

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

March 17 - 23, 2022

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On March 15, 2022, the Cabinet approved to allow migrant workers of 3 nationalities (Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar) to continue to working temporarily (up to 2 years). This is to solve the problems of Thailand having to renew contracts for workers who travel in and out of the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On April 1, 2022, Cambodia began allowing people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to travel into the country without quarantine, or showing RT-PCR results. In Surin, Thailand will be piloting relaxation measures to receive foreigners from the Cambodian border starting April 1.
- On March 20, 2022, the Immigration Office in Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province found undocumented Chinese people entering the country on the Thai-Laos border area. A total of six people were arrested for illegally crossing the Mekong River and walking through a natural channel. All said they were seeking work in Thailand.

## CONSUMER WARNING: PURCHASING UNREGULATED PRODUCTS

On March 14, 2022, the Consumer Protection Crime Suppression Division received complaints from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and from many consumers about fake and substandard cosmetic products purchased through an online platform. An investigation revealed that a Vietnamese manufacturer rented a house in Bangkok and used it to produce, store and package 18 fake cosmetic brand products.

Nowadays, online shopping reaches a wide range of consumers. This also results in the sale of non-standard consumer goods and consumables sold in border markets such as those seen in February when contaminated sausages were found. The FDA has asked cooperation from the provincial public health offices in border areas to increase surveillance and to identify the sources of these illegal products.

There are also other products such as fake herbal medicines, oxygen generators, weight loss navel patches, therapeutic foot patches that claim to increase blood circulation, herbal chest medicine, and devices that claim to increase the size of the user's penis. These are fraudulent products that do not work as advertised. It is a growing concern that many people may easily fall victim to buying these products.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Officials should notify the migrant health volunteers to be aware of the dangers of unregulated products from online purchases or from markets, particularly in border areas. They should focus on products that are cheaper than usual which traders often prefer and use as a selling point to get attention. In addition to negatively affecting the household economy, these products can have negative effects on health and possibly even lead to death.

In this regard, district health officials should educate their communities about the dangers of purchasing unregulated goods. They can utilize the daily news tower announcements, train student and community leaders, and host informal meetings to help discuss the situation. Exaggerated claims of products should be reported to the responsible authorities immediately.

## 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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