

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

August 18 - 24, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On August 17, 2022, Siamrath Publishing House reported that the Ranong Immigration Police, the Thai-Myanmar Maritime Border Fisheries Coordination Center, and related officials deported 170 Myanmar detainees back to Kawthaung Province, Myanmar. With coordination with Myanmar authorities, all of the detainees received COVID-19 vaccines before being sent back.
- On August 19, 2022, Hfocus news agency reported that the Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration and the Ministry of Public Health have allowed service units and pharmacies outside of the MOPH to be able to buy and dispense antiviral drugs for COVID-19 starting October 1, 2022.
- On August 23, 2022 the Matchon Online News Agency reported that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) disclosed the results of the analysis of frozen giant squid tentacles performed by the Department of Medical Sciences. It was found that the squid tentacles produced by NINGDE ZHENGYANG FOODS CO., LTD., People's Republic of China, and imported by Wor. Prakaiporn Seafood Trading Co., Ltd. contained 5.27 mg/kg of cadmium in excess of the acceptable standards. Such products are unsafe for consumption and the FDA is authorized to take legal action against offenders.

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF TAPEWORM DISEASE

Recent social media trends have promoted the eating of popular dishes containing raw beef, buffalo, and pork. Raw meat is consumed with dipping sauces like "jim jaew" and is prepared in dishes such as "soi chut", "raw larb/koi", "soi lang", raw "naem" (Northeastern food), and "sa jin som" (Northern food). People claim these are part of the heritage passed on from generation to generation and have now become part of a delicious world-class, eating culture. There is also news that Chinese women who want to lose weight, order cow tapeworm eggs online in capsule form for personal consumption. There is no evidence to confirm that this practice works and it can be harmful.

The Department of Health and the Department of Disease Control have alerted the public on the dangers of consuming undercooked beef, buffalo, and pork. They can lead to intestinal tapeworm disease, which initially causes nausea, fatigue, weakness, loss of appetite, weight loss, and diarrhea. If untreated for a long time, someone may experience malnutrition as the parasite sucks food from the intestinal wall. Parasites can also cause intestinal obstruction or peritonitis. If tapeworm larvae enter the muscles, muscle pain can occur. A parasite intruding into other organs, such as eyes or brain, it can lead to blindness or brain symptoms such as headache, seizures, paralysis and death if not treated properly in time.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Health workers should notify the community about the dangers of tapeworm disease by providing knowledge about the disease, symptoms and methods to avoid risks. They should focus on proper personal hygiene among children. People should adhere to the principle of eating "cooked, hot, clean" food and should buy meat that has been inspected and approved for consumption. Fresh vegetables and fruits should be washed thoroughly before eating as they can be contaminated with helminth eggs. Washing your hands before cooking or eating is another way to reduce the risk of disease.

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

Supported by the Thailand MOPH - US CDC Collaboration on Public Health

CONTACT

oitddc@gmail.com

02-5903832

www.ddc.go.th/oic

Sources

- https://ddc.moph.go.th/brc/news.php?news=27338&deptcode=brc&news_views=84
- <https://www.komchadluek.net/hot-social/Social/525751>
- <https://multimedia.anamai.moph.go.th/news/110865/>
- <https://www.tropmedhospital.com/knowledge/tapeworm.html>
- <https://siamrath.co.th/n/374541>
- https://www.matichon.co.th/local/quality-life/news_3522186
- <https://www.hfocus.org/content/2022/08/25778>
- Images courtesy of: FB [คุณเฒ่าแพะดำ](#) and <https://news.mthai.com/general-news/781717.html>