

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 9 - 15, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On June 7, 2022, the Ministry of Health, Cambodia stated that Cambodia has become a COVID-free country, following the recovery of the last active patient. Cambodia has not reported any new coronavirus cases for 31 consecutive days.
- On June 7, 2022, the US Drug Enforcement Agency and Thai officials had a field visit to the Golden Triangle area, Wiang Subdistrict, Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province to meet with local officials. All parties have expressed concern for the King's Romans Casino, located in the Golden Triangle special economic zone. In the past few months, dozens of Thai people were initially persuaded to work in the casino, but were deceived and forced into working in an online scam scheme.
- On June 12, 2022, the Krungthep Turakij Publishing House reported that the Extraordinary Commission is considering opening a comprehensive entertainment venue and is prepared to propose a casino in Mae Sot District, Tak Province, under the position that the area is in a special economic zone. There is more development than other special economic zones, but there are many issues that need to be solved, such as labor disputes pertaining to migrant workers from neighboring countries. A center to prepare migrant workers and develop their skills could be established to improve the standard of the business.

MONITORING FILARIASIS IN THAILAND

The weekly outbreak news report from the Department of Disease Control (Week 23), reported that one case of filariasis has been found in Ratchaburi Province and the case investigation is currently underway. Filariasis is caused by infection from parasitic roundworms, and prior to 2015, there were about 300 cases per year found throughout Thailand. Following interventions to eliminate the disease along with elimination campaigns by WHO, there were only five cases found in 2020-2021. In 2022, there have been two cases found in Yala and Rayong provinces.

During the past three years, most of the patients were of Thai nationality while only one was of Burmese nationality. There has been a downward trend of reported cases for migrant workers because neighboring countries have carried out the same filariasis elimination interventions as Thailand. Regarding filariasis, the most recent available information on health check-ups among migrant workers entering Thailand was collected from September-November 2017. Of the 75,379 Myanmar workers (across 64 provinces), there were only 10 cases in which people were positive for the causative parasitic agent of filariasis (0.01%). All 10 were asymptomatic for filariasis and received immediate treatment.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Health volunteers should inform residents about the current situation of filariasis, including transmission and symptoms. Because the parasite that causes lymphatic filariasis is carried by mosquito vectors, there is a high risk during the rainy season as breeding sites for mosquitos expand. In addition to personal protection against mosquito bites, public health officials should organize community campaigns to properly and continuously eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

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

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Supported by the Thailand MOPH - US CDC Collaboration on Public Health

SOURCES

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