

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

November 3 - 9, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On October 6, 2022, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (PMD) and the Meteorological Department joined hands with LINE Thailand to launch "LINE ALERT" on the LINE platform. This channel provides information and alerts on disasters occurring in the country via a rapid early warning system. It can be used at the local level, allowing people to easily access comprehensive information and will help prepare dealing with disaster situations in a timely manner.
- On November 4, 2022, the United States delivered 201,600 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5-11 years to the Lao People's Democratic Republic through the COVAX project, for equal access to the COVID-19 vaccine worldwide.
- On November 4, 2022 The Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health warned people to avoid consuming raw, white-flake freshwater fish. Eating this raw fish poses a risk of liver fluke disease and is a major cause of bile duct cancer. In Thailand, the incidence of liver flukes is highest in the northern and northeastern regions.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE IS UNCOMMON, BUT LIFE-THREATENING

Meningococcal disease is a frightening disease that can have devastating impacts on affected humans. Symptoms of the disease include severe, blotchy rashes on the body that appear dark in color. Patients often experience severe stiffness in their neck or back and may have seizures. This disease is caused by a bacterial infection, in which the pathogen can be found in the throats of about 5% of the general population, without causing disease. The disease sporadically appears throughout the year with outbreaks from time to time. According to the epidemic report of the Department of Disease Control, from October 31 to November 6, 2022, a 63-year-old Thai man in Pattani province died from meningococcal disease. Another suspected case, a 19-year-old Myanmar national in Nakhon Si Thammarat province also died. Both cases are under further disease investigation.

As mentioned, the causative agent is usually found in the throat, and it is contagious through the respiratory system, spreading via coughing, sneezing, and touching mucous membranes in the mouth, nose, sputum or saliva of infected people. The incubation period is 3 - 4 days on average and can range from 1 - 10 days. People with suspected symptoms of meningococcal disease should see a doctor immediately. These symptoms include high fever, severe headache, nausea, vomiting, neck stiffness, dark rashes and bruising on the skin. Shock may occur rapidly, which can cause death.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials should coordinate with the local community to provide information about the disease to residents in terms of the initial symptoms and protection measures. These are the same principles on preventing respiratory tract infections which include avoiding contact with droplets, mucus, saliva, phlegm, and wearing a mask if entering community with poor ventilation or hygiene. Those who are close contacts of infected patients or those who need to travel to risky areas should consult a doctor about disease prevention practices. They may be advised to take antimicrobial drugs or get vaccinated to prevent the disease.

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

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

CONTACT
oicddc@gmail.com
02-5903832
www.ddc.go.th/oic

Sources

- https://www.petcharavejhospital.com/en/Article/article_detail/detail_of_Meningococcal_Disease
- <http://dcd.ddc.moph.go.th/2016/knowledges/view/5>
- https://ddc.moph.go.th/disease_detail.php?d=19
- <https://www.si.mahidol.ac.th/sidoctor/e-pl/articledetail.asp?id=703>
- <https://www.thaigov.go.th/infographic/contents/details/6234>
- <https://laotiantimes.com/2022/11/07/united-states-provides-pediatric-pfizer-vaccines-to-protect-children-from-covid-19/>
- <https://ddc.moph.go.th/brc/news.php?news=29421&deptcode=>
- Image courtesy of: <https://hot.muslimthaipost.com/news/24467>