



ASEAN BIOLOGICAL THREATS SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

DISEASE ALERT



October 15, 2025 | Issue No. 55

First alert: October 15, 2025 | Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (SFTS) in Thailand

Sub-Locations Affected

Phetchabun Province (Wang Pong District)

Event Description

On October 8, 2025, as reported in the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin, Thailand reported two laboratory-confirmed cases of severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS) in Wang Pong District, Phetchabun Province. This followed the alert issued by the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand on July 15, 2025.

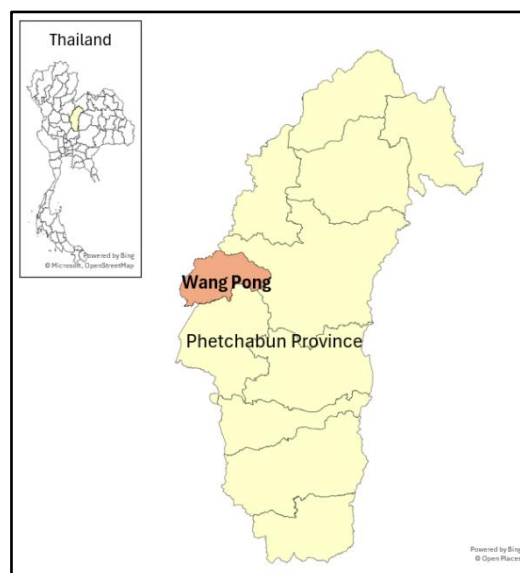


Figure 1. Map of location affected

Epidemiological Information

- On September 29, 2025, Thailand's International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point notified the WHO of two fatal human cases of SFTS in Wang Pong District, Phetchabun Province. The cases occurred in June 2025 and involved two male residents from the same neighbourhood who had close contact with domestic dogs.
- On July 15, 2025, the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, disseminated a public statement regarding the disease, emphasizing that SFTS had occurred in the country in 2019 and most recently in 2025.

- The first case involved an elderly man in his 80s who developed a fever on June 9, 2025, and died on June 20, 2025. The patient had a history of frequent tick exposure, attributable to his pet dogs. The presence of the SFTS virus (SFTSV) was confirmed through RT-PCR testing.
- The second case was a male neighbour in his 50s who developed fever and respiratory distress on June 23, 2025, and subsequently died in the hospital. Diagnosis was confirmed through IgM, IgG, and RT-PCR testing.
- The two recent cases represent the first fatal cluster in Thailand. Additionally, dog ticks were also found around the house. Environmental analysis revealed SFTS virus infection in 16 dog tick samples (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*), of which three ticks were found from the house of the first case and 13 from the dog of the second case.
- In 2019, the first case of SFTS was confirmed in Nakhon Pathom Province. The patient had been exposed to ticks and owned dogs and cats. A study of RNA samples from 712 patients in Bangkok and nearby areas who received treatment from 2018 to 2021 identified three additional cases: two from Bangkok (in 2019 and 2020) and one from Chachoengsao Province (in 2020).

Response Measures

- From 2021 to 2022, a study on the seroprevalence rate of SFTSV in dogs was implemented, detecting antibodies in 106 dogs from the provinces of Chonburi, Rayong, Samut Prakan, Chachoengsao, and Bangkok. This represents 23% of all dogs surveyed. In addition, in one dog, genetic material of SFTSV was detected by RT-PCR, which revealed a close relationship with the J3 strain found in China
- Authorities had promptly initiated active surveillance and entomological investigations in the affected area with contact tracing, environmental tick control, and community risk communication implemented.
- The Ministry of Public Health, under the public statement issued on September 15, 2025, urged the public, travelers, and healthcare Personnel to strictly adhere to infection prevention measures:
 - **For public:** Avoid tick bites, by regularly cleaning the environment around the house to eliminate tick breeding sources, wearing protective clothing, using tick repellent with at least 20% DEET, and avoiding wooded and bushy areas.

- **For pet owners:** Regularly observe animals for symptoms (fever, lethargy, vomiting, etc.) and seek veterinary care if abnormal, use veterinarian-recommended tick control products, and immediately remove ticks found on animals or around the house using gloves or tweezers.
- **For Travelers:** Check the disease situation in the destination area and prepare insect repellent with at least 20% DEET, avoid wooded/bushy areas and close contact with reservoir animals, and seek medical attention and self-isolation if symptoms occur. If abnormal symptoms occur (fever, bleeding, etc.), seek immediate medical care and report travel history.
- **For healthcare personnel:** Strictly adhere to infection prevention measures and use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when handling patient blood and bodily fluids. Consider SFTS in the differential diagnosis for patients with fever and thrombocytopenia who test negative for Dengue and Chikungunya. Report all suspected or confirmed SFTS cases in the Event-based Surveillance system for laboratory confirmation and control measures.

Sources:

1. BlueDot (Event Alert), Issued on October 14, 2025
2. Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. (2025, July 15). โรคติดเชื้อ Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (SFTS) ข้อมูล ณ วันที่ 15 กรกฎาคม 2568. Retrieved October 15, 2025, from https://ddc.moph.go.th/uploads/ckeditor2/files/DOE_alert_SFTS_15.072568_final.pdf
3. WHO. (2025, October 8). *WHO South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin*. Retrieved October 15, 2025, from <https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/f87a823e-4e66-4241-b55f-89fa95fd7a40/content>

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