

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

March 24-30, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- The Sa Kaeo Provincial Public Health Office made a documentary to publicize the management of migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic with the Internal Security Operations Command of Sa Kaeo Province at the Thai-Cambodian border trade market, Aranyaprathet District. It is scheduled to be broadcast on Channel 5, on April 17, 2022 from 7:00am-8:00am
- On March 22, 2022 the World Vision Foundation of Thailand supported the development for a system of water pipes and storage, filters and UV sterilization for schools along the border areas of Tha Song Yang District, Tak Province for children to have access to clean and safe drinking water. The clean water system also covers all 65 households and benefits more than 400 people in the community.
- On March 29, 2022, the COVID-19 situation in Cambodia improved as no new deaths were reported and the number of patients decreased. In preparation to celebrate the coming New Year celebration in April, the Cambodian government has mobilized vaccine campaigns for the elderly, those with chronic illnesses, and pregnant women. There are still remaining issues in vaccinating people in remote areas and people who have negative attitudes towards any vaccinations.

STREPTOCOCCUS SUIIS INFECTIONS: THE SILENT DISEASE THAT NEEDS TO CATCH MORE EYES

On March 27, 2022, Thoeng District Public Health Office, Chiang Rai Province reported that there were 12 patients identified with *Streptococcus suis* infections spread across many sub-districts. All received treatment at Chiang Rai Prachanukroh Hospital. The main symptoms were fever, headache, body aches and some experienced slow reflexes, lethargy, and convulsions. According to preliminary investigations, two cases experienced sudden deafness, and it is believed that the cause was from eating raw pork or from the handling of undercooked pork.

The number of new cases of sudden deafness in Thailand is about 200-350 people per year, and it has had a relatively high case fatality rate of about 5-10% over the past 10 years. The incidence of disease is not likely to decrease and the number of reported infections may be lower than reality due to the fact that detection of the infectious causative agent *Streptococcus suis* is difficult to confirm in most medical settings.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Officials should inform migrant health volunteers to remind residents about eating hygienic food. During the Songkran festival, it is a common tradition to celebrate the reunion between family and friends. Popular dishes include *Larb*, *Lu*, and pork that is not fully cooked, which is a risk factor for *S. suis* infections. The community should be educated about the causes and dangers of infections and complications like sudden deafness. This includes the early observation of suspected signs and symptoms. This is especially important now that the Songkran festival is approaching.

At this point, educational flyers may be distributed to homes and there should be informal meetings and conversations with examples of recent events like the ones that just happened in Thoeng District, Chiang Rai Province.

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INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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COVID-19 SITUATION AND INFORMATION IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES As of March 30, 2022

COVID-19 Information by country	Cambodia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Thailand
Number of confirmed cases (people) • New Cases (daily) • Cumulative	33 135,585	2,697 174,136	15,941 4,183,359	254 611,275	25,389 1,377,352
Daily cases per 100,000 population (7-day average)	0.30	29.95	54.85	0.35	36.39
Test positivity (%) (In the past 14 days)	5.8	100	13.5	2.7	54.78
Recovered cases • New (daily) • Cumulative	71 131,598	384 167,590	15,253 3,960,082	460 554,474	26,084 1,162,876
Fatalities • New (daily) • Cumulative	- 3,045	1 664	33 34,939	- 19,430	87 3,347
Percent of the population fully vaccinated	88.9	66.2	79.2	41.2	72.9
Percent of the high-risk population fully vaccinated	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90

SOURCES

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- Information courtesy of prachachat.net
- ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC) in collaboration with Bluedot Inc.
- Department of Medical Sciences Report on COVID-19
- Covid-19 situation In Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, East Asia Division 2, Department of East Asia Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 30 March 2022
- <https://covidnow.moh.gov.my/>