

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

July 4 - 10, 2024

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On July 5, 2024, the National Institute of Public Health of Cambodia and the Institut Pasteur confirmed one case of H5N1 avian influenza in Cambodia. The patient is a 5-year-old girl residing in Kiri Vong District, Takeo Province. The patient was admitted to the hospital with symptoms of fever, cough, fatigue, and difficulty breathing. Her overall condition has since improved. The investigation by public health officials revealed that the patient had a risk history of contact with dead chickens in her village 10 days before her symptoms appeared, which is believed to be the source of the infection. The Cambodian Ministry of Health has mobilized the national emergency response team, in collaboration with local agencies and relevant organizations, to conduct disease investigations, track the source of the infection, and identify contacts to distribute Tamiflu to those who had close contact with the patient. Additionally, a campaign has been launched to educate the public about avian influenza and self-protection measures. In Thailand, particularly in Sa Kaeo Province, which borders Cambodia's Takeo Province, border health control units have been strictly monitoring avian influenza. Hospitals in all provinces have also been intensively monitoring avian influenza patients.
- On July 8, 2024, the Migrant Health Program, the Health Systems Research Institute, and the International Migrant Health Program, under the Thai MOPH-US CDC Collaboration, signed a memorandum of cooperation to support and develop the health system for migrant populations to achieve international health goals. This cooperation includes the development of four strategic areas: human resource development, public health systems, physical infrastructure such as laboratories for diseases and health hazards, and project management.

## CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN MYANMAR

On July 6, 2024, the Myanmar government announced an outbreak of cholera in the central commercial area of Yangon. Reports of diarrhea cases have emerged in various areas since June 25, with 44 patients suffering from severe diarrhea being admitted to hospitals in Yangon. Laboratory tests confirmed that six patients were infected with cholera. Additionally, one death was reported in a patient who had a history of AIDS and diarrhea but was not tested for cholera. Diarrhea cases continue to be reported, with a total of 63 cases recorded as of July 7. Public health officials are intensifying disease control measures to prevent a widespread outbreak.

Cholera is an infectious disease of the gastrointestinal tract caused by consuming water or food contaminated with the *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria. It leads to severe diarrhea, vomiting, and muscle cramps. The bacteria can easily spread in conditions of poor hygiene. The Department of East Asian Affairs 2, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, has communicated with the Department of Disease Control to report the cholera outbreak in Myanmar. The Myanmar government advises people with severe diarrhea to seek immediate treatment at the nearest hospital and is providing information on the causes, symptoms, and prevention of the disease. The public is urged to maintain proper hygiene, especially concerning water and food consumption, and to manage waste properly, use toilets, and wash hands thoroughly after defecation to prevent the bacteria from entering the body through the gastrointestinal tract and to help reduce the spread of the disease.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials and Village Health Volunteers (VHV) are coordinating with local organizations to inform residents about the cholera outbreak in Myanmar, especially in bordering provinces. They are providing knowledge about cholera, including its causes, symptoms, and prevention. Residents are advised to maintain proper hygiene, particularly in food and water consumption, by eating fresh, clean, and thoroughly cooked food, avoiding leftovers, and washing hands with soap and water before preparing or eating food, as well as after using the restroom.

Communication has also been directed towards food vendors in the area to strictly ensure the quality and cleanliness of the food they serve. Local agencies responsible for water supply management are urged to ensure that residents have access to clean and safe drinking water. By following the Department of Disease Control's hygiene guidelines, based on the principle of "Eat hot, use a serving spoon, and wash hands," residents can not only reduce the risk of cholera but also lower the risk of other gastrointestinal diseases.

## 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

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