

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

September 1 - 7, 2022

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On August 31, 2022, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) reported that there have been 19,380 cases of dengue fever in Thailand from January 1 to August 29, 2022. This number is much higher than the previous year. The rainy season has caused floods in many areas, which has also led to increased breeding grounds for *Aedes* mosquitoes, the vector of dengue virus. The DDC invites people to practice prevention measures like maintaining clean areas around the house, ensuring that there are no empty containers full of water, and preventing mosquito bites. If a family member is found to have a high fever for more than two days and if antipyretic drugs do not alleviate the symptoms, a doctor should be consulted immediately for the patient to receive the correct treatment in a timely manner.
- On September 5, 2022 The Laotian Times reported that the Ministry of Health, Lao PDR initiated a dengue fever control project using mosquitoes that carry *Wolbachia* bacteria, a common, intracellular bacteria. Studies have observed that when mosquito populations are infected by *Wolbachia*, vector-borne virus transmission is prevented. This can help reduce the spread of diseases such as malaria, Zika and dengue without bringing harm to humans, animals or the environment. The project will begin in 2023 and will include releasing *Wolbachia*-infected mosquitos in two districts. The project expects to protect up to 86,000 people from dengue fever.

## PREVENT INFLUENZA WITH VACCINATIONS

The Department of Disease Control's Week 35 Epidemic Report (August 29 - September 4, 2022) indicated that there has been an influenza outbreak across two schools in Chiang Mai. There has been a total of 143 confirmed cases and most people did not have history of influenza vaccination. In Nakhon Ratchasima province, there was a fatal case in a 7-year-old girl of Cambodian nationality who also did not receive a vaccination. The number of influenza cases is likely to increase. Data from the Division of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control (January 1 - August 31, 2022) shows that there have been 20,125 cases and one death. The age group with the most cases were infants and children aged 0-4 years old.

COVID-19 and influenza are respiratory diseases and have similar symptoms. Preventative measures like social distancing, hand-washing and wearing masks can help protect against both diseases. To prevent disease or reduce severe disease (including death), vaccinations for both COVID-19 and influenza are an important preventative practice to build immunity. The vaccinations can be injected simultaneously or two weeks apart. The Department of Disease Control has procured vaccines to help protect the population at risk.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officers and volunteers should coordinate with local government organizations to educate residents about influenza's symptoms and prevention methods. Schools and childcare centers with cases should follow the surveillance measures according to the instructions for prevention and control of influenza from the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health. It is important to publicize the benefits of vaccination to prevent influenza. People in the community, especially the elderly and children aged 6 months to 2 years, should receive vaccinations annually.

## INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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Supported by the Thailand MOPH - US CDC Collaboration on Public Health

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## Sources

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- <https://laotiantimes.com/2022/09/05/laos-to-breed-bacteria-in-mosquitoes-to-prevent-diseases/>
- Information from the Division of Communicable Diseases led by Vector-borne Division/Bureau of Risk Communication, Department of Disease Control, August 31, 2022
- Image courtesy of: [https://www.thonburihospital.com/Flu\\_Advertorial.html](https://www.thonburihospital.com/Flu_Advertorial.html)
- Data courtesy of the Epidemic Report, Week 35, Department of Disease Control, from 29 August - 4 September 2022
- Data from the Influenza Situation, Thailand 2022 Week 34, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control.