

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

October 20 - 26, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On October 21, 2022, Thailand donated 100,000 doses of the orange-capped Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5-11 years to Myanmar. The donation was approved by the Cabinet through the collaboration of many parties such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, Department of Disease Control and Zuellig Pharma Company Limited, and was donated through the Myanmar Red Cross Society.
- On October 25, 2022, the Division of Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Department of Disease Control warned people about the use of gas water heaters in the winter season. It is recommended to turn on a fan or ventilator in the bathroom or leave the bathroom door slightly open. People should limit their showers to no more than 10 minutes, leaving at least 15 minutes before using the bathroom the next time. People with congenital diseases such as heart disease or high blood pressure should be especially careful to reduce exposure to gas.
- On October 26, 2022, the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health recommended people, especially the "608" risk group and children under 5 years old, to get vaccinated to boost their immunity against COVID-19 before the cold season arrives. Hospitals will have a designated service area to provide vaccinations for children aged 6 months to 4 years old. The first dose and the second dose should be taken one month apart, and the third dose should be two months after the second dose. Vaccine recipients will not be responsible for expenses.

RABIES CANNOT BE CURED, BUT CAN BE PREVENTED

On October 13, 2022, there was a news report that a ferocious dog was found chasing and biting villagers in Huai Malai Village, Sangkhlaburi District, Kanchanaburi Province. In total, 10 people, including adults and children were injured and all received vaccinations against rabies at Sangkhlaburi Hospital. The examination of the dog's brain tissue confirmed the presence of the rabies virus. This virus has been observed to cause disease in all mammals, especially dogs, cats, cows, buffaloes, monkeys, gibbons, etc. In Thailand, cases of rabies in dogs are more commonly reported compared to other animals.

The disease is fatal. If someone is infected to the point of showing symptoms, the disease cannot be cured and the patient will die. The infection is transmitted to humans from bites, scratches, licking, and infectious saliva splashing into the eyes, mouth, or wounds on the skin. The virus replicates at or near the site of the bite for several weeks to months. The time for onset of symptoms varies depending on the site of infection and exposure. When the virus enters the nervous system or neural tissue, the symptoms will begin and the patient will eventually die.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

The public health and the district livestock officers should cooperate together to inform residents about the dangers of rabies, how to prevent it, and recommendations for prevention such as yearly vaccinations for pets. If someone is bitten or scratched by a dog or cat with unknown vaccination history or licked at a wound site, they should wash the wound with clean water and see a doctor immediately. They should receive the rabies vaccination at the nearest hospital.

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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- Information courtesy of: Division of Occupational and Environmental Diseases, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, October 25, 2022
- Information courtesy of: Press Release, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, October 26, 2022
- Image courtesy of: <https://mgronline.com/qol/detail/9560000119303>