

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

November 10 - 16, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On November 10, 2022, the Ministry of Public Health presented the first round of "Quick Check, Quick Treatment" awards to 13 provinces that displayed excellent cooperation in projects to provide people with high-risk behaviors better access to health services, early HIV diagnosis, quick results, and immediate and continuous antiretroviral treatment. These provinces included Phitsanulok, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Udon Thani, Sukhothai, Phatthalung, Chiang Rai, Chaiyaphum, Amnat Charoen, Ubon Ratchathani, Phuket, Nakhon Pathom and Lampang.
- On November 10, 2022, the Department of Disease Control warned people to be careful of diseases and health hazards during the winter. These include respiratory diseases such as influenza, gastrointestinal and water-borne diseases that cause diarrhea, vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and chickenpox, and health hazards including cold weather, asphyxia from gas water heaters and the dangers of small dust particles (PM 2.5).

MALARIA CAN BE CURED WHEN COMPLETING THE TREATMENT COURSE

According to the Department of Disease Control's epidemic report from November 7-13, 2022, one patient died of malaria in Phichit Province. The patient was a 33-year-old Karen man, who contracted malaria while working on a farm in Myanmar. In this case, the disease was caused by *Plasmodium vivax*. The patient received treatment but did not complete the course and he came to work in Thailand. On November 5, the patient developed symptoms of fever, chills, muscle pain and headache. He later died on November 11, 2022. More information on the disease is currently under investigation.

Malaria treatment in Thailand is based on the "2021 Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria Patients" from the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health. The guidelines have treatment plans according to the type of pathogen and the severity of disease symptoms. It further emphasizes that effectively completing the treatment can cure the disease. Patients must strictly cooperate in completing the treatment by taking the medication according to the treatment plan until the end of the course. This includes repeated blood tests as scheduled. Otherwise, the disease may not be cured and may persist, which can eventually lead to death.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials should work with local agencies and public relations units to provide basic knowledge to residents about vectors, transmission, symptoms and how to protect themselves from malaria. If people observe symptoms compatible with malaria, they should see a doctor and provide their travel history if they have gone to risky areas. This will help them to receive the correct diagnosis and receive treatment quickly. There should be an emphasis on taking the malaria treatment until the course is fully completed as prescribed so that the disease does not continue.

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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Sources

- <https://pr.moph.go.th/?url=pr/detail/2/04/181172/>
- https://www.dms.go.th/Content/Select_Landding_page?contentId=35427
- Information from: Division of Epidemiology/ Bureau of Risk Communication, Department of Disease Control, 10 November 2022
- Image courtesy of: <https://mgronline.com/qol/detail/9540000051318>