

# REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 22 - 28, 2023

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- June 25, 2023 was the International Day against Drug Abuse. Relevant officials involved in combating drug abuse, including public health officers and educational institutions in the Bo Kaeo District, Lao People's Democratic Republic, organized an event to educate youth about the dangers and consequences of drug addiction. The event took place at the Special Economic Zone, Golden Triangle, with the participation of 300 students from Dokngio Kham Elementary School and Pheng Junior High School. The organizers expressed gratitude to neighboring countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in Lao PDR for their cooperation, support, and assistance to the government in addressing the issue of drug abuse control.
- A news report has emerged about a significant number of cat deaths in Poland. On June 23, 2023, samples were sent to a laboratory for testing, and it was found that a portion of the samples tested positive for an unspecified strain of avian influenza. Subsequently, on June 26, the National Veterinary Institute in Puławy, Poland reported the results of laboratory tests for 11 samples. Six samples were confirmed to be positive for H5N1 avian influenza virus. Authorities have issued warnings to the public regarding the strict implementation of disease control measures for cat owners. The investigation into the cause of this outbreak is currently underway.

## KEEPING AN EYE ON HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE.

Hand, foot, and mouth disease outbreaks often occur in the late summer and early rainy season, with the most vulnerable group being children under 5 years old. From January 1 to June 17, 2023, Thailand reported a cumulative of 16,640 cases with no reported fatalities. Children aged 1-4 years old was the most affected group, followed by infants less than 1 year old, and children aged 5-9 years old, respectively. The highest number of cases was reported in the Northern region, followed by the Southern, Central, and Northeastern regions.

In Viet Nam, which shares borders with Laos and Cambodia, the outbreak has been severe, particularly in six southern provinces adjacent to Cambodia. As of June 23, there have been 9,500 reported cases with four deaths. Additionally, data from the National Children's Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City showed that since the beginning of the year, approximately 500 children have been admitted to the hospital's inpatient department, with 30% experiencing severe complications. The Ministry of Health in Vietnam is currently coordinating with local agencies to urgently implement prevention and control measures against the disease.

In Thailand, similar strict surveillance measures are being implemented, especially in childcare centers, early childhood centers in communities, kindergartens, and densely populated residential areas. These are high-risk areas for rapid disease spread. Therefore, if clusters of cases or individuals with symptoms related to hand, foot, and mouth disease are identified, it is crucial to promptly bring them to medical professionals for proper treatment and immediately notify local public health authorities to control the spread of disease.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials should coordinate with local administrative organizations to provide information to residents about the causes, symptoms, modes of transmission, and proper preventive measures against hand, foot, and mouth disease. If a sick child is identified at schools or community childcare centers, they should be immediately separated from healthy children and parents should be informed to take the child home and seek medical attention. The child should refrain from attending school until they have fully recovered. It is important to avoid close contact with other children and avoid crowded community areas or locations to prevent the spread of disease. Local public health authorities should be notified immediately. For schools and childcare centers with sick children, thorough cleaning should be conducted, including disinfecting all items and surfaces that children come into contact with, as well as cleaning the classrooms, bedrooms, bathrooms, and restrooms, to prevent the further 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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- Somkit Kraipat, a member of the Epidemiological Surveillance System Development Group, Department of Epidemiology.
- Image courtesy of: [https://www.matichon.co.th/social/news\\_3448700](https://www.matichon.co.th/social/news_3448700)