

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

April 7 - 13, 2022

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On April 4, 2022 the Deputy Director-General, Department of Disease Control presided over the meeting on research knowledge transfer to prevent and control avian influenza and to prepare for the disease along the borders of Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, which began to relax measures on international travel. There were 50 participants in attendance from Chiang Rai, Nakhon Phanom, Mukdahan, Ubon Ratchathani, Surin, Buriram, Sisaket and Sa Kaeo provinces.
- On April 7, 2022, 34 migrant workers were found crossing into Thailand via natural border crossings from Myanmar, by car near the Chong Huai Sut checkpoint in Tako Pidthong, Suan Phueng District, Ratchaburi Province. All were tested for COVID-19 and one person tested positive. The relevant agencies were contacted to coordinate isolation for further treatment.
- On April 11, 2022, the Than Lwin Times news agency in Myanmar reported on the heavy spread of COVID-19. The Omicron variant in an internally displaced people (IDP) camp in Demoso, Karenni State, has spread to nearly 500 children, and there is a shortage of medicine. Karenni State is in close proximity with Thailand via Mae Ong Son, Tak and Kanchanaburi provinces.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF DISEASE CONTROL WARNS PEOPLE TO BE CAREFUL OF **MELIOIDOSIS**

Due to the changing weather patterns in Thailand, in which there has been heavy rain outside of the rainy season months, many areas have experienced flooding. The floods increase the risk of melioidosis for people living in these areas, especially for farmers or workers who directly touch soil, water, and mud.

The Department of Disease Control's melioidosis surveillance data from January 1 to April 1, 2022 showed that there were 471 cases, most of whom engage in agriculture and live in an area with outbreaks. Most of the patients were in the Northeastern region and the provinces with the most cases were Mukdahan, Yasothorn, Sisaket, Nakhon Phanom and Amnat Charoen, respectively.

The pathogen that causes melioidosis can enter the body through skin abrasions during contact with contaminated soil and water. People can be infected through ingestion and inhalation of contaminated dust and water. Preliminary symptoms for those infected through the skin may include localized pain, swelling, ulcers, or abscesses. If the transmission route is through inhalation, people may experience pulmonary infection and pneumonia. The symptoms can range from mild bronchitis to severe pneumonia with fever and cough.

The risk of developing the disease is increased in patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes, thalassemia, and kidney disease. These patients should seek and receive treatment from the onset of symptoms. If left untreated for too long, it can lead to death.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Officials should coordinate with the migrant health workers on melioidosis by organizing various education campaigns for people in environments with risk factors especially farmers or people who have direct contact with water and mud for long periods of time.

The at-risk populations should understand disease transmission and how pathogens can enter the body to reduce risky behavior, focus on prevention, and identify symptoms early to avoid complications. This requires special caution as the rainy season months approach.

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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 April 13, 2022

COVID-19 Information by country	Cambodia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Thailand
Number of confirmed cases (people)					
• New Cases (daily)	18	929	9,002	-	23,015
• Cumulative	135,998	198,318	4,342,559	612,406	3,948,869
Daily cases per 100,000 population (7-day average)	0.146	21.02	25.64	0.11	34.53
Test positivity (%) (In the past 14 days)	2.6	100	14	0.9	44
Recovered cases					
• New (daily)	23	232	16,986	-	27,626
• Cumulative	132,689	194,337	4,180,763	591,139	3,689,792
Fatalities					
• New (daily)	-	5	30	-	106
• Cumulative	3,055	707	35,341	19,434	26,395
Percent of the population fully vaccinated	89.4	69.4	79.8	42.1	73.3
Percent of the high-risk population fully vaccinated	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90

### SOURCES

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