the turn of the year, daily cases have fluctuated between 400 to 900 per day.
- As a temporary measure to prevent the spread of the new Covid-19 strain, the government has pushed back the timeline for resuming international flights to the end of January. Recently, it also extended the period of facility quarantine for returnees from one week to two weeks.



## Nepal

1/7 Cases

**263,193**

Weekly Change

**3,134**

Est. Vaccination Start

**H2 2021**

Vaccine Candidates

**TBD**

- The government of Nepal has sought assistance from India to procure Covid-19 vaccines to vaccinate about 20 percent of the population and has made efforts to procure vaccines manufactured in other countries. The government’s vaccination plan prioritizes health workers working in health facilities and centers, followed by citizens above the age of 55.
- The Covid-19 Crisis Management Centre has placed travelers who returned from the UK in quarantine in the wake of the new Covid-19 strain. Of the 193 people who returned from the UK recently, seven tested positive for Covid-19, three of whom are suspected to be cases linked to the new strain. As of December 22, the Civil Aviation Authority has directed all international airlines to avoid carrying passengers to Nepal from the UK.
- The government’s handling of the pandemic has been disappointing since the beginning. Instead of increasing restrictions to control the virus, it refrained from taking stringent measures to contain the virus, lifted restrictions, shut down quarantine and isolation facilities and halted free testing and contract tracing. At a time when the highest level of political commitment and cooperation was needed, Prime Minister KP Oli’s decision to dissolve Parliament further lowered hopes that the government would be able to get the pandemic under control.



## New Zealand

1/7 Cases

**1,832**

Weekly Change

**26**

Est. Vaccination Start

**H2 2021**

Vaccine Candidates

**Pfizer, Janssen, AstraZeneca, Novavax**

- New Zealand is working hard to keep its Covid-free status — there has been no community transmission since November 18 — by imposing strict conditions for people entering the country. Border controls have been tightened in response to mounting anxiety about the new variant of Covid-19 that is driving up infections overseas. Travelers to New Zealand from the United States and the United Kingdom are now required to show a negative test for Covid-19 before departure and to take a test on arrival in quarantine and on days three and 12. The border remains mostly closed to non-citizens.
- In December, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that the government had signed agreements to purchase enough Covid-19 vaccines for every New Zealander. Several purchase agreements have been made with Pfizer-BioNTech, Janssen, the University of Oxford-AstraZeneca and Novavax. However, Ardern insisted that the government would only start vaccinating “if and when” New Zealand’s Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority approved the vaccines. The Ministry of Health expects this to occur in mid-to-late 2021. The ministry has developed several scenarios for rolling out the vaccine based on whether New Zealand is able to keep Covid-19 out of the country or whether it is dealing with community transmission. These scenarios affect prioritization of groups to get the vaccine as well, including people over 65 or healthcare workers.



## Philippines

1/7 Cases  
**480,737**

Weekly Change  
**8,205**

Est. Vaccination Start  
**H2 2021**

Vaccine Candidates  
**Pfizer, Sinopharm**

- The 2021 national budget allocates PHP 2.5 billion (\$52 million) for the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines. Vaccine brands have yet to receive approval or an emergency use authorization (EUA) from the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and so far, only Pfizer has applied for an EUA from the FDA. During a televised speech, President Rodrigo Duterte said several military personnel were already inoculated with China’s Sinopharm vaccine, despite not having an EUA from the FDA.
- On January 5, 2021, Hong Kong health officials reported that they detected the new Covid-19 variant in a 30-year-old female resident who arrived from Manila on December 22. The Philippine government is coordinating with the International Health Regulations (IHR) focal point of Hong Kong to request further details.
- Metro Manila and nine other areas will stay under General Community Quarantine until January 31, while the rest of the country is under Modified General Community Quarantine. The government has imposed a travel ban covering 21 countries, effective until January 15, including the United States, the UK and South Korea.



## Singapore

1/7 Cases  
**58,780**

Weekly Change  
**211**

Est. Vaccination Start  
**Dec. 2020**

Vaccine Candidates  
**Pfizer, Moderna, Sinovac**

- Singapore received its first shipment of vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech at the end of 2020, with additional shipments, including from Moderna and Sinovac, expected to arrive in batches in coming months. Singapore aims to have enough vaccines for Singaporeans and long-term residents by the third quarter of 2021. Vaccinations for the elderly (aged 70 and above) and those at greater risk of severe disease from infection are expected to start from February 2021. Priority vaccinations will also be given to those in jobs or settings where risk of spread is high — such as the construction, marine and processing sectors — including migrant workers.
- While Singapore has been able to bring the pandemic under control and entered phase three of its reopening on December 28, 2020, the country continues to rely heavily on its safe management measures and keep its guard up. Singapore confirmed its first case of the B117 strain on December 23, 2020, when a Singaporean returned from studying in the UK.
- Singapore requires travelers from higher-risk places to take a pre-departure test, though this rule does not apply to citizens and permanent residents. Since December 23, long-term pass holders and short-term visitors with recent travel to the UK have been banned from entry or transit into Singapore, even if they had obtained prior approval for entry. Returning Singaporeans and permanent residents will be required to undergo additional testing requirements that have been introduced for travelers from Britain and South Africa, where the new B117 strain has been circulating.



