

COVID 19 VACCINE ROLLOUT



March 15, 2021

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Most BGA markets in the Asia-Pacific have approved at least one Covid-19 vaccine and have started to receive their first batch of shipments over the past month — many from more than one manufacturer. Between the end of February and early March, governments began distributing vaccines to priority groups, inoculating health care and front-line workers as well as the elderly and people with other health conditions with the first of two doses. Officials are following phased rollout strategies to vaccinate the general public to meet 2021 targets and possibly achieve herd immunity by the end of the year.

Though vaccinations have been moving along at a steady clip, some countries have had to contend with delays that have forced them to adjust their vaccination schedules and consider alternative vaccine sources. The COVAX facility has provided deliveries for Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines (despite an initial delay due to a contractual issue), but others such as Pakistan have yet to receive shipments. For Myanmar, the recent military coup has completely upset the civilian government’s rollout strategy, causing unknown delays. And expectedly, regulatory authorities that have not yet granted vaccine approvals which continue to contribute to delays in vaccine rollouts, as seen in Japan and Taiwan.

In dealing with impediments to vaccine delivery, many Asia-Pacific countries have sought to diversify risk by acquiring vaccine doses from more than one source or manufacturer. China and India have used this opportunity to exercise vaccine diplomacy — making donations to the Philippines and Bangladesh, respectively — and spread good will throughout the region, but the United States has prioritized its own population. Though U.S. efforts lag behind China, President Joe Biden recently reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to vaccine multilateralism in the form of a \$4 billion donation to COVAX and a pledge with its “Quad” partners — Australia, India and Japan — to provide 1 billion vaccine doses to address supply shortages in the Asia-Pacific.

With the decline in infection rates, many markets have begun to ease restrictions on work and travel, hoping to engender economic recovery while managing small-scale outbreaks on a case-by-case basis. In general, local lockdowns have been preferred in place of country-wide mandates, though curfew and quarantine orders remain in place in large metropolitan centers, such as Metro Manila. Authorities are warming up to limited travel, with talk of travel bubbles between Australia and Singapore, for example, but social distancing and quarantine regulations remain in effect.



Optimism has nevertheless been tempered by fears of a third-wave outbreak, particularly in South Asian markets where infection rates remain high, and the emergence of new Covid-19 variants, demanding extra vigilance and greater cooperation to reduce transmission and overcome the pandemic.

Questions and comments are welcome and can be directed to BGA Head of Research Murray Hiebert at 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

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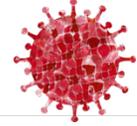
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Covid-19 Vaccine Rollout in the Asia-Pacific

Country	3/15 Cases	New Weekly Cases	Est. Vaccination Start	Main Vaccines/Candidates
 Australia	29,117	80	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, Pfizer
 Bangladesh	557,395	7,065	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca
 Cambodia	1,325	314	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, Sinopharm
 China	102,363	262	H2 2020	CanSino, Sinopharm, Sinovac
 India	11,385,339	155,941	Jan 2021	AstraZeneca, Covaxin, Covishield
 Indonesia	1,419,455	39,793	Jan 2021	AstraZeneca, Novavax, Pfizer, Sinovac
 Japan	447,906	7,914	Feb 2021	Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca
 Malaysia	323,763	10,303	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, CanSino, Pfizer, Sinovac, Sputnik V
 Myanmar	142,147	147	Jan 2021	AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sinopharm, Sinovac
 New Zealand	2,074	25	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, Janssen, Novavax, Pfizer
 Pakistan	605,200	14,692	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, Sinopharm
 Philippines	621,498	27,086	Mar 2021	AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sinopharm, Sinovac
 Singapore	60,105	72	Dec 2020	Moderna, Pfizer, Sinovac
 South Korea	96,017	3,200	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer
 Taiwan	990	17	May 2021	AstraZeneca, Moderna
 Thailand	27,005	564	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, Sinovac
 Vietnam	2,554	42	Mar 2021	AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sputnik V



