



# ASEAN BIOLOGICAL THREATS SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

## DISEASE ALERT



May 2, 2025 | Issue No. 28

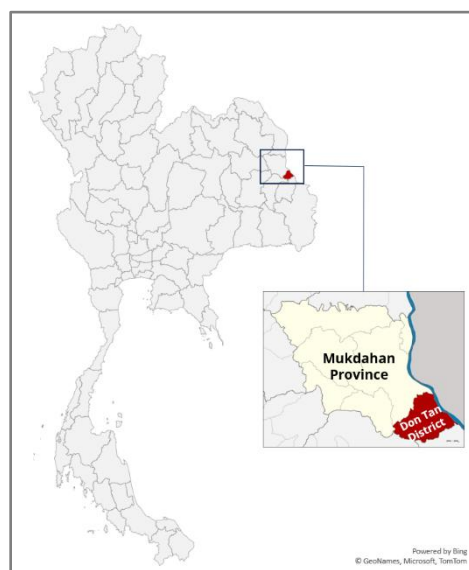
First alert: May 2, 2025 | **Anthrax in Thailand**

### Sub-Locations Affected

**Mukdahan Province** (Don Tan District), Thailand

### Event Description

On May 1, 2025, Thailand's Department of Disease Control (DDC) confirmed an anthrax-related death in the province of Mukdahan, which was linked to the consumption and distribution of beef during a religious festival.



Map of location affected

### Epidemiological Information

- On May 1, 2025, Thailand's DCC announced an anthrax-related death in Mukdahan Province. The victim was a 53-year-old male construction worker with underlying diabetes from Lao Mee Subdistrict in Don Tan District.
- On April 24, 2025, the patient developed a fever and skin lesions in his right hand and was initially treated at Don Tan Hospital.
- On April 27, 2025, the patient was transferred to Mukdahan Hospital due to severe symptoms, including blackened wounds, swollen lymph nodes under his right armpit, fainting, and seizures. The doctors suspected anthrax and clinical samples were sent to the Department of Medical Sciences and the Bamrasnaradura Institute. Laboratory analysis confirmed the presence of *Bacillus anthracis*.

- The man passed away on April 30, 2025, from severe symptoms. Following his death, Don Tan District declared an anthrax surveillance zone. Rescue workers from the Lao Mee Subdistrict handled the cremation. Initial investigations suggest exposure occurred after the patient consumed undercooked meat from a cow slaughtered for a religious ceremony and distributed in the village.
- According to data from the Epidemiology Division, Thailand previously recorded 15 cases of anthrax in 2000, with no reported deaths (14 in Phichit and 1 in Phitsanulok). In 2017, two patients were identified in Mae Sot District, Tak Province.

## Response Measures

- The DDC, the Department of Livestock Development, and local authorities promptly investigated and implemented containment measures to address the situation.
- Don Tan District authorities have notified all relevant local stakeholders to implement disease control protocols and to closely monitor the situation to prevent further transmission.
- Disease control centers with anthrax testing were established at Don Tan Hospital, the District Public Health Office, and the Lao Mee Subdistrict Health Promoting Hospital. Village heads were instructed to disseminate information on anthrax symptoms and direct suspected cases to these centers.
- The Disease Control Investigation and Control Operations Team, along with the Office of Disease Prevention and Control 10 in Ubon Ratchathani Province and the Provincial Public Health Office currently identified 247 individuals at risk (28 participated the slaughtering process and 219 consumed raw meat). High-risk contacts have been given antibiotics, and disease control measures are ongoing.
- The Director-General of the DDC advised public to: 1) avoid contact with cows, buffalo, goats, and sheep, 2) wash hands and cleanse body after contact with animals, 3) choose to consume meat that has been certified as food safe, 4) immediately notify the livestock official when finding an animal that is sick or has died abnormally, and 5) see a doctor immediately when perceiving any symptoms. More information can be accessed through the DDC hotline at 1422.
- A three-week cattle slaughter ban was enforced during the Boon Bung Fai festival.

- Livestock surveillance measures were enhanced through active monitoring of cattle, buffalo, and goats for signs of infection, alongside the establishment of checkpoints to restrict animal movement in and out of the district. Furthermore, a mass vaccination campaign targeting cattle and goats was initiated across the district.

#### Sources:

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2. The Nation Thailand. (2025, May 1). *Thai district in Mukdahan declared anthrax surveillance zone after one death confirmed*. Retrieved May 1, 2025, from <https://www.nationthailand.com/news/general/40049453>
3. Thai PBS World. (2025, April 30). *Anthrax alert in Don Tan district of Mukdahan*. Retrieved May 1, 2025, from <https://world.thaipbs.or.th/detail/anthrax-alert-in-don-tarn-district-of-mukdahan/57378>
4. The Nation Thailand. (2025, April 30). *Mukdahan cattle deaths linked to anthrax; health officials step up surveillance*. Retrieved May 1, 2025, from <https://www.nationthailand.com/news/general/40049440>
5. The Star. (2025, May 1). *Thai district in Mukdahan declared anthrax surveillance zone after one death confirmed*. Retrieved May 1, 2025, from <https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2025/05/01/thai-district-in-mukdahan-declared-anthrax-surveillance-zone-after-one-death-confirmed>