

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

April 14 - 20, 2022

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On April 13, 2022, the Than Lwin Times news agency in Myanmar reported that due to the continued Omicron outbreak together with the political instability, the country is postponing the MOU (signed in April) that would have sent Myanmar workers to work in Thailand.
- On April 19, 2022, the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported that the results of the food quality analysis at the Department of Medical Sciences showed that microorganisms that cause food poisoning exceeded the standards in two seasoned seaweed products, produced in Bang Khun Thian district Bangkok.
- On April 20, 2022, Malaysia's Straits Times reported that more than 500 Rohingya immigrants had escaped from a makeshift asylum in Penang. The country has tracked and detained 362 people who escaped and the others are being urgently sought out.

## ELDERLY PEOPLE: HIGH NUMBERS OF COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS

The Ministry of Public Health reported that the numbers of cases and deaths of COVID-19 among elderly people were still high. On April 21, 2022, there were 129 deaths reported. 84% of these are elderly people with underlying diseases including diabetes, chronic kidney disease and obesity, which increase the risk of death. Currently, there are 2.1 million elderly people who have not received a single vaccine dose and there are 6 million elderly people who have received a 2nd dose more than three months ago. This group of people should be vaccinated to reduce the risk of illness and death.

In 2022, Thailand is further entering an aging society as the population aged 60 years and over is more than 20% of the entire country's population. Old age is a risk factor for COVID-19 and other diseases, especially, chronic diseases. Diabetes is commonly found among the elderly, with 26.06% of the elderly diagnosed with diabetes. Other common chronic diseases are osteoarthritis, ischemic heart disease, chronic kidney disease, cerebrovascular disease, hyperlipidemia, cancer, high blood pressure and dementia. It is important that these diseases are detected early, in order to receive proper care to allow people to behave in the right way so that they can take care of themselves. This is important to ensure the elderly can live with a certain level of quality and to reduce the burden on their family members as well.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Health volunteers should conduct a survey of the number of elderly people in their respective areas. They should gather information on how many are unvaccinated against COVID-19 and coordinate with the public health officials to urgently increase access to vaccines in this group. Since diabetes is common among the elderly, the Department of Health has been a screening for diabetes in the community. The migrant health volunteers should recommend that people in the community participate in the screening project. If diabetes is identified early, it will allow people to learn how to take care of themselves and to practice the correct behavior before entering old age.

Community members should organize activities to provide education on various diseases that are common in the elderly. There should also be regular home visits for the elderly.

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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 20, 2022

COVID-19 Information by country	Cambodia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Thailand
Number of confirmed cases (people) • New Cases (daily) • Cumulative	27 136,117	1,082 202,543	6,968 4,402,234	- 612,658	20,455 4,084,299
Daily cases per 100,000 population (7-day average)	0.12	9.04	23.29	0.06	27.34
Test positivity (%) (In the past 14 days)	2.5	100	13	0.4	57.94
Recovered cases • New (daily) • Cumulative	24 132,825	169 199,912	10,619 4,274,746	134 557,311	25,933 3,865,293
Fatalities • New (daily) • Cumulative	1 3,056	3 730	12 35,449	- 19,434	128 27,263
Percent of the population fully vaccinated	89.6	70.1	81.1	42.5	73.7
Percent of the high-risk population fully vaccinated	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90

## SOURCES

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