

Thailand reports 548 new virus cases, highest daily spike

December 20 2020



In this June 20, 2014, file photo, migrant workers separate freshly caught fish by size at a fish market in Samut Sakhon Province, west of Bangkok. Thailand reported more than 500 new coronavirus cases on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020, the highest daily tally in a country that had largely brought the pandemic under control. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit, File)

Thailand reported more than 500 new coronavirus cases on Saturday, the highest daily tally in a country that had largely brought the pandemic under control.

The 548 new cases, most of them linked to a wholesale seafood [market](#) on the outskirts of Bangkok, come after Thailand saw only a small number of infections over the past several months due to strict border and quarantine controls.

Health officials said the new cases are mostly [migrant workers](#) from Myanmar connected to the outbreak at the Klang Koong shrimp market in Samut Sakhon province.

All of them were tied to a 67-year-old seafood vendor who tested positive for the coronavirus earlier, the director-general of the Department of Medical Sciences, Opas Karnkawinpong, said in a news conference broadcast to all TV channels on Saturday night.

The first case at the market was confirmed on Thursday, followed by 13 more on Friday.



In this Sept. 3, 2013, file photo, fishermen unload fish following a fishing trip in the Gulf of Thailand in Samut Sakhon Province, west of Bangkok. Thailand reported more than 500 new coronavirus cases on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020, the highest daily tally in a country that had largely brought the pandemic under control. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit, File)

"While there is a likelihood of finding more infections in crowded foreign communities around the shrimp market, they are low-risk groups because they are working age and healthy," Opas said. He said most of those who tested positive were asymptomatic.

Samut Sakhon Gov. Veerasak Vichitsangri said late Saturday that strict measures, including a 10 p.m.-5 a.m. curfew and other [travel restrictions](#), will be taken in the province to combat the outbreak. The restrictions

will be in effect until Jan. 3.



In this Sept. 3, 2013, file photo, a Thai trawler returns to port after a fishing trip in the waters of the Gulf of Thailand in Samut Sakhon Province, west of Bangkok, Thailand. The country reported more than 500 new coronavirus cases on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020, the highest daily tally in a country that had largely brought the pandemic under control. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit, File)

Samut Sakhon is 34 kilometers (21 miles) southwest of Bangkok, the capital.

With fewer than 5,000 cases and 60 deaths, Thailand has been able to control the virus. Prior to this week's [outbreak](#), there had been very few

cases of local transmission and life was mostly back to normal.

© 2020 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Thailand reports 548 new virus cases, highest daily spike (2020, December 20)
retrieved 16 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-12-thailand-virus-cases-highest-daily.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.