

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

February 10 - 16, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Contaminated sausage from Thailand has spread to Karen State, Myanmar. A total of 16 people who ate contaminated sausages had abnormal symptoms and had to be taken to the hospital, and one patient died.
- The Laos government launched the campaign, "Laos visits Laos" to revitalize domestic tourism by easing travel restrictions in the country. This is due to the dramatic decrease in COVID-19 cases. On February 16, 2022, there were only 345 new cases.
- Thailand reported a 67% higher incidence of *Streptococcus suis* in 2021 compared to 2020. The provinces with the highest number of cases are in northern Thailand namely Lampang, Phayao, Nan, Uttaradit, and Sukhothai. Risk factors include eating raw food, especially pork.

KEEP AN EYE ON DENGUE FEVER: POSSIBLE SPREAD AROUND THE THAI-MYANMAR BORDER

Since the beginning of January 2022, Thailand has recorded 305 dengue cases, of which one was fatal. The outbreak is likely to increase this year. Based on dengue morbidity data from the past year, the province with the highest incidence rate was Mae Hong Son, followed by Tak, Ranong, and Chumphon, respectively. All of these provinces share borders with Myanmar.




Recent data indicated that at the beginning of December 2021, there was a large number of people moving between Thailand and Myanmar. The mobile populations were reported to be confined to dense living conditions and were lacking adequate hygiene. Moreover, the environment along the border is conducive to breeding grounds for *Aedes* mosquitoes, making it a potential source of dengue. The responsible officials at the border are asked to increase efficiency and strength of disease surveillance.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

- Officials should alert migrant health volunteers in public health surveillance to watch out for disease in the community
- Tips to educate people on dengue prevention: Prevent mosquito bites by applying mosquito repellent, eliminate mosquito breeding grounds - for example, containers that are filled with water should be poured out and dried, any container that holds water should have a tight-fitting lid, guppies can be placed in suitable containers to eat mosquito larvae, and a clean environment should be maintained with good ventilation indoors.
- If you experience high fever, body aches, or ocular pain you should see a doctor. Do not buy or self-prescribe medication because some medicine may cause internal organ bleeding if you have dengue, which may lead to death.

CONTACT

 oic.ddc@gmail.com
 02-5903832
 www.ddc.go.th/oic

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
Supported by the Thailand MOPH - US CDC Collaboration on Public Health

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