

**Table 1 : Statistics of migrant workers in June 2021**

Group/Nationality	Myanmar	Cambodia	Laos	Total
MoU import	363,170	184,729	136,562	684,670*
20 Aug 19 cabinet resolution	756,779	140,007	36,971	933,757
4 Aug 20 cabinet resolution	127,712	53,355	12,992	194,059
4 Aug 20 cabinet resolution (border employment)	15,478	8,146	-	23,624
29 Dec 20 cabinet resolution	202,566	83,795	40,392	326,753
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,465,705</b>	<b>470,032</b>	<b>226,917</b>	<b>2,162,863*</b>

\*including 209 people from Vietnam

(Source: Foreign Workers Administration Office, Department of Employment, as of June 2021)

**Table 2 : Statistics of migrant workers registered by virtue of the 29 December 2020 cabinet resolution**

Action	Number
Online registration	654,864
Approved by Department of Employment	601,027
Redundant data or already left the country + dependents	104,972 (Redundant data 50,972 persons, those living along border and already left the country 29,000 persons, dependents 25,000 persons)
Personal identity's data collection	485,263
Covid-19 test	339,331
Apply for work permit	239,654
Apply for ID card (pink card)	52,326

(Source: Department of Employment, as of 31 May 2021)

## Law and policy concerning the management of migrant workers

1. Cabinet resolution on 7 April 2021 about the extension of Coronavirus 2019 testing and the collection of personal identity's data among aliens

The cabinet gave a nod as proposed by the Ministry of Labour to extend the Coronavirus 2019 testing and the collection of personal identity's data among aliens, following the implementation of the cabinet resolution on 29 December 2020 to allow aliens from three nationalities (Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar) to stay in the Kingdom and work legally under a special case under the new wave of the Covid-19 outbreak coupled with the cabinet resolution on 26 January 2021 to review the direction of the management of foreign workers amidst the new wave of the Covid-19 outbreak and the management of detainees with detail as follows;

1. Extend the Coronavirus 2019 testing and the collection of personal identity's data (biometrics) to until 16 June 2021.
2. Aliens permitted to work shall apply to have their entry in the registry of non-Thais who have work permits which are valid until 31 March 2023.
3. Medical facilities designated by the Ministry of Public Health, medical facilities designated by the Department of Medicine, medical facilities designated by the BMA Medical Service Department, and private medical facilities certified by Department of Medical Sciences, shall conduct Coronavirus 2019 tests among migrant workers pursuant to the cabinet resolution on 29 December 2020 and it should be done within 16 June 2021.
4. Medical facilities designated by the Ministry of Public Health, medical facilities designated by the Department of Medicine, and medical facilities designated by the BMA Medical Service Department shall offer health insurance registration to aliens who have already undergone Coronavirus 2019 tests including the tests offered by private medical facilities certified by Department of Medical Sciences including the tests for six prohibited diseases such as Leprosy, Tuberculosis, Elephantiasis when its condition may induce disgust from society, drug addiction, the third phase of Syphilis and Coronavirus 2019 or COVID-19 pursuant to the cabinet resolution on 29 December 2020.

This cabinet resolution is useful for migrant workers while they are pursuing the registration pursuant to the cabinet resolution on 29 December 2020 and while having their bio data collected and having Covid-19 test and have yet completed the requirements. Due to the latest outbreak of the disease, various medical facilities are not able to provide medical checkup and Covid-19 test. In addition, the collection of personal identity's data in crowded area may risk spreading the disease and thus the migrant workers are not able to do as required in time. This extension enables the migrant workers to pursue the application for personal identity's data collection and Covid-19 test in time as required by the cabinet resolution.

2. The cabinet resolution on 25 May 2021 on policy recommendations for the development of health service and insurance system for undocumented and alien inmates in prison

The cabinet approves in principle the development of health service and insurance system for 16,000 undocumented and alien inmates in prison [actually, the number of such inmates should be 19,506, while 3,506 who are missing is due to registration mistake]. They shall be allowed to get registered in the national health insurance. Funds are proposed to cover expenses and enable them to have access to healthcare services, similar to those who are eligible according to the national health insurance (Universal Coverage: UC) (at present, the lump sum expense per head is 3,719.23 baht/inured person) as proposed by the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Public Health shall help to regulate the system provisionally.

