

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

December 8 - 14, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- From December 13-14, 2022, the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand and the Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control went to Cambodia to attend the 5th Working Group Meeting on Public Health Cooperation in the Mekong Sub-region. The participants consisted of representatives from six countries (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) to lay the foundation for the development of health cooperation from 2024 - 2030 and to reinforce the commitment of the working group to collaborate under the 2023 Mekong Basin Health Cooperation Plan.
- The Rai Som Wittaya Learning Center in Mae Kha sub-district, Fang district, Chiang Mai provide support for foreign children who have fallen out of Thai education system. There are about 100 students, of which most are Shan children who traveled with their immigrant parents across the border from Shan State, Myanmar for agricultural work like working at orange orchards in the area. The learning center aims to fill the gaps in education for children with limited opportunities. Effective operation of the Rai Som Wittaya Learning Center requires cooperation from the local community.

"DELTA CRON" CONFIRMED IN THAILAND

The Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health reported that the "Deltacron" variant of COVID-19 (a hybrid variant that contains elements of both Delta and Omicron) was detected in Thailand. A 47-year-old Thai woman was confirmed as the first such case. She had already received three vaccination doses and did not present with serious illness. She has since fully recovered. The weekly COVID-19 epidemic report (December 4 - 10, 2022), noted that there were 3,961 new COVID-19 infections, for an average of 566 people per day. On average, 15 people died from COVID-19 per day. The increasing number of new infections was expected following the policy adjustment that reclassified COVID-19 as a "contagious disease that must be monitored" and as many people have returned to living their normal ways of life.

The Department of Disease Control emphasizes the importance for the general public and the 608 group to receive at least four doses of the vaccine. Those who received their most recent dose more than 4-6 months ago should prioritize getting their next booster dose. This will increase immunity, prevent serious illness and reduce the chance of death from all strains of COVID-19. Vaccination centers and medical facilities are located in communities all across the country offering services free of charge and if people have respiratory illnesses. People should monitor their symptoms and see a doctor if symptoms worsen.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials should update their communities of the current COVID-19 situation. They should engage with bedridden patients, the elderly, and young children who have not yet been vaccinated. Those who received their most recent vaccination more than 4-6 months, should get their booster vaccine at a public health facility near their home. People should wear masks in crowded areas with poor ventilation. If a patient or group of people is found to have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, public health officials should be notified immediately.

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.hfocus.org/content/2022/11/26508>
- <https://www.prachachat.net/general/news-1146402>
- <https://pr.moph.go.th/?url=pr/detail/2/02/182290/>
- https://transbordernews.in.th/home/?p=32991&fbclid=IwAR10wUXrCDrNrjotMH7W2_Y96t6Oou7H19A9aJPjw7p9V4L9NbPrtayGak
- Image Courtesy of: <https://www.tuneprotect.co.th/th/article/covid-19-vaccination-prevent-infection>