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## **THALAY Association**

### **DECLARATION Nr. 1/2021**

Requesting Change of Management Policies for COVID-19 Pandemic by the  
Thai Government and Ministry of Public Health

July 5, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused damage to businesses and people worldwide, including Thailand. Under the management of General Prayuth Chan-o-cha as Prime Minister and Mr. Anuthin Chanweerakul as Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister, it is evident that the policies are ineffective and have caused damage to Thailand's economy and the quality of life of Thai citizens. Not only is the number of infected and death cases rising, but the provision of vaccines is also not timely, even stalling the import of highly effective vaccines against infection and death. Moreover, their unclear communications have been confusing the general public on both the crisis management and the remedial measure policies. The display of their lack of empathy has caused offence towards those being affected by the dire situation.

THALAY Association, established by Thai professionals in Europe, requests that the Thai Government and Minister of Public Health:

## 1. Manage the pandemic crisis timely and effectively

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- 1.1. Change the person responsible with the personnel best qualified with the competences in managing the contagion, so that he/she may determine the best course of actions to contain the current pandemic
- 1.2. Change the existing crisis management strategies as soon as possible

## 2. Amend the laws and regulations to allow for a quick analysis, isolation, and prevention of COVID-19

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- 2.1. Adjust the mechanisms, both the laws and regulations, to allow the private sector to quickly import highly effective vaccines against infection and death, such as mRNA vaccines, and provide rapid antigen test kits for a timely screening of infected cases
- 2.2. Study the COVID-19 variant composition in Thailand in a systematic and updated manner
- 2.3. Increase the rapid antigen test kits in addition of the PCR test to provide economical or free-of-charge testing for the citizens in order to screen cases more quickly and more accessibly. This will strengthen the screening between individuals with positive test

results and the uninfected during the period, when PCR tests are not easily accessible.

### 3. Provide effective vaccines and distribute them systematically according to priorities, accessibility, and non-discrimination

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- 3.1. Provide highly effective vaccines, such as mRNA vaccines, to vaccinate health personnels in Thailand and make their safety the first priority
- 3.2. Abandon the use of Sinovac as the main vaccine for the general population. Alternatively, change the main vaccine to mRNA vaccines and procure more vaccines to diversify the risks of pandemic management strategy.
- 3.3. Set up a mechanism or measure to ensure that any individuals without access to technology are able to receive assistance and access to vaccines
- 3.4. Provide adequate information regarding vaccination against COVID-19 to foreigners residing in Thailand and provide vaccines to foreigners without any discrimination
- 3.5. Promptly join the COVAX programme, which is the international programme aiming at universal access to vaccines.