

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 30 - July 6, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Every year, July 1st is National HIV Testing Day. This year, the theme is "HIV, check quickly, know first, move forward" focusing on all Thai people with an ID card. All are eligible for free HIV testing twice a year at all hospitals under the National Health Coverage scheme, for people to learn their results within one day.
- On July 1, 2022 the Multimedia Department of Health warned the public about eating gecko meat following a viral YouTube clip where people were eating garlic gecko. Currently, there is no research to confirm whether geckos can actually cure diseases or not, and there is no evidence that eating geckos will provide sufficient nutrients. For sources of animal protein, it is recommended to eat pork, chicken, fish, shrimp instead of gecko.
- On July 1, 2022 the Economic Base Newspaper reported on the shortage of migrant workers. Although the government now allows workers from three neighboring countries (Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos) to work in Thailand without a 14-day quarantine under the current MOU, there are still not enough workers to meet the demand, especially in the Tak Border Special Economic Zone (Mae Sot-Phop Phra-Mae Ramat).

SURVEILLANCE FOR MOSQUITO-BORNE ZIKA VIRUS: FOCUSING ON PREGNANT WOMEN

On June 29, 2022, The epidemiology section of the Communicable Disease Control Unit at the Nan Provincial Health Office issued follow-up surveillance operations to investigate and control mosquito-borne infectious diseases. This followed a report of a patient admitted to Lak Muen Satsang Hospital with a clinical presentation of fever, rashes, red eyes, and joint pain. From June 1-29, 2022, there were 44 suspected Zika virus cases notified through a Line Application group consisting of executives and key personnel responsible for hospitals and district public health offices. Investigation results found additional patients infected with Zika virus in the province. There was one case in Lampang of someone who traveled to Nan between June 4-7, 2022, and was admitted to Kelang Nakhon - Ram Hospital on June 23, 2022. The diagnosis confirmed Zika virus via RT-PCR.

Zika virus is carried by the Aedes mosquito vector. When humans are bitten by mosquitoes that are carrying the virus, the infection spreads into the bloodstream. The incubation period is about 4-7 days. Risks for pregnant women who are infected include complications during pregnancy, their babies may be born with microcephaly or their babies may experience delayed development and learning disabilities. Thailand continues surveillance for Zika virus. In 2020, there were 239 Zika cases, 61 cases in 2021, and 24 cases in 2022.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Local public health officials should educate residents about the causes and symptoms of Zika virus disease, which is carried by mosquitoes. Special attention should be given to pregnant women in the community as there are dangerous complications if they are infected.

To prevent mosquito bites, wear tight clothing, apply mosquito repellent, sleep under mosquito nets, and properly and continuously eliminate breeding sites for mosquitoes in the environment (both in the community and around the household). These are important to reduce the risk of Zika virus infection.

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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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SOURCES

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- Surveillance Report: Investigation and control of dengue hemorrhagic fever and contagious diseases brought by mosquitoes, Na Muen District, Nan Province, No. 0033.004, dated 29 June 2022
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