Australia

3/15 Cases

29,117

New Weekly Cases

80

Est. Vaccination Start

Feb 2021

Vaccine Candidates

AstraZeneca, Pfizer

- Australia began its Covid-19 vaccine rollout on February 22. Quarantine and border workers, front-line health care workers and aged and disability care residents and staff were the first to receive vaccines. As of March 14, three weeks into the campaign, more than 164,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine had been delivered across Australia. The government said its initial target is to roll out 80,000 doses a week. The longer-term target is to fully vaccinate all adults (about 20 million people) by the end of October, which means rapidly ramping up to 200,000 doses per day.
- At the meeting of the “Quad,” the United States, Japan, India and Australia agreed on a vaccine partnership aiming to provide Asian and Pacific Island nations with “at least” 1 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses by 2022. Australia’s contribution will be \$77 million in funding and “last-mile” delivery services, in particular reaching 19 Pacific Island nations that have transport links to Australia.
- The Australian government is working on a plan with Singapore to establish a travel bubble by July 2021. This would help the approximately 40,000 Australians stranded overseas, boost tourism to Australia from Singaporean nationals and see international students back at Australian universities. Australians would be allowed to travel to Singapore for work or leisure provided they have had a vaccine.



Bangladesh

3/15 Cases

557,395

New Weekly Cases

7,065

Est. Vaccination Start

Feb 2021

Vaccine Candidates

AstraZeneca

- The government is planning to administer Covid-19 vaccines to 16.9 million people from various high-risk groups. Citizens have been asked to register online. Bangladesh was quite prompt in procuring and administering vaccines to its citizens; there have been no delays in this pursuit. The vaccination campaign was inaugurated January 27, and the countrywide vaccination campaign was launched on February 7. As of March 7, a total of 5.0 million people have registered for the vaccine and 3.7 million have received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine. The government will administer the second round of doses starting April 7.
- Bangladesh, with a population of more than 165 million, has so far received a total of 7 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine through a November 2020 tripartite agreement between the Serum Institute of India, Bangladesh’s Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd., and the Bangladesh government. The country received an additional 2 million doses of the vaccine as a gesture of goodwill from the Indian government. According to the tripartite agreement, Dhaka will receive a total of 30 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.
- The government approach of “no mask, no service” has reined in the Covid-19 spread across the country. The numbers of infections and deaths were decreasing, and no new Covid-19 hotspots had emerged until March 10, when Bangladesh recorded 1,018 new cases, the highest daily count in two months.



	Cambodia	3/15 Cases 1,325	New Weekly Cases 314	Est. Vaccination Start Feb 2021	Vaccine Candidates AstraZeneca, Sinopharm
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- Cambodia’s vaccination program commenced on February 10, and the government has officially approved the Sinopharm and AstraZeneca (Covishield) vaccines for emergency use. As of March 14, more than 189,000 people have been inoculated, and the government plans to inoculate 10 million people as soon as possible. Priority groups include front-line health workers, military personnel, journalists, politicians, the elderly and adults with other health challenges.
- People aged 16-59 will have access to the Sinopharm vaccine and those above 59 will have access to the AstraZeneca vaccine. On March 4, the government announced that people from foreign diplomatic corps, UN agencies and international organizations will have access to the AstraZeneca vaccine free of charge.
- The vaccine distribution timeline will be flexible depending on the arrival and availability of supplies. Cambodia received its first batch (7 million doses) from COVAX and expects the rest in 2022. Other than the vaccines it plans to purchase from China and AstraZeneca, the government is also considering the Johnson & Johnson, Novavax and Sputnik V vaccines. Prime Minister Hun announced that the country would have at least 4.2 million doses in the first half of 2021.
- Cambodia’s February 20 community outbreak resulted in the rapid spread of new Covid-19 variants across 10 provinces, bringing the total number of Covid-19 cases up to 1,325 as of March 15. Over the short to medium term, Cambodia is not expected to impose any lockdown measures.

	China	3/15 Cases 102,363	New Weekly Cases 262	Est. Vaccination Start H2 2020	Vaccine Candidates CanSino, Sinopharm, Sinovac
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- As of March 15, around 53 million Covid-19 vaccine doses have been delivered in China. Since February, the vaccine rollout has expanded to larger groups throughout the country, and authorities now plan to inoculate about 40 percent population by June. However, progress has varied significantly in different regions. Major cities, such as Beijing and Wuhan, have finished vaccination for priority groups and have opened registration to all adults aged 18-59. Meanwhile, many second- and third-tier cities aim to vaccinate all front-line workers by late March or early April. As of writing, no areas have been identified as high-risk for Covid-19 exposure.
- Two more Covid-19 vaccines from SinoPharm and CanSino gained market approvals in late February, adding the total vaccines approved for public usage to four. Those who are registering for vaccinations are typically allowed to choose from three or four vaccines that are locally available.
- The Foreign Affairs Ministers Wang Yi recently announced that China would start to help overseas Chinese citizens receive Covid-19 vaccines and set up vaccination stations in other countries.



