

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

April 13 - 19, 2023

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On April 16, 2023, the Department of Disease Control and the National Health Security Office (NHSO) invited individuals with "gold card" health insurance from the seven high-risk groups to receive the flu vaccine starting from May 1 to August 31, 2023 or until the vaccine runs out. This is to help build immunity and reduce the incidence of severe illness and death from influenza complications. The DDC and NHSO collaborated with Krungthai Bank to allow early reservations to register for the flu vaccine starting from April 17 in the Bangkok area through the "Pao Tang" application.
- On April 12, 2023, the Department of Disease Control, in collaboration with the Thai Red Cross Society and the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC), held a meeting to prepare for the use of iris and facial recognition technology for individuals residing in Thailand who do not have personal identification documents when seeking health services. The priority groups include foreign workers, minority ethnic groups, and disaster victims. The use of personal identity biometric data technology for individuals without identification documents to improve healthcare will be piloted in five provinces, namely Bangkok, Samut Sakhon, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Tak, and Chonburi.

PREPARE FOR COVID-19 AFTER SONGKRAN

The Ministry of Public Health reported the latest COVID-19 situation during the week of April 9-15, 2023. There were 435 new cases and two deaths, both of whom had received booster vaccines more than three months ago. During the recent Songkran festival, people traveled across regions and participated in large social gatherings, increasing the risk of transmission. Currently, the government has relaxed COVID-19 prevention measures, without requiring infection testing for people attending large events. As a result, there is higher risk of contracting the virus. The Department of Disease Control recommends that individuals monitor their symptoms for seven days and avoid close contact with elderly or chronically ill people after participating in large social gatherings. The department has also laid out guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 after the Songkran festival, suggesting that those who have not yet received a vaccine or who have not completed the vaccination course including booster shots, should receive the COVID-19 vaccine. They can receive it along with the influenza vaccine, which will be available in May 2023. Wearing face masks is still important, especially when in crowded public places or places with a large number of people, such as hospitals and elderly care facilities. If an individual experiences symptoms such as respiratory difficulties, fever, cough, or sore throat, they should take an antigen test. If the result is positive, they should wear a face mask when in close contact with others. If the symptoms worsen, such as difficulty breathing or exhaustion, they should seek medical attention immediately. In the case where groups of individuals show symptoms of illness that could be COVID-19, such as families, schools, or workplaces, health officials should be notified in order to monitor and control the disease from spreading widely.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials along with relevant agencies should inform the community about the COVID-19 situation after the Songkran festival. They should organize campaigns for those who have not received a vaccine, those who have not completed a full vaccine course, and those who have not received a booster vaccine for more than three months, especially for the elderly or those with underlying diseases. Wearing a mask is still important, especially in crowded places with poor ventilation. If a patient is found to have symptoms resembling COVID-19, it is recommended to notify health officials to find ways to prevent and control the spread of the disease.

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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