

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

July 21 - 27, 2022

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- On July 25, 2022, the Department of Disease Control upgraded the Emergency Operations Center situation on monkeypox from the department to the ministry level. They emphasized risk communication to cover the entire population to monitor and screen symptoms and to boost confidence among the people. Monkeypox has not yet been elevated to the classification of a dangerous communicable disease under the Communicable Disease Act of 2015, because it is not yet defined as symptomatic, severe, and rapidly transmissible disease.
- On July 22, 2022, Mae Hong Son Province led a campaign to deal with the spread of dengue fever. The cumulative number of patients has reached 3,146 cases, with 54 more cases and one death this week. A major factor of the increase is due to the increased rain and flooding in the area. This has led to increased breeding grounds for mosquitoes. It is important that each district, especially those in border areas can work to limit the spread of mosquitoes and targeting mosquito breeding sites to prevent the spread of dengue fever.
- On July 21, 2022, Ubon Ratchathani Province opened the point of entry at Nam Yuen District for the first time after being closed for two years due to COVID-19. The area is adjacent to Chom Krasan District, Cambodia. More than 1,800 Cambodians and more than 200 Thais have crossed this point to begin the economic resurgence.

## MALARIA IN MIGRANT WORKERS

On July 19, 2022, the Department of Disease Control reported three new malaria patients, all males of Myanmar nationality. One was identified at the point of entry in Mae Sot district, Tak province and had worked in a construction camp in Pathum Thani. The other two worked at a construction camp in Nonthaburi. Previously, they traveled from Myanmar and lived in Samut Sakhon province before working in Nonthaburi.

According to data from the Division of Epidemiology (from January 1 to July 17, 2022), there were 1,067 cases of malaria, of which 68.2% were Thai nationals and 30.2% were Myanmar nationals. The provinces with the most cases were Tak, Ranong, Mae Hong Son, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Kanchanaburi, all of which have borders with Myanmar. The Ministry of Public Health set a goal for Thailand to be certified as a malaria-free zone by the World Health Organization by 2026.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Officials should jointly coordinate with local public health departments and organizations to educate residents about the cause of malaria, initial symptoms, and preventive actions to protect the community from malaria, especially those who live in forested areas and migrant workers. The relevant authorities should focus on rigorous testing for malaria among these priority populations. If detected, people should promptly seek out treatment and patients should be closely monitored until a complete recovery. Movement of infected patients should be monitored to prevent further transmission to mosquitoes in other areas.

## INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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## Sources

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