



Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance
MBDS

Build Trust...
Through Transparency...
Collaborate to End Pandemics!

eNEWSLETTER: No.77



Dear MBDS Colleagues,

The MBDS (Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance) cooperation is a self-organized regional network commenced since 2001. It is a collaboration effort among six Mekong Basin countries: Cambodia, China, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam . Under the 6 Mekong Countries Health Ministerial MOU, it aims to strengthen national and regional capabilities in infectious disease surveillance, inter-regional collaboration, outbreak response and information sharing for rapidly and effectively control Public Health Threat.

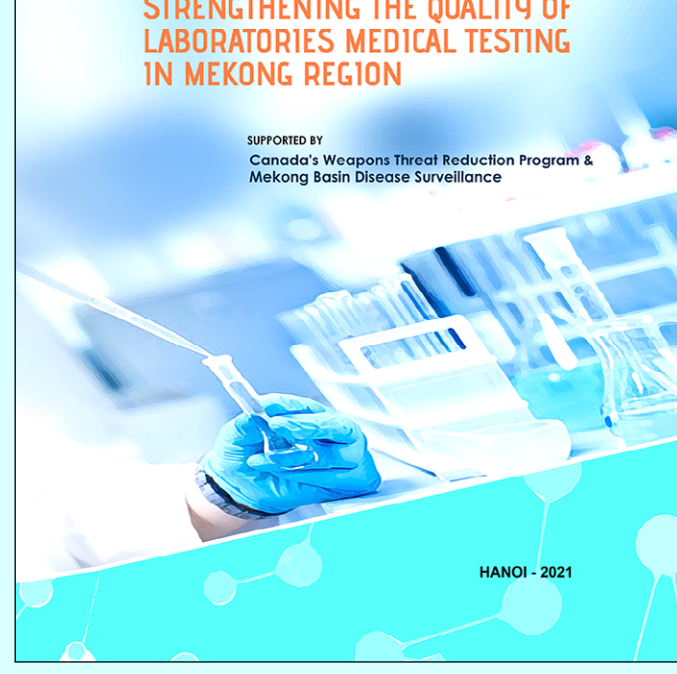
MBDS Regional Activities

The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health, Vietnam has developed ***“The Need of EQA Service and Strengthening the Quality of Laboratories Medical Testing in Mekong Region”*** survey report supported by Canada’s Weapons Threat Reduction Program.

This document covers laboratory related testing capacity, physical facilities, equipment, human resources, and epidemic response from Mekong countries.

The resources can be used as references for laboratory external quality assurance and advocacy especially for developing countries. The document is available to download at [MBDS website](#).

Credit to the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health, Vietnam

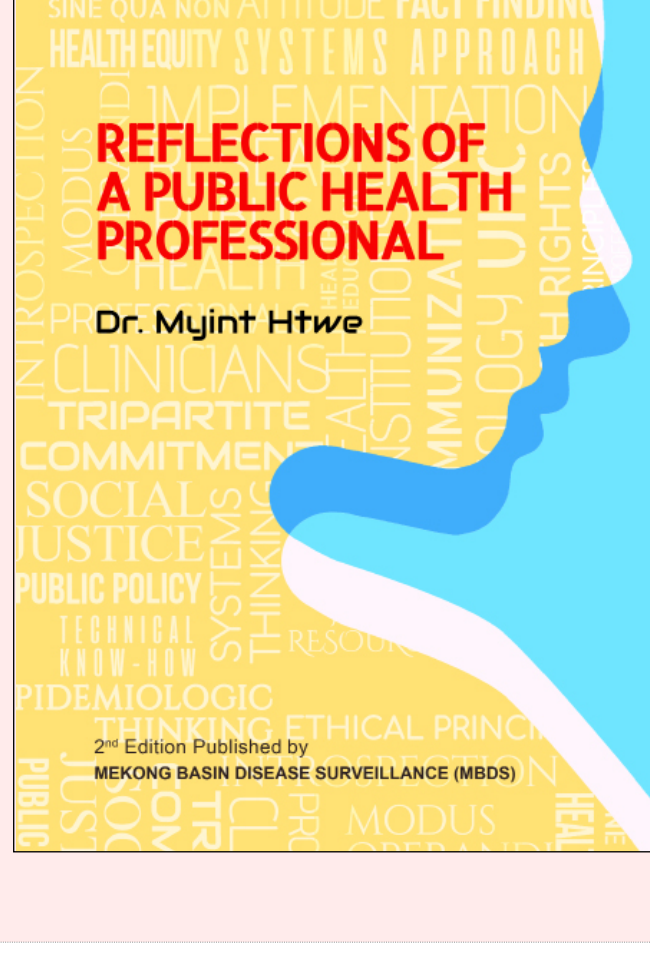


The MBDS (Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance) cooperation is a self-organized regional network commenced since 2001. This year, MBDS celebrates 20th years of its existence in public health arena.