 India	3/15 Cases 11,385,339	New Weekly Cases 155,941	Est. Vaccination Start Jan 2021	Vaccine Candidates AstraZeneca, Covaxin, Covishield
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- India has administered Covid-19 vaccines to almost 30 million people. The vaccination drive has been expanded to include those aged 60 and above and those between 45 and 59 years with other serious health conditions. The second vaccine doses have been administered to health care and front-line workers.
- With the opening of vaccinations to more individuals, India has seen an uptick in daily vaccinations, with close to 2 million people getting inoculated. India’s inoculation drive is now the second largest in the world. The government aims to inoculate close to 300 million people by August. In January, the government ordered 11 million doses of Covishield, with an order of 20 million more placed recently. Bharat Biotech has supplied 5.5 million doses so far, with an additional 2 million ordered.
- India is seeing a surge in new infections, largely from the state of Maharashtra (16,000 daily cases on average) and Punjab. New infections are also rising in Delhi and Haryana. Daily new infections have crossed 25,000 reaching a high not seen since November 2020; however, the death rate is seeing a declining trend. The government has advised hotspot states to increase the share of RT-PCR tests. Maharashtra has imposed local lockdowns and restrictions in districts where there is a high case load. State governments are imposing quarantine and testing requirements for passengers from states where new infections are rising rapidly.

 Indonesia	3/15 Cases 1,419,455	New Weekly Cases 39,793	Est. Vaccination Start Jan 2021	Vaccine Candidates AstraZeneca, Novavax, Pfizer, Sinovac
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- The government has acquired approximately 30 million doses, mainly consisting of Sinovac vaccines in bulk form. About 1.1 million doses are from the COVAX AstraZeneca vaccine. The government says it has firm orders of the AstraZeneca vaccines (47 million doses) and Novavax (44 million doses), but these will not be delivered until April and June at the earliest, respectively.
- As of March 14, 4 million people have received at least the first of two doses, representing 10 percent of the first phase covering health workers, public-facing workers and the elderly. The daily vaccination rates have slowly increased, reaching 326,000 vaccinations by March 10. The government targets 181 million people to be vaccinated by the end of 2021, with the help of the private sector and religious and social organizations. This includes setting up joint vaccination centers, including some with drive-thru facilities.
- So far, the National Food and Drug Control agency approved the use of China’s Sinovac and the COVAX vaccine — the South Korean manufactured version of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Over the past month, the Ministry of Health has endorsed and formally issued a regulation for the private sector to give out doses to their employees at no cost.
- Daily reported rates have hovered around the 4,500-6,800 range since the beginning of March, with a decline in the daily reported deaths. However, BGA believes that this may be due to lower testing



rates and delays in reporting. Travel restrictions for foreigners remain, but mobility restrictions in cities and districts are loosely maintained.

	Japan	3/15 Cases	New Weekly Cases	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
		447,906	7,914	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer

- As of March 12, Japan has administered over 230,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (more than 227,000 first shots and 3,348 second shots) to essential health workers. So far, approximately 1 million out of 120 million contracted Pfizer doses have been received. AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines are currently undergoing approval, which would add another 120 million and 50 million doses, respectively.
- Vaccination for the over-65 population is scheduled to begin on April 12 and will continue until June, at which point the rest of the population will start being inoculated. Vaccine rollout has been slow compared to other OECD countries, mainly because Japan’s health minister insisted that foreign vaccines go through local clinical trials and because the development of Japanese pharmaceutical vaccines have been limited.
- While the number of new cases has been decreasing nationwide, the rate of decrease has slowed. This, coupled with the rapid increase in infections from coronavirus variants among people with no travel records, is becoming a growing concern for the government.
- The second state of emergency has been gradually lifted for prefectures that have seen an easing in the number of confirmed cases. Tokyo and its neighboring three prefectures, where cases have been slow to fall, have had the declaration extended through March 21. Business has not been closed during the second state of emergency; however, restaurants in those prefectures have been asked to close at 8 p.m. Travel restrictions from overseas remain in place for non-essential reasons.

