

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 1 - 7, 2023

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On June 1, 2023, the Department of Disease Control reported on the mpox situation, in which Thailand's first case was identified in July 2022. There have been a total of reported 43 cases. In May, there was an increase of 21 cases, and it is expected that the numbers will continue to rise. The Department of Disease Control has issued a warning to the public to practice proper preventive measures to reduce the risk of contracting the disease. If anyone experiences suspicious symptoms or encounters individuals with symptoms related to mpox, they should report and seek advice from nearby healthcare facilities.
- To observe World Environment Day (June 5), the Department of Disease Control has announced the theme "Love the Earth, Protect the Environment" and planned activities that focus on two significant issues: reducing waste generation and proper waste management. Thailand ranks third and fifth in the world for waste generation and plastic waste, respectively. In 2022, the amount of waste, infectious waste, plastic waste, and industrial waste increased significantly, while waste management remains unstandardized. This year, the Department of Disease Control is organizing activities to raise awareness and encourage appropriate behavior among staff, aiming to shape culture within the organization.

PREVENTING DENGUE THROUGH ELIMINATING MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES

According to the Department of Meteorology, the hot season ended on May 22, 2023 and Thailand has entered the rainy season. With the onset of the rainy season, Thailand is currently experiencing a severe dengue fever outbreak. According to the disease surveillance report from the Department of Disease Control for Week 21 (May 22nd - 28th, 2023), there have been two deaths due to dengue fever: two women aged 15 and 44 years old, in Satun and Phetchaburi provinces, respectively.

During the Public Health Emergency Operations Center meeting on May 29th, the dengue situation was reported to show a significant increase in the number of patients since January 2023. There have been 16,650 reported cases, which is higher than the previous year. Among these cases, there have been 17 deaths. It is anticipated that the number of dengue cases will increase in June as the rainy season continues. The *Aedes* mosquito, the dengue virus vector, breeds in stagnant water. Health authorities have conducted surveys of mosquito breeding sites in communities, households, and various locations, revealing high indices of *Aedes* mosquito larvae. These locations include schools, temples, government offices, and factories. The Department of Disease Control has coordinated with provincial health offices throughout the country to address this situation.

Furthermore, in preparation for ASEAN Dengue Day on June 15th, the Department of Disease Control has launched a nationwide campaign to eradicate mosquito breeding sites, starting June 14th. This campaign aims to raise awareness and encourage public participation in eliminating *Aedes* mosquito larvae to protect themselves from diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, including dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya. The department seeks the cooperation and participation of the public in this campaign to achieve sustainable results and reduce the number of dengue cases.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Village and migrant health volunteers should work with public health officials to disseminate knowledge to the local residents about the causes and transmission of dengue fever. Emphasis should be placed on self-protection, basic prevention measures, and, importantly, the elimination of mosquito breeding sites in various containers that can collect stagnant water within residential areas. Stagnant water should be emptied and containers should be dried in the sun. Water-storage containers should have tightly sealed lids or be stocked with mosquito-eating fish, suitable for controlling mosquito larvae. Improving the cleanliness and ventilation of the living environment is also essential. If any family member experiences symptoms consistent with dengue fever, such as high fever, body aches, or severe orbital pain, they should seek immediate medical attention. It is advised not to self-medicate with painkillers, as certain types of painkillers may increase the risk of internal bleeding, which can contribute to death in dengue fever cases.

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY



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