MBDS plans to publish ***“Reflections of A Public Health Professional”*** to commemorate the 20th years of MBDS. The document is intended to strengthen public health development, coordination mechanism, research institutions capacity and development of evidence-based interventions.

It encompasses the public health related articles developed by H.E Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Ministry of Health and Sports (2016-2021), who has vast experience in various public health areas at the national and international levels.

Credit to H.E Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Ministry of Health and Sports



In October 2021, MBDS has become a member of Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA). It is an entity with more than 70 Member States, international organizations and non-government organizations, and private sector companies coming together to achieve the vision of a world safe and secure from global health threats posed by infectious diseases. The partnership against global health threats is crucial to address priorities and gaps in efforts to build and improve prevention, early detection, and effective response to PH threats. MBDS has committed to provide technical support and collective contributions in GHSA activities, to enhance regional partnership and information sharing to support the GHSA priority areas, and to engage the development partners in the planning, implementation, advocacy, and communication processes in line with GHSA activities.



Global Health Security Agenda

GOVERNMENTS’ PLANS TO REOPEN THE COUNTRIES

Cambodia: The country has now vaccinated 85.68 % (around 16 million) of the total population. With an average daily COVID-19 cases of less than 200 (as confirmed by PCR tests), the Royal Government of Cambodia has announced that the country is reopening fully across all sectors from 1 November 2021. The Cambodian Tourism Ministry informed that foreign travellers will require certificates of double-vaccination, health insurance covering treatment for COVID-19, valid PCR test, and follow the health quarantine procedures. The quarantine information are as follows:

- **For fully vaccinated travelers**
 - International travelers as investors, technical advisors, company staffs and family who are guaranteed or invited (3-day quarantine)
 - General travelers as Cambodians or international travelers (7-day quarantine)
- **For all travelers with no COVID-19 vaccination or not fully vaccinated (14-day quarantine)**

For additional information, please refer to the documents on Standard Operating Procedures for health quarantine of international travelers who are fully vaccinated through the [Facebook page](#) of the Ministry of Health

Prepared by Mr. Sok Samnang, MBDS Country Coordinator, Cambodia
Source: [The Phnom Penh Post](#)

Thailand: From 1 November, 2021, Thailand is welcoming fully vaccinated visitors from 63 countries and they will be exempted from quarantine or area restrictions. There are three specially-designed schemes for entering Thailand: TEST & GO Exemption from Quarantine, Living in The “Blue Zone” (17 Sandbox Destinations), and partially or unvaccinated visitors via the Happy Quarantine requirements. To be eligible for the reopening programme, international travellers, including returning Thais and foreign residents, who are above 18 years of age should get fully vaccinated for COVID-19 with a [vaccine approved](#) by Thailand’s Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) or the World Health Organisation (WHO) no less than 14 days before their travel date. Travellers who have recovered from COVID-19 should also get fully vaccinated. The following represents the latest information about Thailand reopening: : [Exemption from Quarantine \(TEST & GO\)](#), [Living in the Blue Zone \(17 Sandbox Destinations\)](#), and [Happy Quarantine Nationwide schemes](#).

List of Countries/Territories according to the Notification of the Operation Centre for Measures on the Entry into and Departure from the Kingdom, and Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad dated 30 October B.E. 2564 (2021)		
1. Australia	23. India	45. Poland
2. Austria	24. Indonesia	46. Portugal
3. Bahrain	25. Ireland	47. Qatar
4. Belgium	26. Israel	48. Romania
5. Bhutan	27. Italy	49. Saudi Arabia
6. Brunei Darussalam	28. Japan	50. Singapore
7. Bulgaria	29. Kuwait	51. Slovak Republic
8. Cambodia	30. Laos	52. Slovenia
9. Canada	31. Latvia	53. Sri Lanka
10. Chile	32. Lithuania	54. South Korea
11. China	33. Luxembourg	55. Spain
12. Croatia	34. Malaysia	56. Sweden
13. Cyprus	35. Maldives	57. Switzerland
14. Czech Republic	36. Malta	58. United Arab Emirates
15. Denmark	37. Mongolia	59. United Kingdom
16. Estonia	38. Myanmar	60. United States
17. Finland	39. Nepal	61. Vietnam
18. France	40. Netherlands	62. Hong Kong
19. Germany	41. New Zealand	63. Taiwan
20. Greece	42. Norway	
21. Hungary	43. Oman	
22. Iceland	44. Philippines	