	<b>South Korea</b>	1/7 Cases <b>66,686</b>	Weekly Change <b>5,952</b>	Est. Vaccination Start <b>Feb. 2021</b>	Vaccine Candidates <b>AstraZeneca, Moderna</b>
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- South Korea is planning to provide the first vaccine batch in February, starting with the elderly and medical staff. The government claims that it has secured vaccines for 56 million people from pharmaceutical companies, including AstraZeneca for 10 million people and Moderna for 20 million people. The first batch will be AstraZeneca's vaccine, a portion of which South Korean's SK Bioscience will produce. Health regulators have launched a process to approve the use of AstraZeneca's vaccine, which is expected to be completed before February, while Moderna's vaccine will be distributed in May.
- In the light of a spike in new cases since early December, the country has imposed Level 2.5 social distancing rules in the capital region and Level 2 restrictions in the remainder of the country since December 6 (out of five social distancing levels, 2.5 is the strictest the country has ever imposed). The current social distancing level has been extended until January 17, and the government has other accompanying measures in place including the banning of meetings of more than five people.
- The country has so far reported 12 cases of the new Covid-19 variant: 11 from the UK and 1 from South Africa. To prevent more cases from entering the country, South Korea has required a Covid-19 negative test result (PCR test) for all visa applicants since December 21, 2020. Starting from January 8, all international travelers must submit a Covid-19 negative test result taken within 72 hours before their departure.

	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	1/7 Cases <b>46,248</b>	Weekly Change <b>3,546</b>	Est. Vaccination Start <b>Q2/Q3 2021</b>	Vaccine Candidates <b>TBD</b>
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- Sri Lanka has yet to develop a vaccination policy. The government initiated discussions with the World Bank to secure an LKR 10 billion (\$53 million) loan to purchase a vaccine and possible funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Sri Lanka has been assured of being provided a vaccine for 20 percent of its 21 million population under an international initiative, and a preliminary application has been submitted through COVAX. Indications are that vaccinations of high-risk individuals could commence sometime in the first half of 2021.
- The government has responded to a recent upsurge in cases by placing restrictions in several local areas, with the city of Colombo currently under police lockdown. Masks are mandatory, along with social distancing, while there are no internal travel restrictions except in the areas under police lockdown.
- Airports will be opened for commercial flights and international tourists on January 23, 2021. The government has already approved the arrival of tourists from the Ukraine. The first group of 215 people arrived on December 28, 2020, and approximately 3,000 Ukrainians are scheduled to arrive by January 24, 2021. The move has been severely criticized at the popular level, but the tourism and hospitality industries have welcoming the relaxation.



## Taiwan

1/7 Cases	Weekly Change	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
822	0	Mar. 2021	AstraZeneca, Moderna

- The government aims to acquire a total of 30 million vaccine doses, but it currently has confirmed orders of 20 million doses from AstraZeneca and Moderna/Covax and one undisclosed manufacturer. AstraZeneca will provide 10 million doses, Moderna/Covax 5 million and the third manufacturer is expected to provide an additional 5 million. The vaccines will be provided to 10 million citizens and paid for by the government. Roughly 58 percent of the population will be inoculated, below the government target of 65 percent.
- The priority recipients are health professionals, disease control personnel, police and military, care workers, elderly citizens over the age of 65, adult chronic disease patients and other high-risk groups. The vaccines will not discriminate by nationality, especially in the healthcare sector, which relies heavily on immigrant labor. The government will distribute the vaccine through its established vaccine regime with a mixture of public health clinics and public hospitals. The government expects the vaccines to be administered in March 2021 and finished by June.



## Thailand

1/7 Cases	Weekly Change	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
9,636	2,946	H1 2021	AstraZeneca, Sinovac

- In November 2020, the government approved a budget for 26 million domestically produced doses of Covid-19 vaccines in collaboration with AstraZeneca, Oxford University and the Thai Department of Medical Sciences. The government expects to receive the vaccine by June 2021, with negotiations to receive a partial amount in Q1. The government also approved reserving another 35 million doses for a total of 61 million doses. On January 5, the Public Health Ministry confirmed its procurement of 2 million Covid-19 vaccines from China's Sinovac Biotech. The vaccines will arrive in three batches from February to April and will be administered to healthcare personnel in high-risk areas and in high-risk groups. The goal is to vaccinate about 33 million people, or 50 percent of the population, in 2021. In the long term, Thai-owned drug manufacturing company Siam Bioscience Co., Ltd, has secured a manufacturing license from AstraZeneca to potentially produce up to 200 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines per year. Production began in mid-December 2020.
- After months of no local transmission, over 500 new cases were reported on December 19, 2020, in Samut Sakhon province, a suburb west of the capital. Since the outbreak, the government has announced an extension of its emergency decree until February 28, 2021, to empower it to respond to the pandemic.
- The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) is considering additional measures, including a lockdown, should the situation worsen. For businesses, essential operations, the transport of goods and supply chain movements could be allowed to operate under specific conditions with some light disruption. However, high-risk businesses and factories and other companies in specific sectors could face operational challenges and temporarily closure, especially if infections have been identified among their workers.



 <b>Vietnam</b>	1/7 Cases <b>1,505</b>	Weekly Change <b>49</b>	Est. Vaccination Start <b>H1 2021</b>	Vaccine Candidates <b>AstraZeneca, Pfizer</b>
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- Vietnam's Health Ministry is in talks with British Covid-19 vaccine developers AstraZeneca and Oxford University to buy 30 million doses for 15 million people. The ministry is also seeking to purchase vaccines from the United States (Pfizer), Russia (Sputnik V) and China.
- Patient 1,435, a Vietnamese woman repatriated from the UK, has been confirmed as the first Covid-19 case with VOC 202012/01, a recently found and highly contagious variant of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, in Vietnam. The woman, who has a 10-year history of high blood pressure, is undergoing treatment at the Hospital for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases in Tra Vinh province.
- The prime minister has banned flights from countries and territories such as the UK and South Africa in the wake of the new Covid-19 strain. In addition to repatriation flights, some special flights carrying foreign experts and investors have also been allowed to fly into Vietnam.