

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

May 5 - 11, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On May 5, 2022, the Matichon News Agency reported that Myanmar authorities are not ready to open a permanent land checkpoint with Thailand. At two Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridges, Thailand is coordinating with Myanmar about opening the border crossing points, as Myanmar coordinates with its relevant agencies in the area. It is expected that the Tak-Myawaddy border will be ready to open before May 15, 2022.
- On May 7, 2022, the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health announced measures to prevent cross-border COVID-19 spread by preparing in three areas: infrastructure of the border checkpoints, disease control in the country, and integration of the shared database with table-top/simulation exercises in order to strengthen the relationships of local authorities and neighboring countries.
- On May 9, 2022, the Lao People's Democratic Republic announced a resolution to relax travel measures in and out of Thailand. In addition, there was a resolution to allow the use of various types of vehicles to enter and exit, as they were before the COVID-19 pandemic. Inside the country, entertainment and karaoke venues were allowed to reopen. Measures are still in place to prevent and monitor COVID-19 and to reach the national vaccination target.

HOW TO SAFELY EAT THE TRENDY AND POPULAR "UNG SHOT"

On May 5, 2022, the Department of Health made a statement on consumption of the trendy snack "Ung Shot", which is becoming popular. This new food item is described as an "Ung Ang" commonly known as the Asian narrowmouth toad, that has been cooked and placed in a shot glass with its legs pointing to the sky, head dunked the glass while dipped in sauce to add more flavor. Some people may cook it in different ways.

Nutritionally, it is considered a moderate source of protein. Thailand is now approaching the rainy season and some areas experience flooding. During this season, amphibians such as bullfrogs, frogs, and toads breed and multiply. Some local villages have long-standing practices to cook and consume these animals. This year, the practice of eating these amphibians has been modified to catch the attention of others.

However, every year there is news about food poisoning and diseases from the consumption of these animals, such as parasites and digestive diseases and even poison from the animals themselves. Hygienic practices are therefore important to reduce the risk of disease and poisoning from such animals.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Health volunteers should educate residents to consider the dangers of consuming amphibians such as bullfrogs, frogs and toads. The best defense is to avoid eating them, and if eating them, they should not be undercooked. Before cooking, the animal should be cleaned, including removing the internal organs to be cleaned by mixing with salt. The mucus and body fluids should be removed, and undergo several rounds of rinsing with clean water. This will help reduce contamination. They should be cooked at high heat for at least 2 minutes to reduce the risk of helminth disease.

It is strongly recommended that toads are not consumed by humans. Toads have glands that secrete toxic mucus through the skin. Even if cooked, the toxins cannot be completely disintegrated. If such toxins pass into the bloodstream of humans, it can affect the heart, may cause arrhythmia and may eventually lead to death.

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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 May 11, 2022

COVID-19 Information by country	Cambodia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Thailand
Number of confirmed cases (people) • New Cases (daily) • Cumulative	- 136,262	121 208,969	3,321 4,467,061	- 613,056	7,650 4,345,218
Daily cases per 100,000 population (7-day average)	0.004	1.95	5.35	0.035	11.50
Test positivity (%) (In the past 14 days)	0.7	58.8	7.4	0.3	49
Recovered cases • New (daily) • Cumulative	- 133,182	39 208,439	1,416 4,406,613	17 557,785	9,322 4,237,692
Fatalities • New (daily) • Cumulative	- 3,056	- 752	8 35,598	- 19,934	56 29,252
Percent of the population fully vaccinated	≥ 90	73.4	82.3	45.5	74.8
Percent of the high-risk population fully vaccinated	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90

Sources

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