

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 2 - 8, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On May 31, 2022, the Hfocus news agency reported that from June 10-12, 2022, the Ministry of Public Health scheduled an event, "360 Degree Expo: What will people gain after unlocking Cannabis" in Buriram Province as a public education campaign for the use of cannabis. This will address benefits and how cannabis should be used to avoid adverse consequences.
- On June 5, 2022, BBC News reported that 59 Rohingya, (31 men, 23 women, and 5 children) were stranded on Dong Island, west of Koh Lipe, Satun Province, for a week. The Thai authorities have provided food, medicine and health checks, including screening for COVID-19 and monkeypox. They were transferred to the Social Development and Human Security Agency for further investigation and background checks, which are in progress.
- On June 5, 2022, the News Agency Online Manager reported that since the opening of the Thai-Laos border at the Golden Triangle area on May 18, there has been surveillance to prevent the smuggling of prostitutes, especially women under 18 years of age. Staff have blocked the entry 17 women from entering Thailand. The criteria for entering is based on having a clear source of accommodation, having work to support their stay and cost of living in Thailand.

DROWNING A DANGER OF CHILD DEATH IN THE COMMUNITY

The rainy season brings an increase in the number of water sources as the depth and water level increase. Children are often inclined to swim in natural water sources, and this is a risk for some to fall into the water and drown. Information from the surveillance of the Department of Disease Control over the past 10 years (2010-2019) found that drowning is the number one cause of death among Thai children under 15 years old, causing 8,394 deaths. This is an average of 839 cases per year, or 2 deaths per day.

The Ministry of Public Health has set a goal to reduce drowning deaths of children under 15 years old to less than 3 per 100,000 population of children by 2027. From January to May 2022, there were 85 events with 96 deaths from drowning, of which 45.8% were children aged 5-9. It was reported that the majority of deaths among children were those who could not swim (82.2%). This shows that the problem is that most children lack survival skills in the water. Therefore, awareness of this problem should be raised to families, educational institutions, local authorities and communities. It is important they work together to find ways to prevent this problem.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health volunteers should remind residents, especially families with children, of the dangers of playing alone in the water. It is imperative that adults closely supervise the community. Risky water sources should be investigated and managed to make them safer, such as building a fence, putting a warning sign, or arranging equipment to help rescue people who fall into the water. The community should learn the correct ways to save a life when someone is drowning. Schools, local authorities and non-governmental organizations should organize survival swimming lessons for children aged 6 years and older and should ask parents to support such activities. This is to help reduce the risk of drowning deaths among children in the community.

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INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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- <https://www.hfocus.org/content/2022/05/25219>
- Image courtesy of <https://www.tnews.co.th/entertainment/561192>
- Information on child drowning courtesy of the Injury Prevention Division on June 2, 2022