

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 27 - July 3, 2024

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Information from the Week 26 Disease Surveillance Report (June 24-30, 2024), revealed a suspected cases of rabies among three animals in Sriseuk Sub-district, Sri Narong District, Surin Province. Initially, two cattle in the same pen died suddenly from unknown causes. Villagers slaughtered one of them for food, while the other carcass was buried. Subsequently, a third animal showed symptoms of erratic behavior, roaming around the pen, and it later died. Brain tissue examination confirmed the presence of rabies virus in the third animal. Currently, relevant agencies are collaborating to investigate the cause of the disease and tracing contacts to administer rabies vaccination for disease prevention.
- On July 3, 2024, the Department of Disease Control reported that the COVID-19 situation continues to show an increasing trend. There have been 31,205 hospitalized cases since the beginning of the year, with 172 cumulative deaths. From June 23-29, there were 3,256 new hospital admissions, averaging 465 per day. There were 709 cases of pneumonia, 336 requiring ventilator support, and 16 deaths. Most fatalities occurred in individuals aged 60 and above. It is emphasized that high-risk groups like the 608 group, including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, strictly adhere to COVID-19 prevention measures. When entering high-risk areas, they should avoid close contact with COVID-19 patients. Anyone experiencing symptoms should immediately take a preliminary antigen test kit (ATK). If positive, prompt medical consultation for appropriate treatment is advised. It is also recommended to wear face masks in crowded places to prevent transmission.

THE HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION IN THAILAND

The Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health's 2024 list of "Diseases to be Monitored" includes Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) as a disease requiring vigilance this year. Thailand is currently entering the rainy season, which is the peak season for HFMD outbreaks, especially from June to August. According to the Week 26 Disease Surveillance Report (June 24-30, 2024) there were reported outbreaks affecting 46 people among schoolchildren and childcare centers in Sisaket and Buriram provinces. Over the past 10 years, there has been an increasing trend in cases, with annual reports ranging from approximately 19,260 to 100,483 cases, averaging 61,100 cases per year. The number of cases decreased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of June 29, 2024, a cumulative total of 23,143 cases and 1 death have been reported, indicating an upward trend of this disease. The age group most affected is children aged 1-4 years, followed by those under 1 year and 5-9 years. The regions with the highest incidence are the Central region, followed by the Southern, Northern, and Northeastern regions. The three provinces with the highest number of cases are Phuket, followed by Chiang Rai and Chonburi. There has been one reported fatality, a 1-year-old boy, diagnosed with severe encephalitis associated with HFMD. Clinical diagnosis of HFMD is primarily based on clinical symptoms, lesion locations, and characteristics. Laboratory testing may be used in cases where symptoms are unclear or complications are suspected. The Department of Disease Control, in collaboration with clinical disease centers and network hospitals conducting pathogen surveillance, has been closely monitoring and notifying health officials in the area to inform educational institutions and childcare centers of the current disease situation. Guidelines for disease prevention and control (for caregivers) have been developed and schools are strongly advised to follow these guidelines rigorously to prevent widespread outbreaks of HFMD.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Officials and health volunteers should coordinate with public health officials to educate the community about the causes of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD), its symptoms, transmission methods, prevention, and the current situation in various areas. They should emphasize proper behavior to prevent the disease and advise parents or guardians with children under 5 years old to closely and regularly monitor their children's symptoms. If a child has a fever, blisters or sores in the mouth, rashes on the hands, feet, body, or around the buttocks, they should promptly see a doctor. In the case of a child with HFMD, they should stay home from school until they fully recover. It is also important to ensure the child drinks enough water to prevent dehydration, as mouth sores can reduce their ability to drink and eat. During recovery, the child should avoid crowded places such as shopping malls and playgrounds to prevent spreading the infection to the community.

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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Sources

- <https://www.thecoverage.info/news/content/6063>
- <https://ddc.moph.go.th/brc/news.php?news=44233&deptcode=>
- Information courtesy of: Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease Situation in Thailand as of June 29, 2024. Compiled by: Somkit Kraipattanapong, Chayanit Mahasingh, Pawinee Duangngern. Communicable Disease Epidemiology Surveillance System Development Group. Division of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control.
- Image Courtesy of: <https://www.naewna.com/local/676572>