

REPORT DISEASE AND HEALTH HAZARD NEWS OF INTEREST ALONG THE BORDER

March 9 - 15, 2023

WEEKLY EVENTS

- On March 8th, 2023, the Livestock Department in Wiang Kaen District, Chiang Rai Province carried out surveillance for avian influenza in bird flocks along the border area and at the Jampang Market, Laoyang District. Swab oropharynx and nasal samples were collected from birds for examination. Guidance was provided for the sale of birds, as well as checking documents, monitoring the movement of birds in the area, and strengthening coordination with operators.
- On March 10th, 2023, The Lao Times reported on the progress of the campaign to eradicate malaria in the Lao People's Democratic Republic over the 25-year period from 1997 to 2022. The number of cases has decreased significantly and currently, cases are found in only 10% of the country's health care facilities. The village level malaria control officers have provided outreach in various forms in the past, such as providing knowledge, continuous community infection detection, immediate treatment when a patient is found, and supporting essential goods and medicines to remote groups. Currently, there is a digital system for data collection and reporting created specifically for the use of mobile phones. This data is imported into the national malaria surveillance system and health data system, which is a vital step to eradicate malaria.

MALARIA SITUATION IN THAILAND

Data from the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand reflected the malaria situation between January 1st to March 10th, 2023. There were 1,648 reported cases, an increase of 2.9 times compared to the same period in 2022 when there were 573 reported cases. The age groups that were most affected by malaria were 15-24 years old, followed by 25-44 years old, and 5-14 years old, accounting for 27.5%, 26.8%, and 23.5% respectively. The occupation with the highest number of cases was farmers/agriculture, and the most common type of malaria found was *Plasmodium vivax*, accounting for 90% of cases. The province with the highest number of cases was Tak, followed by Mae Hong Son and Kanchanaburi. The latest reported case was a 9-year-old female who had traveled to stay in the risk area of Srisawat District, Kanchanaburi Province from October to November 2022. Although the number of cases of malaria is decreasing, there is still a risk of outbreaks if infected individuals are not quickly identified and treated. Therefore, blood tests in communities to detect early cases and rapid and continuous treatment plans are crucial to prevent malaria outbreaks. Infected individuals should be promptly and continuously treated until they fully recover. This is an important way to achieve the goal set by the Ministry of Public Health to eliminate dengue fever from Thailand by 2024.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

Public health officials should coordinate with local agencies to share malaria information to the community, especially people at risk such as farmers, laborers who work in forest areas, migrants, people who frequently cross borders, and school children. They should have basic knowledge about malaria and how to protect themselves. Patients in the community should receive continuous treatment until they fully recover. If residents experience abnormal symptoms associated with malaria, they should see a doctor for an accurate diagnosis and immediate treatment. There should be an emphasis on the importance of treating malaria until it is completely cured, and medication should be taken continuously according to treatment standards.

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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- <https://laotiantimes.com/2023/03/10/eliminating-malaria-in-laos-462000-to-2300-cases-in-25-years/>
- Data courtesy of: Malaria Report from the 24th Meeting of SMEs on March 13, 2023 at the Epidemiology and Emergency Response Section, Vector-Borne Division, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health
- Information courtesy of: Press Release from the Office of the Veterinary Public Health, Wiang Kaen District, Chiang Rai Province.
- Image courtesy of: http://odpc2.ddc.moph.go.th/odpc2/?attachment_id=3312