	Malaysia	3/15 Cases	New Weekly Cases	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
		323,763	10,303	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, CanSino Pfizer, Sinovac, Sputnik V

- Malaysia kicked off its vaccination drive February 24, and as of March 15, just over 301,000 first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine had been administered. Malaysia granted conditional approval on March 2 for AstraZeneca and Sinovac vaccines.
- Vaccination rollout is in its first phase for frontline workers which lasts until April, before the second kicks in for higher-risk groups and the elderly. The process started slowly but there are signs of progress, including the increasing registration rate via the MySejahtera online app.
- Malaysia has bought 66.7 million vaccine doses which is enough to cover its population. Malaysia has agreements with Pfizer-BioNTech, Britain’s AstraZeneca, Russia’s Gamaleya Research Institute, and China’s Sinovac Biotech and CanSino to purchase additional doses.



- Malaysia has seen its Covid-19 case count decline in March after a new spike in infections but with new cases staying below the 2,000 mark for 10 straight days as of March 15. The government early this month eased its January Movement Control Order (MCO) to a more lenient Conditional MCO or Recovery MCO in most parts of the country, allowing for the reopening of some businesses at a limited capacity as well as some travel.

	3/15 Cases	New Weekly Cases	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
Myanmar	142,147	147	Jan 2021	AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sinopharm, Sinovac

- Official recording of Covid-19 cases has come to a standstill following the February 1 military coup, and the State Administrative Council (SAC) has not provided further updates on a vaccination timeline. While the Ministry of Health has reported some Covid-19 figures in the media, most medical professionals doubt the veracity of these statistics.
- As of February 11, Myanmar had acquired 1.5 million doses from the Serum Institute in India. Though rollout under the civilian government prioritized health care workers, vaccinations since the coup have prioritized veterans, security personnel and retirees in some townships. Those who have been vaccinated have not yet received a second dose unless procured or purchased on an individual basis. The junta has authorized the purchase of the Sputnik V vaccine from Russia, deviating from the previous roll-out plan Myanmar had under COVAX guidelines.
- No new hotspots have emerged, though there is concern that nationwide protests may cause a third wave. It has also been reported that 4,000 medical doctors have joined the civil disobedience movement and only 15 percent of public hospitals are fully functioning.

	3/15 Cases	New Weekly Cases	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
New Zealand	2,074	25	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, Janssen, Novavax, Pfizer

- The vaccine rollout in New Zealand began on February 20 for border workers and staff at quarantine facilities. Health workers have also started receiving vaccinations. In mid-March, the government announced its plan for the rollout of Covid-19 vaccines across the country. The next tranche of vaccines will be a targeted rollout over the next three or four months for the 2 million people in the high-risk groups. People over 65, who have underlying health issues and people in South Auckland — where the majority of outbreaks have occurred — will start being vaccinated at the end of March. The government plans to start vaccinating the remainder of the general population in July.
- New Zealand shifted to higher alert levels for seven days on February 28, following the emergence of community cases in Auckland that could not be traced back to a source. Alert levels were raised to Level 3 in Auckland and Level 2 for the rest of New Zealand. Level 3 is highly restrictive; everyone must stay at home unless they are unable to do so. The regional borders between Auckland and the rest of New Zealand were closed during this period. At Level 2, people can go to work and school but



with extra social distancing and mask wearing. Auckland returned to Alert Level 1 on Friday March 12. The only requirement at this level is mandatory face covering while traveling on public transport.

	3/15 Cases	New Weekly Cases	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
 Pakistan	605,200	14,692	Feb 2021	AstraZeneca, Sinopharm

- Pakistan began phase two of its vaccination drive in the second week of March, which includes vaccinations for pre-registered senior citizens (above the age of 60). In the first phase, around 230,000 front-line health care workers were vaccinated, and the country is currently clocking about 0.09 doses per 100 citizens. Officials say that almost 365,000 senior citizens are registered for phase two.
- The government is hoping to vaccinate about 70 percent of its 220 million citizens by the end of the year. By the end of June, Pakistan is supposed to receive 16 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine through COVAX with first shipments expected in late March. The drug regulator has also approved China's Sinopharm and Russia's Sputnik V vaccines. At the moment, Sinopharm is the only vaccine available in the country, while approvals and purchase negotiations are under way for the Chinese vaccine CanSino. The private sector is expected soon to import the Sputnik V vaccines. The cabinet has allocated \$150 million for the purchase of vaccines.
- Pakistan is currently experiencing its “third wave” of the pandemic, with the number of cases spiking during the second week of March. The three-day rolling average of positivity ratio rose to 6.2 percent on March 14, compared to 3.3 percent on February 14. The government has reinstated its strategy of micro lockdowns in numerous cities across the country, and indoor public gatherings such as weddings or sporting events have been banned in high-incidence cities.

