

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

August 4 - 10, 2022

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On August 8, 2022, the National Communicable Disease Committee made a resolution to downgrade COVID-19 as a "dangerous communicable disease" to a "contagious disease that must be under surveillance" effective on October 1, 2022. The COVID-19 outbreak was considered similar to influenza in that cases can be reported throughout the year, with outbreaks at certain points in time. People are asked to strictly continue following prevention measures.
- On August 8, 2022, the Government Gazette website published the announcement by the Ministry of Public Health to remove seven countries from the list of places as 'areas of dangerous disease transmission' for COVID-19 outside the Kingdom of Thailand. The countries include the Republic of Italy, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. This announcement was made to accept travelers who wish to enter the Kingdom to be appropriate to the current situation.
- Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province is preparing to organize a "Walk-Run" activity to connect the three countries, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos in promoting tourism, stimulating the local economies, and building relationships with neighboring countries on Sunday, September 4, 2022.

## HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE CASES REPORTED IN 76 PROVINCES!

The Division of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control reported that there were 19,287 cases of hand, foot, and mouth disease across 76 provinces from January 1 – August 9, 2022. The only province that did not report any cases was Samut Songkhram. The age group with the most reported cases was 1–3-year-old children. The provinces with the most cases were Srisaket, Phitsanulok, Satun, Phatthalung and Nong Khai.

Symptoms of hand, foot and mouth disease often start with a low-grade fever, fatigue, and then 1-2 days later, sores in the mouth or throat may develop. Small rashes may appear on the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, and blisters may develop in the mouth, soft palate, as bulges on the cheeks, or tongue. If symptoms arise such as high fever, drowsiness, staggered walking, convulsions, shortness of breath, or severe vomiting, seek immediate medical attention because it may due to a severe virus, which can be fatal. The infectious period can begin within the first seven days of symptoms appearing. Virus can be shed from the saliva and feces even after the symptoms of the disease have subsided. This is one of the main reasons the disease is found in preschool children. Therefore, if a child has this disease, they should not go to school or nursery to prevent the spread. Parents should notify the school and should keep their children at home.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials and volunteers should educate residents about the symptoms, disease transmission, and preventive behaviors to limit the spread of disease in schools and childcare centers. If a child is reported to have hand, foot, and mouth disease, they should be separated from the healthy children and their parents should be informed to take them to see a doctor immediately. Children should not return to school until fully recovered. Personal belongings of children with hand, foot, and mouth disease should be separated from other children. In general, contact should be avoided, especially in the community or crowded places to prevent hand, foot, and mouth disease, COVID-19 and other respiratory tract infections.

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## INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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## Sources

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- Image courtesy of: <https://www.amarinbabyandkids.com/health/hand-foot-mouth-disease/>