

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 8 - 14, 2023

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On June 10, 2023, local residents in Mabtapud Municipality, Rayong Province reported the discovery of dead fish floating in the Takoan Canal, which had an oily smell. Residents who went into the canal to catch fish experienced eye irritation, suspected to be caused by the contaminated oil in the canal, which was also the probable cause of the fish deaths. Currently, relevant agencies are awaiting inspection and investigation to determine the cause of the unexpected fish deaths and provide accurate information and guidance to the residents.
- The Department of Medical Sciences warned the public to be cautious of millipedes during the rainy season. Although they are not dangerous animals, they contain toxins that can irritate the skin. The rainy season is a period when millipedes are commonly found in residential areas or public gardens. The public is advised to be cautious and avoid direct contact with millipedes. The toxins released by millipedes can harm small creatures such as ants or insects. However, when humans come into direct contact with the millipedes' toxins, it can cause burns and some individuals may experience pain and skin irritation. If exposed to millipede toxins, it is recommended to immediately wash the affected area with clean water or soap. In general, the symptoms should subside within a week. If severe symptoms occur, it is advisable to seek medical attention from a specialist.

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF **NOROVIRUS**

With multiple diarrheal outbreaks across several geographic areas and across all age groups, it is presumed that drinking water and ice was contaminated with norovirus. The disease investigation is currently underway. A similar outbreak occurred in February, where over 300 cases were reported in the northeastern region. The cause was attributed to norovirus-contaminated ice.

Norovirus is a virus that causes inflammation of the gastrointestinal system and is commonly found in the general environment, food, water, and ice. It is transmitted through the consumption of contaminated food. Symptoms typically appear within 12 to 48 hours after infection and may include watery diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, headache, low-grade fever, body aches, fatigue, and weakness. Diarrheal symptoms generally improve within 24 to 72 hours. There is no vaccine to prevent this disease, but symptoms generally resolve on their own. Symptoms typically improve and resolve within 2 to 3 days for most children if they receive proper care such as rehydration salts upon experiencing dehydration. However, if immunocompromised children have severe symptoms, such as persistent watery diarrhea or continuous bowel movements, they should be taken to the hospital immediately and be placed under close medical care, as it could lead to shock and even death. In addition to personal hygiene practices, proper production processes for drinking and consumer water, including water and ice production facilities, are crucial for prevention. If the production processes do not adhere to hygiene standards, it can increase the risk of norovirus-induced diarrhea.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials should coordinate with local agencies to disseminate information to residents about diarrheal and norovirus outbreaks. The information should include the causes, symptoms, and basic self-care measures. Frequent causes of the norovirus outbreak that the frequent cause is contaminated drinking water and ice. Local agencies responsible for potable water, including water and ice production facilities, should emphasize the importance of using water from sources free of bacteria or viral contamination. The tap water in villages should be regularly tested to ensure an appropriate chlorine level. In areas still using groundwater, there should be filtration and chlorination processes. Relevant agencies should inspect these facilities to ensure they meet the required standards. The agencies and facilities should take responsibility for the community. All of these measures aim to reduce the risk of norovirus-induced diarrheal outbreaks.

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
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CONTACT

oic.ddc@gmail.com

02-5903832

www.ddc.go.th/oic

Sources

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