

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

June 29 - July 5, 2023

WEEKLY EVENTS

- From June 26th to July 2nd, 2023, there were 21 cases of mushroom poisoning resulting in 1 fatality in provinces such as Sakon Nakhon, Saraburi, Maha Sarakham, Yasothon, and Amnat Charoen. This period corresponds to the rainy season, during which various types of mushrooms thrive, particularly wild mushrooms. These mushrooms include both edible and poisonous varieties. When mushrooms are in their budding stage, they can closely resemble each other, potentially leading to misunderstanding among the public and inadvertently using toxic mushrooms in cooking. Local residents who gather wild mushrooms for consumption or sale, despite their expertise in mushroom collection, should exercise increased caution and verify the mushrooms' safety. If uncertain, unfamiliar, or suspicious about the identity of mushrooms, it is advisable not to collect them for cooking or distribution.
- On July 3rd, 2023, the Department of Disease Control, in collaboration with the Thai Red Cross Society, the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, the World Health Organization - Thailand, and relevant organizations, convened a meeting to develop and apply technology for identifying individuals without proper identification documents in Thailand for the purpose of public health and humanitarian assistance. The meeting took place at the Provincial Hall of Samut Sakhon and was attended by approximately 60 participants. The preliminary stage of implementation will begin at 6 pilot hospitals in the province of Samut Sakhon.

KEEP AN EYE ON MPOX

Mpox is an emerging infectious disease, and in Thailand, the first case was identified in July 2022. Mpox is found in animals belonging to the monkey and rodent families, such as mice and squirrels. Humans can also contract the disease through direct contact with blood, secretions, or pus of infected animals or through bites from animals carrying the virus. Consumption of undercooked contaminated animal meat also poses a risk. This disease can also spread from person to person through close contact with an infected individual.

There have been 91 reported Mpox cases in Thailand with an increasing trend. In May, the Division of Epidemiology, the Division of AIDS and STIs, and the Bureau of Risk Communication and Health Behavior Development reported 21 cases. In June, 48 cases were reported; a two-fold increase. The majority of patients were Thai nationals (41 cases) while 7 cases were foreigners. They were primarily residing in Bangkok, followed by provinces like Samut Prakan, Chonburi, Nonthaburi, Samut Sakhon, Phuket, and Pathum Thani. Most of the patients were males engaging in same-sex activities without protection or having sexual contact with unfamiliar partners, not using condoms, and not monitoring symptoms in their partners.

The Department of Disease Control seeks cooperation from networks closely associated with the public, such as hospitals, private clinics, social welfare organizations, and spa and sauna facilities, to help disseminate knowledge and recommendations to the public about recognizing symptoms and appropriate preventive measures. For individuals who suspect or are diagnosed with Mpox, it is advised to seek immediate medical attention at a healthcare facility or hospital nearby. Detailed information about symptoms and risk history should be provided during the examination.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials should monitor the recent rise in Mpox cases and coordinate with local authorities to provide knowledge about the causes, transmission, symptoms, and appropriate actions to reduce the risk of disease. If there has been contact with an infected person within 21 days, individuals should observe themselves for the following symptoms: fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, swollen lymph nodes behind the ear, neck, groin, or armpit, sore throat, runny nose, cough, rash, fluid-filled blisters, or pus-filled bumps on the genitals, anus, or areas like hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth. If these symptoms are present, immediate medical attention should be sought at a nearby healthcare facility or hospital. Please inform the healthcare provider of the symptoms and risk history.

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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- <https://www.one31.net/news/detail/63770>
- <https://www.hfocus.org/content/2023/07/27934>
- News courtesy of the Office of International Cooperation, July 3, 2023.
- Information from: Disease Surveillance, Department of Disease Control, Week 26 (June 26 - July 2, 2023).
- Image Courtesy of: <https://theactive.net/news/public-health-20230602/>