

# REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

July 7 - 13, 2022

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On July 4, 2022, the Thailand Food and Drug Administration (FDA) informed the public that medical manufacturers have applied for registration of a multi-drug herbal treatment for COVID-19. Thailand already has approval for *A. paniculata* as an emergency therapeutic to treat COVID-19. There is also one FDA-approved Chinese herbal treatment (Lianhua Qingwen capsules), which has properties to treat the common symptoms of cold and flu, but does not directly treat COVID-19.
- On July 11, 2022, the Governor of Mae Hong Son Province held a meeting to discuss and prepare for the import and export of goods across the Thai-Myanmar border. Guidelines are under consideration to identify the best way to drive the economy forward.
- On July 13, 2022, the Thai FDA reported that people were illegally selling Molnupiravir online. The FDA has ordered the suspension of such advertisements and will prosecute the sellers of such drugs via online channels so they cannot be used to pass illegal drugs or substandard treatments to consumers.

## PREPARATIONS TO REMOVE COVID-19 FROM THE LIST OF FORBIDDEN DISEASES FOR FOREIGNERS TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

On July 8, 2022 the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) proposed a resolution to Ministry of Interior to consider removing COVID-19 from the list of forbidden diseases that prohibit the entry of foreigners into the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Immigration Act (B.E. 2522) originally designated six diseases that prohibit foreigners from entering Thailand, namely leprosy, elephantiasis (advanced stage), active tuberculosis, drug addiction, alcoholism, and Stage 3 syphilis. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, on December 25, 2020, the Government Gazette announced to add COVID-19 to the list of forbidden diseases. The Ministry of Interior will consider the proposal of the CCSA. If it passes, an official announcement is expected to follow that removes COVID-19 as a prohibited disease for foreigners, which is especially important for foreign workers.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Local officials should stay updated on the news. If there is an official announcement, the relevant agencies should be notified to publicize the news about removing COVID-19 from the forbidden disease list. They should inform foreign workers and business owners who have a shortage of foreign workers to prepare and plan solutions for such labor shortages. However, they still have to be strict about caring for children, receiving complete vaccinations especially for risk groups, and maintaining mask-wearing practices when in enclosed, crowded places and when using public transport to continue to protect themselves and others from COVID-19.

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## INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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## **Sources**

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