

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

October 27 - November 2, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On October 23, 2022, the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) reported that there was a patient infected with H5 avian influenza A in Vietnam. Officials have been instructed to strictly monitor animal diseases along the border areas and the DLD has asked for cooperation from poultry farmers to closely observe the symptoms of their animals. If a sick bird is found, they should immediately notify district livestock officers, livestock volunteers, village health volunteers in the area.
- Each year, October 29 is World Stroke Day or World Paralysis Day. This year, the Department of Disease Control is focusing on raising public awareness about the warning signs of stroke and providing access to emergency medical care in a timely manner. They emphasize that bringing patients to a doctor for treatment as soon as possible improves the chance of recovery and reducing complications.
- On November 1, 2022, the opening ceremony for Thailand's second International Health Regulations – Joint External Evaluation was held at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok. A group of experts from the World Health Organization conducted the assessment from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, 2022. Thailand undertook an updated version of the assessment tool (now with 56 indicators) developed from lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Thailand was the first country in the world to undertake the updated JEE assessment.

WINTER IS COMING...WATCH OUT FOR INFLUENZA

On October 29, 2022, the Meteorological Department of Thailand announced a reminder that influenza accompanies the winter season. According to the epidemic report of the Department of Disease Control from January 1 to October 26, 2022, there have been 54,664 reported cases of influenza and one death. The age group with the most cases consisted of children from 0-4 years old. The 2021 data indicated that there were only 11,174 cases and no deaths at this same time point last year. This clearly shows a large increase in the number of cases.

Influenza and COVID-19 are both classified as respiratory diseases. Therefore, taking precautionary self-prevention measures against COVID-19, including social distancing, washing hands and wearing a mask when around others can also help prevent influenza. Vaccinations against COVID-19 and influenza, especially among the elderly and children are effective means of prevention. These vaccines can be injected at the same time or two weeks apart. They can help reduce the severity of the disease, reduce the risk of infection and prevent complications or death.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public Health officials should coordinate with the local administrative organizations to share knowledge of influenza to the communities. This information should include an overview of symptoms and how to protect residents, especially in areas with frequent outbreaks like educational institutions and child care centers. There should be surveillance measures in place, and the communities should follow the advice for influenza prevention and control of influenza as communicated by the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health. Local officials should show the benefits of vaccination for residents to prevent influenza and spreading it to family members. Annual vaccinations are especially important for the elderly and children aged 6 months to 2 years old.

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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Sources

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- Information from the news of the Department of Livestock Development, October 23, 2022.
- Image courtesy of: <https://www.princhealth.com/puth-flu-vaccine-kids/>