

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

September 19 - 25, 2024

## THE LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS SITUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION IN THAILAND

### WEEKLY EVENTS

- According to information from the ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center, during September 19-20, 2024, there has been an increase in dengue fever cases in ASEAN countries. A summary is as follows:
  - Indonesia: Since the beginning of the year, there has been an increase in dengue outbreaks. In the Gelaten subdistrict of Central Java, there were 1,089 reported cases and 31 deaths. In comparison, during the same period last year, there were only 261 cases and 13 deaths.
  - Philippines: From the beginning of the year until the end of August, Bohol province reported the highest number of cases at 6,354, with 12 deaths. This was followed by Cebu province with 5,956 cases and 3 deaths, and Negros Oriental with 3,373 cases and 6 deaths.
  - Vietnam: In Quang Ninh province, there were 127 reported cases, with a new outbreak in the community occurring from September 13-17, 2024, where 5 new cases were identified. It is expected that the number of cases will increase from September to November, which is a typical outbreak period each year.All countries have implemented surveillance measures and mosquito control efforts, as well as providing education and public awareness campaigns in communities to raise awareness and encourage public cooperation in following the authorities' measures to prevent the spread of the disease.
- On September 25, 2024, information from Bluedot Event Alerts reported that the Ministry of Health of India has identified the first case of monkeypox Clade 1b strain, in the country. The patient is a 38-year-old male residing in Kerala, who has a travel history of returning from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He is currently under quarantine. Public health officials are monitoring approximately 37 passengers from the same flight and 5 close contacts. Indian authorities are implementing strict surveillance, particularly for incoming passengers at the airport, and have established 5 monkeypox testing centers, as well as preparing to set up a quarantine facility.

According to the Week 38 Event Surveillance Report, from the Department of Disease Control (September 16-22, 2024), one case of lymphatic filariasis was reported in Samut Sakhon province. The patient is a 79-year-old Thai male who had experienced chronic leg swelling for more than a year. He later sought treatment at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, where laboratory results confirmed the presence of the lymphatic filariasis parasite. Relevant agencies have collaborated to investigate the case and conducted contact tracing. One household member was found to have leg swelling and is currently awaiting laboratory results.

Data from the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, Department of Disease Control, indicated that in 2024, a total of 99 cases of lymphatic filariasis were reported across six provinces: 57 cases in Samut Prakan, 18 in Kanchanaburi, 17 in Ratchaburi, 4 in Bangkok, 2 in Narathiwat, and 1 in Samut Songkhram. Of these, 81% were foreign nationals, primarily migrant workers, while 19% were Thai nationals. The Division of Vector-Borne Diseases has provided recommendations for areas where cases were reported, including surveying the patient's living environment and the locations the patient has visited to identify mosquito breeding sites, which are the vectors for lymphatic filariasis in the area. Additionally, further patient screening is being conducted among household members, the community, and individuals living within a 200-meter radius of the patient's home. In densely populated areas, filariasis screening is conducted, and the vector mosquito population is surveyed.

The Division of Vector-Borne Diseases has laid out a strategic plan for the surveillance and elimination of lymphatic filariasis following the announcement of the eradication effort, from 2018 to 2027. The target is to maintain disease transmission at no more than 1% in previously endemic areas, covering 357 villages in 11 provinces, namely Tak, Narathiwat, Mae Hong Son, Kanchanaburi, Surat Thani, Ratchaburi, Lamphun, Chiang Mai, Krabi, Ranong, and Nakhon Si Thammarat. In areas with a large population of Myanmar migrant workers, mass drug administration (MDA) has been implemented for registered individuals showing symptoms of lymphatic filariasis. There is also screening for undocumented migrant workers in provinces with high filariasis rates. Meanwhile, surveillance and mosquito control activities are being conducted in parallel. Public awareness campaigns targeting at-risk populations are considered crucial and should be carried out continuously to ensure that Thailand achieves its goal of eliminating lymphatic filariasis by 2027.



### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

The village health volunteers should coordinate with public health officials and local administrative organizations to educate residents on basic knowledge about lymphatic filariasis, including the causes, transmission, and initial symptoms of the disease, as well as preventive measures against this mosquito-borne illness. Such measures include avoiding mosquito bites by sleeping under a mosquito net or in a screened room, applying mosquito repellent, and eliminating mosquito breeding sites such as stagnant water around trash piles near residential areas. Additionally, clearing weeds and aquatic plants in water bodies is recommended, as these are habitats for mosquito larvae. Environmental improvements around residential areas should also be made to ensure cleanliness and good ventilation.

Public health officials should conduct initial screenings for potential patients, especially in areas with a large population of migrant workers, to quickly identify early-stage patients. If a patient is found, treatment should be provided immediately to prevent further disease transmission. People living in lymphatic filariasis-endemic areas may request preventive medication by contacting the nearest healthcare facility under the Ministry of Public Health.

### INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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