

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

July 28 - August 3, 2022

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- From July 26-29, 2022, the Department of Disease Control and the Department of Medical Sciences participated in the Mitigation of Biological Threats meeting with the 10 ASEAN member countries and Canada to review the region's response to bio-threats. The three highlighted projects proposed by Thailand were 1) strengthening the Field Epidemiology Training Network (FETN), 2) improving laboratory safety, and 3) the response office (ACPHEED) to strengthen communicable and emerging disease management in the ASEAN region.
- On August 2, 2022, the Director-General of the Department of Medical Services advised people against buying and using antiviral drugs without first consulting a doctor, as incorrect or counterfeit medicine may interact with other medications. Hospitals affiliated with the Department of Medical Service and those in Bangkok have a system to screen and distribute medications. Patients only need to provide their name, test results, symptoms, address, phone number and common symptoms and will be contacted as soon as possible for follow up.
- On August 5, 2022, the Department of Disease Control reported Thailand's 4th confirmed case of monkeypox in a 22-year-old Thai woman with a history of visiting entertainment venues and close contact with a foreigner in Bangkok. She developed symptoms similar to monkeypox and she went to the hospital for examination. The laboratory results confirmed monkeypox virus and a disease investigation is underway to follow up with close contacts and risk groups.

## MALARIA EPIDEMIC AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

Malaria continues to be a public health problem in Southeast Asia. Despite neighboring countries' efforts to find strategies for eradication, there are still outbreaks every year. From January 2 – July 1, 2022, Kelantan State, Malaysia, which borders Narathiwat Province, reported 68 cases. Of those, 11 were among people traveling from Myanmar. Compared to same period in 2021, this year has seen a 3% increase in cases.

Researchers conducted a study of techniques to distinguish species of *Anopheles dirus* and *Anopheles baimaii* (vectors of malaria) at the Thai-Cambodian border in Trat province. With DNA barcoding, the researchers were unable to differentiate the two species from one another. Geometric morphometric analysis, based on the mosquito wing shape, was effective in distinguishing the two species with an accuracy of 92.42%. These findings provide insight to make entomological surveillance data more accurate.

A study in northern Myanmar assessed the malaria epidemiology in Banmuak Township, near the border with India. This area reported high morbidity and mortality rates despite declining trends throughout the country. This epidemiological study can be useful for strategic planning of malaria eradication.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials and related agencies should provide education on how to prevent malaria to their communities, especially people in high-risk groups such as those working or living in the forested areas, people who frequently cross the border, and schoolchildren.

If you develop symptoms of malaria, see your doctor for a diagnosis and immediate treatment. It is important for malaria patients to take the full course of the prescribed medication until the disease has been cured.

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## INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand  
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## Sources

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- <https://ddc.moph.go.th/brc/news.php?news=27176&deptcode=brc>
- Information courtesy of: News publication from the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, August 5, 2022
- ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC) in collaboration with Bluedot Inc.
- Image courtesy of: <https://www.the101.world/malaria-in-isaan/>