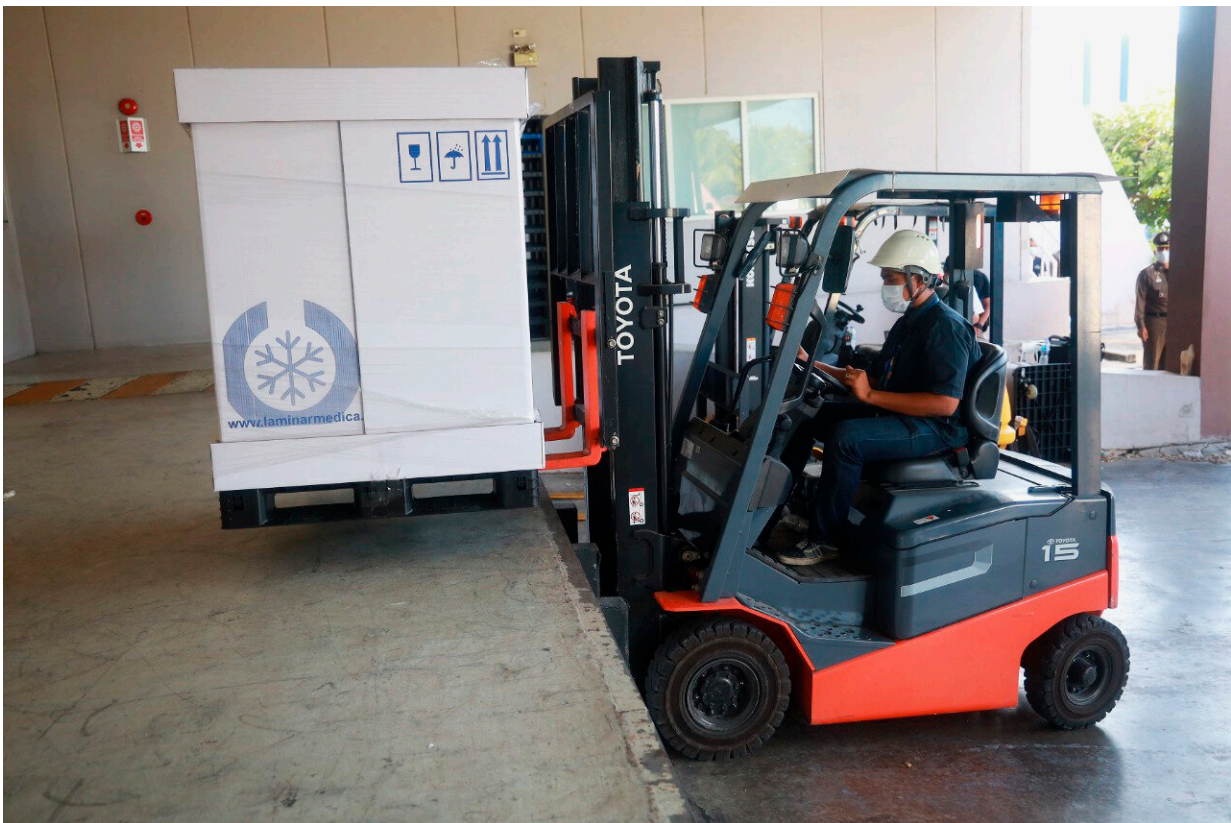


AstraZeneca starts deliveries of Thailand-made vaccines

June 2 2021



In this photo released by Siam Bioscience, a worker loads AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines produced by Siam Bioscience factory in Nonthaburi province, Thailand, Wednesday, June 2, 2021. AstraZeneca's partner in Thailand on Wednesday began its first deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines after concerns they were behind on their production schedules for the country and parts of Southeast Asia. Credit: Siam Bioscience via AP

AstraZeneca's partner in Thailand on Wednesday began its first deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines after concerns they were behind on their production schedules for the country and parts of Southeast Asia.

Siam Bioscience said the first locally produced AstraZeneca doses were delivered to Thailand's Ministry of Health ahead of the June 7 start of the country's official mass vaccination program. It did not say how many were delivered.

AstraZeneca signed with Siam Bioscience last year to be its [vaccine production](#) and distribution center in Southeast Asia. It said that the vaccines would be ready for export to other Southeast Asian countries in July.

As part of the plan, AstraZeneca has to deliver 6 million doses to Thailand in June, and 10 million doses monthly from July to November, with a final 5 million doses in December.

China's Sinovac has also been supplying Thailand with vaccines, with nearly 6 million in the pipeline. A total of five vaccines have been approved by the Thai government, but so far only two are available for use.

So far, less than 4% of the country's roughly 69 million people have received at least one [vaccine](#) dose. The government wants to fully inoculate about 70% of the population by the end of the year.



A health worker collects a nasal swab from a man for a coronavirus test in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit



Health workers collect nasal swabs from men for coronavirus testing in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit



Health workers collect nasal swabs from local residents for coronavirus testing in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit

Thailand reported 3,440 new cases on Wednesday, bringing a total number of confirmed cases to 165,462 since the pandemic started. More than 130,000 of those cases have been discovered since the beginning of April. The [death toll](#) stood at 1,107, with 1,013 of those since the start of April.

Thailand had managed to keep outbreaks largely under control, at great economic cost especially for tourism, because foreign visitors were largely banned from entering the country. That changed in early April, when a cluster of cases centered on Bangkok bars and clubs spread as many people traveled during the weeklong Thai New Year holiday.

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