	3/15 Cases	New Weekly Cases	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
 Philippines	621,498	27,086	Mar 2021	AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sinopharm, Sinovac

- Covid-19 vaccines from Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Sinovac have received emergency use authorization. Sputnik V, Covaxin and Sinopharm are pending approval. According to the Food and Drug Administration, the Sinovac vaccine should not be given to health care workers at risk of exposure due to its varying levels of efficacy. However, the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group recommended Sinovac to be taken by health care workers but added that they can opt not to take it.
- As of March 15, nearly 195,000 vaccine doses have been administered, and 90 percent of the stocks have been distributed to vaccination sites. The government’s vaccination program was supposed to begin in mid-February with the arrival of 117,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine from COVAX. However, the delivery was delayed because COVAX had requested an indemnity agreement, which was delayed. On February 28, 600,000 doses of the Sinovac vaccine donated by the Chinese government arrived. On March 5, almost 490,000 AstraZeneca doses from COVAX were delivered and an



additional 38,400 doses arrived on March 7 to bring the total number of AstraZeneca doses to just over 525,000.

- Moderna and the Philippines reached a deal for 13 million doses, with deliveries expected to begin in mid-2021. Another agreement involving the government and the private sector for 7 million doses is also underway. The Philippines has signed a purchase order for 1 million doses from Sinovac and was expected to sign an agreement on March 10 with Novavax for 30 million doses.
- The number of new cases is quickly rising due to three new variants detected in the country. On March 13, the Department of Health reported 5,000 new cases, the highest in a day since August 26, 2020. Metro Manila is now at “high risk” and has adopted a curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for two weeks starting on March 15.

	Singapore	3/15 Cases	New Weekly Cases	Est. Vaccination Start	Vaccine Candidates
		60,105	72	Dec 2020	Moderna, Pfizer, Sinovac

- As of March 15, over 390,000 individuals have received their first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, and nearly 220,000 have received their second dose. Vaccinations for people aged 60 to 69 started in the last two weeks of March, and the program will continue to be extended to other higher-risk groups and essential front-line workers. Vaccinations will start for the general public in April. If all goes well with no disruptions to supply, 1.25 million people are expected to be vaccinated by end-April.
- The Health Sciences Authority (HAS) approved the Moderna vaccine on February 3 and the first shipment arrived on February 17. Singapore also received its first shipment of China’s Sinovac vaccine on February 23, but HSA is still reviewing the data and has yet to authorize its use.
- Singapore has advanced purchase agreements with Pfizer, Moderna and Sinovac. Due to commercial sensitivities and confidentiality undertakings in the advanced purchase agreements with vaccine manufacturers, the government has not disclosed the specific quantity or aggregate ordered but has assured the nation that Singapore will have enough vaccines for Singaporeans and long-term residents by the third quarter of 2021. BGA’s contacts indicate that Singapore is currently in discussions with other manufacturers for additional vaccines.
- As of March 14, 2021, all new cases were imported. Recently, Singapore reported its first fatality in three months, for a total of 30 casualties to date. There have been no new reported cases of the B117 strain or the South Africa 501Y.V2 variant.
- Singapore hopes to open its international borders by the end of this year, if not earlier, as more countries ramp up vaccinations. Singapore has largely banned leisure travel but has in place business and official travel programs, including the Reciprocal Green Lane (RGL) arrangements, Air Travel Pass and SafeTravel Pass-RGL. Transport Minister Ong Ye Kung said that bilateral travel corridors for vaccinated passengers from places with low to moderate infection rates with ongoing vaccination programs may open in the second half of this year.



South Korea

3/15 Cases

96,017

New Weekly Cases

3,200

Est. Vaccination Start

Feb 2021

Vaccine Candidates

AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer

- The Korean government began providing Covid-19 vaccines to the public on February 26. The first recipients were medical workers treating the coronavirus and patients and staff at nursing homes. As of March 15, the total number of people who received vaccinations totaled nearly 600,000, representing 74 percent of the prioritized over 790,000 people who are supposed to be vaccinated before April.
- More than 95 percent of those vaccinated received the AstraZeneca vaccine while the remainder received the Pfizer vaccine. The government has also signed a deal to buy enough doses for 20 million people from Novavax, which are expected to arrive in the second quarter, when the government plans to begin vaccinating citizens over 65.
- People who are over 75 and those who are in elderly care centers, the disabled and schools will begin to receive vaccines in April. By the end of June, the government will have completed vaccinations for 12 million people.
- The daily new coronavirus cases remained above 400 for six consecutive days until March 13, with several clusters being recorded. The cumulative number of the three Covid-19 variants totaled 213 as of March 15. While the government is maintaining the previous relaxed levels of social distancing that have been in place since February 15, it has further eased rules for some social gatherings and businesses.



