

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 16 - 22, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- From June 20-21, 2022, the Division of International Communicable Disease Control and Quarantine, Department of Disease Control organized a development workshop to practice response to communicable diseases hazards and emerging diseases. The objective was to develop and train officers to effectively respond to dangerous and emerging diseases and to operate under the highest standards of safety principles.
- On June 20, 2022 at the Institute of International Sustainable Development Studies in Chiang Mai, there was a roundtable discussion on World Refugee Day 2022. The panel shared that there are now 700,000 Burmese people displaced in Thailand, as well as millions of former migrants. The actual counts may not match the publicly disclosed numbers.
- On June 20, 2022, (World Refugee Day) the AFP news agency reported that tens of thousands of Rohingya living in a refugee camp in the southwest of Bangladesh marched and called to be sent back to Myanmar. Millions of Rohingya have fled to the Bangladesh border since the crackdown by the Myanmar government several years ago.

COVID-19 SAFETY FOR PETS AND OWNERS

According to a recent publication, a documented case of cat-to-human COVID-19 transmission has been reported, based on research from the Prince of Songkhla University (published on June 6, 2022). In 2021, two patients confirmed for SARS-CoV-2 were transported to a hospital in Songkhla and accompanied by their pet cat. The cat was brought for physical examination to a local veterinary clinic. As the veterinarian was examining the cat, the cat sneezed on the veterinarian's face. The veterinarian was wearing a mask and gloves but did not have a face shield. Five days later, the veterinarian developed symptoms of coughing and fever, and tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.

The disease investigation indicated that there was an epidemiological linkage between the veterinarian, the cat, and the cat owners. Animal-to-human transmission is rare, so people are urged not to panic. But it is important to maintain close supervision of pets and to protect yourself by getting vaccinated against COVID-19 and getting a booster dose as scheduled.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Migrant health volunteers should coordinate with district livestock officers to notify residents of such incidents for their awareness but should not cause panic. They should share knowledge on general pet health care practices including preventing the spread of germs in the house, monitoring for abnormal symptoms, and following routine vaccination schedules.

If suspicious symptoms are found, people should notify the local livestock officials. Sick animals should not be abandoned and be separated from other people and animals and houses should be cleaned with disinfectant. Avoid kissing and having close contact with sick animals. If close contact is needed to deliver food, water, or medicine, personal protective equipment should be worn. Limit exposure of sick animals with children and the elderly. People should get booster doses of COVID-19 vaccinations to protect themselves.

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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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- Press Release from the Checkpoint Division