As to the funds for the implementation including the 2021 fiscal year expense of 13.71 million baht and expense for the following year, MoPH shall first draw from the non-budgeted funds (fees charged by hospital) to minimize impact on the already tight budget. If not enough, the action plan and expense plan shall be adjusted based on the advice from the Budget Bureau.

MoJ shall take the lead to convene a meeting among concerned agencies to determine the direction for the development of health service and insurance system for undocumented and alien inmates in prison in a long run in order to reach a clear and concrete solution. The MoJ in collaboration with the Royal Thai Police, the Ministry of Interior and concerned agencies shall set out clear and accurate guidelines for identity inspection and verification of an offender and other direction for solving a problem when it is not possible to verify the identity of the offender.

The cabinet resolution shall ensure migrant workers and stateless inmates to have a better access to health insurance and healthcare.

3. The cabinet resolution on 8 June 2021 concerned the extension of the period for conducting Coronavirus 2019 test among aliens pursuant to the implementation of the cabinet resolution on 29 December 2020

The cabinet approves in principle the extension of the period for conducting Coronavirus 2019 test, the application for health insurance and work permit among aliens pursuant to the cabinet resolution on 29 December 2020 to allow aliens from three nationalities (Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar) to stay in the Kingdom and work legally under a special case under the new wave of the Covid-19 outbreak coupled with the cabinet resolution on 26 January 2021 to review the direction of the management of foreign workers amidst the new wave of the Covid-19 outbreak and the management of detainees and the cabinet resolution on 7 April 2021 about the extension of Coronavirus 2019 testing and the collection of personal identity's data among aliens proposed by the Ministry of Labour. Concerned agencies shall act as follows;

1. Extend the period for aliens to undergo Coronavirus 2019 test, to apply for health insurance and work permits, from 16 June 2021 to 13 September 2021.
2. Extend the period for unemployed aliens to apply for an entry into the registry of non-Thai persons (TR 38/1), from 16 June 2021 to 31 March 2022
3. Other procedure provided in the cabinet resolution on 29 December 2020 coupled with the cabinet resolution on 26 January 2021 and the cabinet resolution on 7 April 2021 which shall be implemented based on the existing guidelines.

This cabinet resolution has extended yet again the period of time for completing medical checkup and applying for work permit among migrant workers who want to register pursuant to the cabinet resolution on 29 December 2020 due to the outbreak of Covid-19 which appears to get worse making medical facilities unable to offer medical checkup for health insurance and Covid-19 test according to the schedule and the application for work permit is not possible. By extending the time, the migrant workers shall have more time to act in compliance with the requirements set forth in the cabinet resolution.

4. The circular letter of the Ministry of Public Health on the request for funds to support the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) laboratory test on 23 April 2021

The Ministry of Public Health has issued the circular letter on the request for funds to support the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) laboratory test. It basically allows medical facilities to apply for funding support for conducting Coronavirus 2019 test for migrants without access to medical care and sets out criteria for requesting for funding for antibody laboratory test as the Disease Control Department has allocated fund from the central budget to address the problem and to remedy those affected by the outbreak of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

According to this letter, migrant workers or migrants who are yet to have the right to tap into health insurance and are suspected of having exposure to Covid-19 shall have access to Covid-19 test free of charge and to enter the treatment further on.

5. The circular letter of the Ministry of Public Health on the disbursement of medical expense for a foreigner who is not eligible to reimburse medical expense when having to receive treatment for Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in the inpatient department IPD) for facilities outside the Ministry of Public Health on 9 June 2021

The Ministry of Public Health has issued the circular letter with reference to the letter of the Comptroller General's Department concerning the disbursement of medical expense of patients with lung inflammation caused by Coronavirus 2019, exclusively for foreign patients who are not eligible to reimburse medical expense when having to receive treatment. The "patient" in this case has to be "confirmed patient" who has been found to get infected with Coronavirus 2019 in order to disburse fund to cover medical expense of a foreigner patient who is not eligible to reimburse medical expense as an in-patient from 1 April – 30 September 2021, The Ministry of Public Health has thus issued the circular letter to inform medical facilities to adhere to and to supply information needed for the disbursement of fund.

The letter affirms the right to medical treatment of migrant workers and migrants who have no right to any form of health insurance and have come down with Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in order that they can have access to the treatment free of charge pursuant to the government's and the Ministry of Public Health's policy to monitor and contain the outbreak of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).