Taiwan

3/15 Cases

990

New Weekly Cases

17

Est. Vaccination Start

May 2021

Vaccine Candidates

AstraZeneca, Moderna

- So far, 117,000 AstraZeneca doses have been delivered to Taiwan. Ten groups of people will be prioritized for vaccinations: medical personnel, disease control personnel, custom and travel workers, those with special permits (government officials, diplomats and athletes), police, care workers for the elderly and correctional facilities, military and intelligence officers, elderly citizens over the age of 65, high-risk individuals and adults between the ages of 50 and 64.
- The Food and Drug Administration is expected to approve the vaccines by March 17. Taiwan is currently experiencing a vaccine shortage like every other country, but it faces additional pressure from Chinese interference, according to the Minister of Health and Welfare. Taiwan currently has multiple backorders: 4.6 million doses from COVAX, 5.1 million from Moderna, 10 million from AstraZeneca and 10 million from domestic manufacturers.
- Taiwan is still experiencing relative normality compared to other countries and is planning a tourist bubble with Brunei and potentially with Singapore.



 Thailand	3/15 Cases 27,005	New Weekly Cases 564	Est. Vaccination Start Feb 2021	Vaccine Candidates AstraZeneca, Sinovac
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- Thailand has approved the Sinovac and AstraZeneca’s vaccines for emergency use. The Johnson & Johnson and Bharat Biotech vaccines are still seeking approval from the FDA. Thailand has ordered 2 million doses from Sinovac, with the first 200,000 doses arriving on February 24. The second batch of 800,000 doses is expected on March 25, and the rest will arrive before the end of 2021. The first batch of over 117,000 of 26 million AstraZeneca doses arrived on February 24, with the rest set to arrive later in the year. The government approved a budget for an additional 35 million AstraZeneca doses.
- Vaccine rollout began on February 24, prioritizing health care workers, health volunteers and vulnerable groups in high-risk areas and cities. As of March 10, a total of nearly 30,000 had been vaccinated. Thailand’s rollout will be conducted in three phases: Phase I from February-April 2021 in which 1 million people will be vaccinated (front-line health workers, the elderly and people with chronic diseases); Phase II from May-December 2021 in which 61 million doses are to be given to a broader group of recipients (around 50 percent of the population) to develop herd immunity; and Phase III from January 2022 onwards, in which the remaining vaccinations will be distributed to the general public.
- The government is set to include foreigners in its vaccine rollout plan, though the timeline and whether the government will cover their costs remains unclear. The Ministry of Labor has proposed that the government procure vaccines for 2.3 million migrant workers under the social security system.
- The FDA secretary-general said on March 4 that the private sector can import vaccines, though they must register and apply for import licenses with the FDA first. Private hospitals and pharmaceutical companies are seeking approval from the government to import several vaccines independently. If approved, those who are willing to pay will be offered fast-track inoculations.

 Vietnam	3/15 Cases 2,554	New Weekly Cases 42	Est. Vaccination Start Mar 2021	Vaccine Candidates AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sputnik V
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- Vietnam has not approved any vaccines other than AstraZeneca. The Ministry of Health and the government are considering Sputnik V, Pfizer and Moderna. Vietnam received the first batch of 117,600 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine on February 24 and began distribution on March 8. As of March 14, just over 10,000 people have been vaccinated. This batch as well as nearly 60 million other doses provided by COVAX and AstraZeneca will be prioritized for 11 groups of people working on the front lines of pandemic control and for people above 65.
- Vietnam plans to vaccinate 20 percent of the population in 2021 (more than 19 million people). The specific timeline depends on the actual supply of vaccines.



- Vietnam has so far acquired 60 million doses (30 million from COVAX and 30 million from AstraZeneca). Separately, the government is looking to acquire 30 million doses from Pfizer and 60 million from Sputnik V. Vietnam's domestic vaccines are still being developed or under trials.
- The third wave of Covid-19 that broke out before the Lunar New Year is now under control. While new cases are still recorded in Hai Duong east of Hanoi, the transmission rate is very low. Currently, there are no lockdowns or travel restrictions within the country. However, inbound commercial flights remain suspended while outbound flights are still limited.