

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

March 10 - 16, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- From March 9-11, the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health cooperated with multi-sectoral network partners in border provinces to organize a workshop to exchange information under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) for communicable disease outbreaks that may occur in the future.
- Mukdahan Province is preparing to open the Thai-Laos border checkpoint (Mukdahan-Savannakhet) on April 1, 2022 to support the economic recovery in accordance with the government policy. On March 15, 2022, the Ministry of Labor opened opportunities for seasonal migrant workers in eight border provinces, namely Sisaket, Surin, Sa Kaeo, Trat, Chiang Rai, Ranong, Kanchanaburi and Tak under the health and safety standards.
- The Director of the Thailand Campaign on International Rivers Organization has commented on the Pak Beng Dam and Luang Prabang Dam Project in Laos to sell electricity to Thailand, stating that there is no need for construction. There is still concern about the environmental impact on the Mekong River ecosystem which can lead to the destruction of fish species, fisheries, the local economy and municipal water supply systems along the river.

CAMBODIA REPORTS 1 CASE OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

On March 12, 2022, the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health of Cambodia reported that a 1-year-old avian influenza patient was admitted to Angkor Hospital, Siem Reap with high fever, cough and difficulty breathing. The case was reported under Cambodia's pneumonia surveillance system in the Department of Disease Control. In February 2022, it was reported that a dead chicken was found in the village where the patient lived. Laboratory results in March found that the patient was confirmed to be infected with avian influenza. Authorities sent a team of infectious disease specialists to Siem Reap to deal with the province's emergency situation. They are also educating villagers about preventive measures and urge the public to report unusual bird deaths to local veterinarians and officials.

From the Avian Influenza Situation Report in 2021, there was one avian flu case in Lao PDR and one in Cambodia. At the beginning of 2022, Vietnam reported poultry infected with avian flu. Thailand has not had any reported of avian influenza since 2006. The Department of Disease Control and the Department of Livestock Development of Thailand have worked together to carry out strong surveillance and control of the disease in all dimensions.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Officials should inform the migrant health volunteers about the avian flu situation in neighboring countries, especially Cambodia.

They are recommended to observe abnormal events such as unusual symptoms and deaths among birds. If patients have flu-like symptoms and a history of contact with poultry, it should be reported to public health and livestock officials. Staff should routinely organize training or informal talks to provide knowledge and advice on correct behavior about avian influenza.

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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- Bureau of Animal Disease Control and Veterinary Services, Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives