

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

October 13 - 19, 2022

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On October 17, 2022, Thailand was the first country to undergo the Joint Mission to Review the Health System Capacity in addressing Migrant Health Needs (JMRH) to assess Thailand's health system for migrant workers and refugees. Undertaken by the World Health Organization, the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health presented its effective COVID-19 outbreak response for the migrant population.
- On October 17, 2022, journalists at the border reported on the outbreak of diarrhea in children under 2 years old living in the temporary shelter of Karenni State, Myanmar. There have been 50 cases since the beginning of October. The outbreak is occurring during a medicine and food shortage due to unrest in the country.
- On October 17, 2022, MGR Online reported news from Tachilek, Myanmar, opposite of Mae Sai, Chiang Rai Province, that a monk and four people were drinking instant coffee suddenly experienced rapid heart rate and lost consciousness. Local officers took all of them to the Tachilek City Hospital. The local media reported that the instant coffee was made in China under the trade name "Coffee Shop very good". The Chiang Rai Provincial Health Office warned people of the danger from the consumption of this coffee brand and the health office would investigate the possibility of importing this brand into Thailand.

## RESURGENCE OF AN OLD, YET DEADLY CONCERN - MELIOIDOSIS

Thailand is still experiencing heavy rains and many provinces are facing problems related to flooding. The waterlogging in many provinces has increased the risk of melioidosis. According to the disease surveillance data of the Division of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, from January 1st to October 10th 2022, there have been 2,314 cases and 34 deaths due to melioidosis. The data from last year showed that there were 2,206 cases and six deaths. Most cases were among farmers. Overall, the death toll this year is about five times higher than last year. There is also interesting information reported from Thepha District, Songkhla Province. From April to October, seven cases of melioidosis were reported and among them, there were five deaths. Four of them had a history of chronic diseases, namely diabetes, which is a leading cause of increased risk of death.

Therefore, if a patient is believed to have melioidosis and especially if they have high-risk activities such as having to walk, traverse, and wade through mud regularly, as a farmer, or if they have underlying diseases, especially diabetes, they should see a doctor for a timely diagnosis. This will reduce their risk of death. Their occupation and details of their risk history, including underlying diseases should be shared with a health care professional.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public Health Officers should coordinate with the community to provide education to residents on basic prevention methods to reduce the risk of melioidosis. People should avoid wading and walking through mud and should avoid direct contact with soil and water. If contact in these environments is necessary, people should wear boots, rubber gloves, long pants or wading clothes. After contact with the soil or water, people should immediately clean themselves with soap and water. People should practice healthy eating habits like eating cooked food, always drinking clean water, and keeping hands clean while eating. If people have high fever and history of direct contact with soil and water, they should seek immediate medical attention, especially farmers and people with diabetes.

## INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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- Image courtesy of: [https://www.khaosod.co.th/around-thailand/news\\_7326403](https://www.khaosod.co.th/around-thailand/news_7326403)