

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

December 1 - 7, 2022

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On December 5, 2022, The Lao Times reported that sexually transmitted diseases in the Lao People's Democratic Republic have increased. According to a survey of more than 70,000 people conducted by the Ministry of Health and a report from the Centre for HIV/AIDS and STI from January-June 2022, it was reported that there were 17,000 HIV infections, 6,357 people living with AIDS, and that 5,156 people died from sexually transmitted diseases. They reported that 66% of infected cases were males while 34% were females. Most of the infected people were between 15-34 years old. The majority of infections occurred through unsafe sexual contact or mother-to-child transmission.
- On December 9, 2022, the Department of Disease Control attended the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Network (MBDS) Country Coordinator meeting. The meeting included the summary of 2022 activities, knowledge exchange between countries, a discussion to cooperate on future disease surveillance, and the handover of the chairmanship from Thailand to Vietnam.

COOPERATION FROM ALL HOUSEHOLDS TO PREVENT RABIES

Thailand is leading a campaign to raise public awareness of the dangers of rabies. The campaign was first organized in 2007 on World Rabies Day (September 28) and has been held annually up to the present day. Despite cooperation among many sectors, rabies deaths in humans are still reported. Data from the Division of Epidemiology (Department of Disease Control) disease surveillance system showed that three humans died from rabies per year in 2020 and 2021. In 2022 so far, there have also been three rabies deaths. In the most recent epidemic report from the Department of Disease Control (Nov. 28 – Dec. 4, 2022), one rabies death was reported in Samut Prakan Province.

There is no cure for rabies once symptoms are present. Therefore, protection against rabies is essential. Rabies prevention requires the cooperation from all households to bring their pets (dogs, cats, and other animals) to receive the rabies vaccination. The vaccine course begins with one dose when the pet is 2-4 months old, then a booster dose one month after the first dose. Additional rabies vaccinations should be administered once per year thereafter to reduce the risk of becoming infected.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officers, district livestock officers, and migrant health volunteers should work together to publicize to the community about the dangers of rabies and prevention methods. They should highlight the recommendation to take their pets such as dogs and cats to receive rabies vaccinations every year. If people in the community are bitten or scratched by a dog, cat, or animal with unknown rabies vaccination history, they should wash the wound with clean water and go to the nearest medical facility immediately to receive their rabies vaccination from a medical professional.

INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY

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

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