

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

April 28 - May 4, 2022

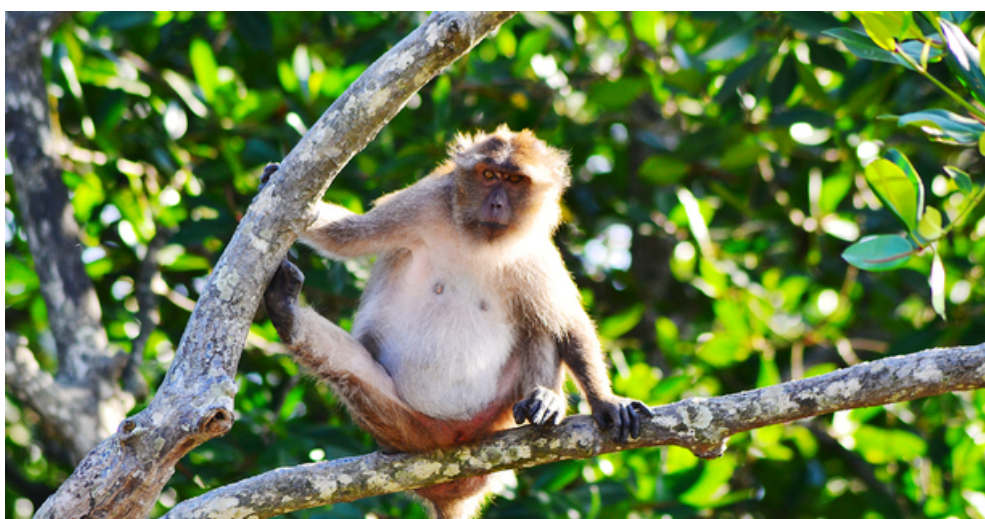
WEEKLY EVENTS

- On April 27, 2022, Malaysia announced that wearing masks outdoors is optional, effective May 1. Cambodia canceled wearing masks outdoors, effective immediately. Cambodia has urged everyone to go get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as the number of people who received a booster dose is still low. Currently, booster doses of vaccinations in Cambodia are voluntary, but people are recommended to convey their "ethical duty" to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- On April 29, 2022 the Tuberculosis Division, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, and representatives from the civil society agreed to coordinate and monitor TB operations in migrant populations and continue active case finding and treatment of tuberculosis and latent tuberculosis in the country.
- On May 1, 2022, Thailand eased restrictions on entering the country as travelers entered the country with the required ATK test at Khlong Luek border checkpoint, Aranyaprathet District, Sa Kaeo Province, the largest permanent border crossing point in the eastern region. This border crossing is a common route for those who come to trade locally, do business in Sa Kaeo and nearby provinces, as well as those who want to travel in Cambodia.

WARNING MALARIA **PLASMODIUM KNOWLESI** INCREASING: TRANSMISSION FROM MONKEY TO HUMANS THROUGH MOSQUITO VECTOR

On May 2, 2022, the Department of Disease Control warned the public to beware of *Plasmodium knowlesi*, a parasite that causes malaria, which is transmitted from monkeys to humans.

Transmission occurs when the *Anopheles* mosquito bites infected monkeys, then proceeds to bite people. Data from October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, showed that more than 70 malaria cases from this parasite species have been found. In previous years, an average of about 10 cases of malaria (from *P. knowlesi*) occurred per year. Malaria is still a public health problem in the country especially in border provinces where there are dense forests with sources of water, which are the breeding grounds of *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Data from the Division of Epidemiology, showed that from January 1 - April 24, 2022, there were a total of 233 malaria cases, of which 60.9% were among Thai nationals and 39.1% were Burmese. The provinces with the highest numbers of cases were Tak, Ranong, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Yala and Mae Hong Son respectively.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Officials should coordinate between the migrant health volunteers and local public health officials to publicize and educate residents about malaria, especially those who live in forested areas, who farm on the edge of the forested areas, those who seek stuff in the forest, those involved in raising monkeys or who live near places inhabited by monkeys. The best way to protect yourself is to prevent bites of *Anopheles* mosquitoes. This type of mosquito commonly bites at dusk, late at night and early in the morning. People should wear clothes that cover the body completely. Choosing light-colored pajamas may reduce the risk of mosquito bites, and people should apply mosquito repellent, and sleep in a mosquito net. Insecticide-treated mosquito nets will increase the effectiveness of protection. People should observe their health, and if they have a high fever, headache, chills, and profuse sweating, they should see a doctor immediately for a malaria blood test. They should inform the health care worker of their risk history in forests. If they seek out treatment late, there may be serious complications including death.

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INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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COVID-19 SITUATION AND INFORMATION IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

As of May 4, 2022

COVID-19 Information by country	Cambodia	Lao PDR	Malaysia	Myanmar	Thailand
Number of confirmed cases (people) • New Cases (daily) • Cumulative	1 136,258	263 208,111	922 4,451,781	- 612,924	9,288 4,290,824
Daily cases per 100,000 population (7-day average)	0.02	3.63	6.24	0.04	17.82
Test positivity (%) (In the past 14 days)	1.9	100	9.2	0.3	49
Recovered cases • New (daily) • Cumulative	12 133,156	146 205,315	5,520 4,384,384	- 591,879	19,119 4,153,310
Fatalities • New (daily) • Cumulative	- 3,056	- 746	9 35,564	- 19,434	82 28,860
Percent of the population fully vaccinated	≥ 90	71.4	82	44	74.3
Percent of the high-risk population fully vaccinated	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90	≥ 90

Sources

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