

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

September 12 - 18, 2024

REDUCE THE RISK OF PERTUSSIS WITH VACCINATION

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On September 15, 2024, the Ministry of Health of India confirmed, through laboratory tests conducted by the National Institute of Virology, one death due to Nipah virus infection. The deceased was a 23-year-old male student residing in Kerala, a state located in the southwestern region of India. He had been admitted to the hospital with symptoms of hepatitis and encephalitis. Prior to his hospitalization, the deceased had traveled with friends to several locations. A total of approximately 151 contacts are under observation, with 5 of them exhibiting mild symptoms. Laboratory results for Nipah virus infection are still pending. Additional details are currently under investigation.
- On September 16, 2024, the Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, in collaboration with relevant networks, convened the annual Thailand-Cambodia Health Cooperation meeting at the Amari Don Muang Hotel, Bangkok. The meeting aimed to develop, drive forward, monitor, and oversee projects, review the 2024 annual report, and exchange knowledge on challenges encountered. The history of the cooperation plan was presented, starting from Phase 1 (2017–2019) to Phase 2 (2022–2024). The results of the 2024 operations, as well as projects and activities planned for 2025, were also discussed. Representatives from 11 related agencies attended the meeting, during which the Thai-Cambodian Health Cooperation Sub-Committee shared feedback and recommendations to refine the projects and activities to ensure greater alignment and appropriateness moving forward.

The Week 36 Event Surveillance Report, Department of Disease Control (September 9–15, 2024), revealed four confirmed cases of pertussis and one suspected case. Three cases were reported in Phuket Province, with confirmed cases found in Mueang District (2 cases) and Kathu District (1 case). The suspected case also resides in Kathu District. All individuals are Thai students aged 11–14 years and had not completed their vaccination schedule. The other confirmed case was reported in Nakhon Nayok Province. This patient is a 6-year-old Thai girl residing in Ongkharak District, and her vaccination history is currently under investigation. Analysis of the vaccination coverage in the affected districts of Phuket showed that it falls below the World Health Organization's recommended threshold of 90% coverage.

Pertussis, a respiratory infectious disease, has an incubation period of around 7–10 days, but it can extend up to 20 days in some cases. The bacteria cause inflammation of the respiratory tract lining, leading to coughing. Early symptoms resemble those of a common cold, including mild coughing and a runny nose, with or without a low-grade fever. Unlike a common cold, the severity of coughing increases, but the amount of mucus remains unchanged. A characteristic symptom of pertussis is a series of rapid coughs, 5–10 times in a row, lasting around 2–3 weeks. Some patients may experience difficulty breathing between coughs and may exhibit a deep "whoop" sound when inhaling. In some cases, coughing fits can cause eye redness. Over time, the frequency and severity of these coughing fits diminish, and the disease course typically lasts around 6–10 weeks if no complications arise.

This disease can be prevented through vaccination. Therefore, parents are encouraged to ensure their children receive vaccinations according to the schedule provided in the Mother and Child Health Handbook. For migrant workers with children living in Thailand, according to the 2020 Health Insurance Regulation for Migrant Workers, children under the age of 7 are eligible to purchase health insurance cards from the Ministry of Public Health at 365 THB per person, averaging 1 THB per day. The coverage lasts for one year from the date of purchase. With this insurance, children will receive the same vaccinations as Thai children and can continue to receive routine vaccinations at public health facilities near their residence. This ensures that children are protected against all vaccine-preventable diseases.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Health officials should inform Village Health Volunteers, public health staff, and relevant agencies, to collaborate in providing information about pertussis and other vaccine-preventable diseases. The information should cover the causes, symptoms, transmission routes, and prevention methods of these diseases. It is especially important to reach out to households with children. Regular public communication and campaigns should be organized to raise awareness and emphasize the importance of bringing children to receive vaccinations.

For young children, the pertussis vaccine should be administered as part of the DTP vaccine, with at least three doses. Pregnant women who are 20 weeks or more into their pregnancy should also be advised to receive the DTP vaccine to ensure that newborns have a certain level of immunity against pertussis. Additionally, migrant workers in the area should be informed about the option of purchasing health insurance cards, which would allow their children to continue receiving vaccinations according to the recommended schedule at nearby public health facilities. This would help reduce the risk of disease and lower the severity of illness or complications from vaccine-preventable diseases.

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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