

# REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 20 -26, 2024

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On June 21, 2024, the People's Republic of China reported the third death from H5N6 avian influenza this year. The deceased was a 41-year-old male from Fuzhou Province in southeastern China. The H5N6 virus was confirmed through testing on May 14, although specific details were not disclosed. Investigations reveal that H5N6 has spread among poultry in China and several other Asian countries. Human infections can be severe and fatal. Currently, only China and Laos have reported cases of H5N6 infection in humans. The World Health Organization reports that this man's death has increased the global tally to 92 cases, with 37 fatalities from H5N6 worldwide.
- On June 25-26, 2024, the Epidemiology Surveillance Unit, in collaboration with the 1st Regional Health Office of Chiang Mai and the Mae Hong Son Provincial Health Office, conducted field monitoring and reporting of patients under the Disease Elimination and Eradication Project at Srisangwal Hospital. The objective was to study the reporting processes and strengthen the surveillance system for Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), measles, and German measles (rubella) cases. The team also consulted on issues, obstacles, and recommendations for developing the disease surveillance system to enhance efficiency and achieve project goals.
- On June 27, 2024, at Khun Sathan Hospital, Na Noi District, Nan Province, in collaboration with local organizations and community leaders, supported by the Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, training was conducted to educate 60 community health volunteers, school health teachers, and village leaders about basic vaccination practices for border area and ethnic minority groups. Emphasis was placed on the importance and benefits of vaccination, diseases preventable by vaccines, how to use health record books for mothers and children, and actions before and after vaccination.

## DIARRHEA: A GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDER THAT REQUIRES ATTENTION

Information from the Department of Disease Control Week 25 Disease Surveillance Report (June 17-23, 2024), indicates multiple clusters of recent food poisoning incidents including cases from consuming poisonous mushrooms, undercooked wild animal meat, and black soapberry seeds. Patients with food poisoning consistently exhibit symptoms of diarrhea.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has reported that displaced populations in temporary shelters in Nupo, Umpang District, Tak Province, have been affected by diarrhea since the beginning of the year. During this period, 368 cases of watery diarrhea and 105 cases of bloody diarrhea were recorded. From June 10-16, 57 cases were reported, exceeding the normal threshold. Currently, disease trends continue to rise. Collaborative efforts among border network agencies are investigating and identifying sources of the outbreak.

Diarrhea is a gastrointestinal disease transmitted through contaminated food or water, such as bacteria, parasites, or viruses. It thrives in humid and cool climates. Common causes include poor hygiene practices, consuming improperly cooked or stored food, or using unclean public utilities, particularly drinking water.

Early treatment for diarrhea involves rehydration with electrolyte solutions to prevent dehydration, shock and even death. Seek immediate medical attention if symptoms worsen or if symptoms include frequent watery or bloody diarrhea, vomiting, dry mouth, reduced urine output, or difficulty breathing. Access nearby public health services promptly if needed.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health and local authorities should collaborate to provide information and promote awareness among residents about the outbreak of diarrhea in various areas. They should educate the causes and basic preventive measures. In case of an outbreak, the local health authorities should promptly coordinate with relevant agencies for surveillance in the area to swiftly detect and investigate cases, aiming to prevent widespread outbreaks. The Department of Disease Control emphasizes the principle of "Cooked-Safe-Clean" in disease prevention measures, advising people to consume freshly cooked food, avoid raw or undercooked food, and heat leftovers for at least 2 hours before consumption. It is essential to practice good hygiene, such as washing hands thoroughly with soap and water before preparing or consuming food, and after using the restroom or touching contaminated items. Local agencies responsible for drinking water production should ensure compliance with the drinking water quality standards set by the Ministry of Public Health in 2020. Residents are encouraged to choose clean drinking water and ice marked with the Thai FDA logo or boiled water for health safety and to minimize the risk of diarrhea outbreaks.

## INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

Multisectoral Capacity Development Program for Public Health Emergency Detection and Response in Border Areas

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## Sources

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