

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

July 14 - 20, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On July 20, 2022, the Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, together with the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA), World Vision Foundation of Thailand, and network partners organized a Training of Trainers course on epidemiology for disease surveillance and investigation for migrant health volunteers. The objective was to develop basic knowledge and skills in epidemiology for disease detection and prevention, and to help local officers conduct outbreak investigations. There were 22 migrant health volunteers of three nationalities (Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam) that participated.
- On July 17, 2022, the Thai Cabinet approved an extension to allow migrant workers with expiring documents to work until February 2025 to ease the labor shortage problem. Migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar and Vietnam with invalid status documents will be allowed to continue working following the announcement of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labor.
- On July 19, 2022, The Laotian Times reported that Lao PDR detected 4,847 cases of dengue fever, with seven deaths in the capital of Vientiane and two in Salavan province. The Lao health agency is accelerating public relations efforts to eliminate mosquito breeding sites around homes and work sites to help control the spread of the disease.

THAILAND CONFIRMS ITS FIRST MONKEYPOX CASE

On July 21, 2022 the Department of Disease Control reported Thailand's first case of monkeypox in Phuket. The case is a 27-year-old Nigerian man. As of July 8, 2022, the Ministry of Public Health has declared that monkeypox is a communicable disease that must be under surveillance according to the Communicable Disease Act B.E. 2558. The declaration is important to prevent and control such diseases that have not been found locally.

The Department of Disease Control has strict surveillance measures for people entering the country, especially for those who have abnormal symptoms such as fever over 38 degrees Celsius and at least one of the following symptoms: sore throat, headache, muscle aches, back pain, enlarged lymph nodes or a blistering rash. Risk factors include history of traveling or living in a country with reported outbreaks, history of close contact with a reported or confirmed case within the past 21 days, and history of close contact with wild animals such as rodents, monkeys, and mammals imported from Africa. The Department of Disease Control urges people not to panic because the Ministry of Public Health is ready to cope with strict surveillance and prevention measures.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Health officers should closely stay updated on news of the monkeypox situation and coordinate with the local community to provide knowledge about contact, symptoms and preventative actions to reduce risk. If a person in the community returns from a country with a monkeypox outbreak, they should be isolated and observed for symptoms. If there are any abnormalities such as fever, rashes on the face, arms or legs, they should seek medical attention immediately, and should inform the health care workers of their travel and detailed risk history. The local public health officers should be notified immediately.

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

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Sources

- <https://www.princhealth.com/monkeypox-surveillance/>
- <https://www.isranews.org/article/isranews-short-news/110286-news-290.html>
- <https://www.bangkokbiznews.com/social/1015790>
- <https://laotiantimes.com/2022/07/19/dengue-fever-cases-push-10000-in-laos-this-year/>
- Information from: Division of Epidemiology/Division of General Communicable Diseases/Bureau of Risk Communication, Department of Disease Control on July 21, 2022
- Image courtesy of: <https://health.kapook.com/view256057.html>
- Information from the Department of Disease Control, July 21, 2022
- Information on the Monkeypox situation, Thailand, Department of Disease Control, July 22, 2022.