

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

October 5 - 11, 2023

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On October 10, 2023, the Ministry of Public Health is preparing the return of 15 Thai citizens from Israel due to the unrest in the country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that 3,862 Thai citizens in Israel out of 3,914 in the registration system have declared interest in returning to Thailand. The first round will have 15 people fly back on a commercial flight on October 11, 2023 to Suvarnabhumi Airport. Among these individuals, four have sustained minor injuries. The Royal Thai Air Force will use an Airbus 340 to evacuate 140 citizens from the high-risk areas for the next round which is expected to occur on October 15, 2023. The Ministry of Public Health has prepared to take care of the Thais returning in this round. Health screenings, both physical and mental, will be provided. Hospitals for referrals include Rajavithi Hospital, Lerdsin Hospital, and Nopparat Rajathanee Hospital. The choice of the referral hospital will depend on the individual's health situation. As for mental health, referrals will be made to the Somdet Chaopraya Institute of Psychiatry, Sri Thanya Psychiatric Hospital, and Galaya Ratchanin Institute. However, if there are no health issues, the individuals can return to their homes without the need for quarantine, as there is low risk of infectious diseases related to the situation in Israel. The need for continuous monitoring has been deemed unnecessary.

## KEEP AN EYE ON THE AVIAN FLU SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

From the beginning of the year to October 10, 2023, according to the BlueDot surveillance alert system which monitors the avian influenza situation in Cambodia, there have been four confirmed avian influenza cases, with three of them resulting in deaths. The first fatal case occurred on February 22 in an 11-year-old female residing in Prey Veng province, located in the southeast of Cambodia, bordering Vietnam. The second and third deaths took place on October 7th, in a 50-year-old male in Svay Rieng province, and on October 9th in a 2-year-old female in Prey Veng. The risk factors for these deaths include contact with poultry and reports of bird deaths in their respective communities.

As of now, there is no evidence of a link between the two recent deaths but further investigations are underway. Additionally, there have been a high number of poultry deaths and reports of diseases in multiple regions, raising the risk of people coming into contact with sick or dead poultry. Given the current seasonal spread of various respiratory infections, early diagnosis of avian influenza can be challenging. Therefore, if people experience any unusual respiratory symptoms or flu-like illnesses, it is advisable to seek medical attention promptly. People should provide a detailed history of potential exposure, such as contact with sick or dead poultry or history of raising poultry. Health professionals should also inquire about these risk factors to ensure correct treatment and help prevent potential outbreaks.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Livestock and agricultural officers should cooperate with public health and local authorities to inform the public about the avian influenza situation in Cambodia. If the public encounters unusual incidents among birds in the area, either in their own farms or neighboring areas, such as unexplained poultry deaths, they should report them to the village leaders, the local agriculture agency, or the district veterinary officers. People should avoid consuming poultry that has died of unknown causes. Contact with dead birds should be avoided, and if necessary, gloves and face masks should be worn. The carcasses of dead birds should be buried. If there are individuals with symptoms resembling avian influenza, combined with a history of contact with poultry or living in close proximity to poultry, they should immediately report them to the local public health and veterinary officers. Additionally, the authorities should conduct training, public awareness campaigns, and informal discussions to provide knowledge and correct guidance on the continuous observation and proper self-protection measures related to avian influenza.

## INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

Multisectoral Capacity Development Program for Public Health Emergency Detection and Response in Border Areas

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