

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

May 19 - 25, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On May 23, 2022, the Trat Provincial Public Health Office reported that 11 cases of malaria caused by *Plasmodium knowlesi* have been confirmed. Transmission is known to spread from monkeys to humans via a mosquito vector. Bo Rai district reported two cases, while Koh Chang reported nine cases. The patients have recovered, but the community has been asked to be careful, and to take actions to avoid mosquito bites. The Department of Disease Control reported that between Oct. 1, 2021 and March 21, 2022, there were 70 malaria cases caused by *P. knowlesi*, with Ranong, Songkhla, and Trat provinces reporting the most cases.
- On May 23, 2022, Nan Hospital provided 500 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to people aged 18 years and older for their 3rd and/or 4th doses. The service provided was open for walk-in recipients without advance registration.
- On May 23, 2022, Ubon Ratchathani Province officially opened the Chong Mek border checkpoint in Sirindhorn District to facilitate travel for citizens and tourists. For those entering and leaving the Kingdom, the disease screening measures from the Dept of Disease Control include presenting a vaccine certificate to certify that they have been fully vaccinated or present a negative COVID-19 test result (RT-PCR) taken within 72 hours. Without either of those documents, the traveler must quarantine at the detention center for five days.

ALERT, BUT NOT YET PANICKING OVER MONKEYPOX

From May 7 to 28, 2022, the global monkeypox situation reflected 484 cases from 27 countries, as reported by the Department of Disease Control. Thailand has not reported any cases yet but surveillance is being carried out by screening travelers from countries with outbreaks to identify risk groups and to prevent an outbreak in the country.

Monkeypox virus is found in primates and rodents such as rats, squirrels, rabbits, wild boars, etc. People can contract the disease through direct contact with blood, secretions or pustules of infected animals, by bites from infected animals, or by eating insufficiently cooked meat of an infected animal. The disease can also be transmitted from person to person. Transmission can occur via respiratory droplets and secretions, exposure to blood or skin lesions, close contact with an infected person, or close contact with contaminated objects. The incubation period of the disease is approximately 7-14 days, and can be up to 21 days.

Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, enlarged lymph nodes, chills, fatigue, and rash. Usually, rashes appear on the face and then spread to the arms, legs, palms, soles of feet, and torso. Later the rashes become pustular. In the last stage, the pustules will become scaly and peel off. This lesion can cause scarring. The symptoms usually last about 2-4 weeks. Most patients recover from the disease on their own. There is no specific treatment for monkeypox so preventing infection is the best option.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Officials should coordinate with health volunteers to provide updated information about the monkeypox outbreak and closely monitor the situation. Health officials should provide education on transmission, symptoms, and actions to reduce risks. If travelers from a country with an ongoing monkeypox outbreak return to or enter a community, they should self-quarantine and observe their symptoms. If there are any abnormal symptoms such as fever, rashes on their face, arms or legs, they should see a doctor immediately and share their detailed travel history.

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

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