

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

September 8 - 14, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- From September 5-9, 2022, the Deputy Minister of Public Health attended the 75th Session of the WHO Regional committee for South-East Asia in Paro, Bhutan. The meeting focused on improving the comprehensive health system to "Build back better" after the COVID-19 outbreak and included participants from member countries and non-government agencies. The meeting emphasized safety and better health in the future, adjusting health systems, primary health systems and preparing for future public health emergencies and epidemics.
- On September 9, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clarified reports on Cambodia's temporary ban on baby powder imports from Thailand due to suspected asbestos contamination. At the end of August, the FDA collected baby powder samples to test for possible asbestos contamination. The results from the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) revealed that all 15 samples were not contaminated, contradicting the information from Cambodia. More samples were sent to Australia for further analysis. The results confirmed that there was no contamination with asbestos in all samples. Therefore, the ban on baby powder imports from Thailand was withdrawn.

BE PREPARED FOR DISEASES AND DISASTERS ASSOCIATED WITH FLOODING

Many countries are currently experiencing flooding, a natural disaster that creates rather serious problems. In addition to the loss of life and physical damage to assets of great value, consequences of flooding that require close monitoring are the subsequent diseases and health hazards related to water or soil. The Department of Disease Control has published information about diseases and health hazards that people in Thailand must be careful of during the 2022 flooding conditions.

The DDC warns of three disease groups: 1) respiratory diseases (e.g., influenza and pneumonia), 2) food and water-borne communicable diseases (e.g., food poisoning and diarrheal diseases), and 3) diseases that often occur after flooding (e.g., leptospirosis, melioidosis, conjunctivitis and dengue fever). The Department of Medical Services has warned about skin diseases that are common during the rainy season such as fungal infections causing athlete's foot and ringworm, allergic dermatitis, and insect bites. Aside from diseases, other hazards caused by floods include increased risk of drowning, slipping, electric shock, and increased contact with dangerous animals such as snakes, centipedes, and scorpions. Prevention and preparation is important and adequate housing will help cope with these natural disasters.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public Health Officers should coordinate with local organizations to educate residents about staying safe from diseases and health hazards that are related to flooding. People should eat cooked food and refrain from littering or excreting waste into flooded water. If flood water splashes into the eyes, people should use clean water to wash their eyes immediately. If it is necessary to wade in the flood water, boots should be worn every time. Children should be closely supervised if they swim in the water to prevent accidents or drowning. Always inspect the environment around the house, especially power cords and habitats of potentially dangerous animals.

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
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Sources

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