Operation Centre for Measures on the Entry into and Departure from the Kingdom, and Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad
30 October 2021

Schemes for Entering Thailand (by Air Travel) Effective 1 November 2021			
	Exemption from Quarantine Only Eligible Countries	Sandbox Programme *	Alternative Quarantine
Eligible Countries	Note: Must reside in the eligible countries for at least 21 consecutive days	All Countries	All Countries
Quarantine	No quarantine Note: Must wait for RT-PCR test result at the hotel for 4 night or until receive negative result	Travel restricted in Sandbox Area for 7 days Note: Must wait for RT-PCR test result at the designated hotel before travelling	Quarantine at the AQ hotel for 10 days
Vaccination	Fully vaccinated (at least 14 days prior to travelling)	Fully vaccinated (at least 14 days prior to travelling)	Not Required
Accommodation Requirements	1 Night Reservation at SHA+ or AQ Hotel Note: Payment Confirmation required	7 Nights Reservation at SHA+ Hotel in Sandbox Area Note: Payment Confirmation required	10 Nights Reservation at an AQ hotel Note: Payment Confirmation required
Medical Insurance	Medical insurance with minimum coverage of USD50,000 (Not required for Thai nationals)	Medical insurance with minimum coverage of USD50,000	Medical insurance with minimum coverage of USD50,000
COVID-19 test result before Departure	Have a RT-PCR Covid-19 test result issued within 72 hours before travelling	Have a RT-PCR Covid-19 test result issued within 72 hours before travelling	Have a RT-PCR Covid-19 test result issued within 72 hours before travelling
COVID-19 tests in Thailand	One RT-PCR COVID-19 test on arrival date (Travelers are responsible for test fees which is included in hotel reservation)	Two RT-PCR COVID-19 tests On Arrival Date Day 6 or 7 of stay	Two RT-PCR COVID-19 tests On Arrival Date Day 8 or 9 of stay Note: Not required for Thai nationals

* Note: For Sandbox Programme, must arrive through the International Airports at Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Samui, U-Tapao, and Buriram (Chartered flights only)

Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Source: [Tourism Authority of Thailand](#)

Vietnam: In beginning of November 2021, Vietnam plans to allow fully vaccinated foreign tourists in a three-phase plan at specific locations Phu Quoc, Da Nang, Hoi An, Nha Trang, and others. The second phase would begin in January 2022 with temporarily locations added to the list. Full reopening of the country is expected to be in June or July 2022. Vietnam has temporarily recognized COVID-19 vaccine passport or certificates from 72 countries to allow people to enter from abroad. The country is currently in discussions with 80 countries and territories for mutual recognition for each others’ COVID-19 vaccine certification.

Vietnam has reduced the centralized quarantine period for fully vaccinated foreign arrivals to 7 days from 14 days. Arriving passengers must also test negative for the virus within 72 hours before arrival and would then be required to self-monitor for another 7 days after the quarantine period. In addition, those infected with COVID-19 and have certificates that they have recovered from the virus within six months would also have their quarantine period reduced.

Detailed information can be explored in Provisional Regulations “Safety, Flexibility, and Effective Control of Covid-19 Epidemic” ([Attached to Resolution No. 128/NQ-CP dated October 11, 2021 of the Government](#)) and Provisional Guidelines on Medical Specialties for Implementation of Resolution No. 128/NQ-CP Dated October 11, 2021 of the Government on Provisional Guidelines on “Safety, Flexibility, and Effective Control Of Covid-19” ([Attached to Decision No. 4800/QĐ-BYT dated October 12, 2021 of Ministry of Health](#)).

Prepared by Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Dang Vung, MBDS Foundation Board & Country Coordinator and Dr. Hoang Van Ngoc, MOH Vietnam

Source: [Vietnam News](#), [Vietnam Briefing](#).

20 October 2021: MBDS Foundation Secretariat discussed with Office of International Cooperation (OIC), Thailand Ministry of Public Health, One Health Unit from Thailand and France embassy for organizing webinar for “High-Level France/Thailand One Health Meeting”, which will be held on 17 November 2021. The objectives of this upcoming webinar is to promote the important of One Health initiative, strengthening One Health collaboration practices and engage multisectoral government leadership.

27 October 2021: The meeting was held between MBDS Foundation Secretariat and Ms. Deepali Khanna, Managing Director and Mr. Priyank Hirani, Regional Data & Technology Lead – Consultant, Asia Regional Office from the Rockefeller Foundation. MBDS Secretariat has shared the progress of project activities, challenges and lesson learned from “MBDS Regional Collaborative Platform Event Base Surveillance Real Time Reporting” and discussed on future collaboration, resources mobilization and knowledge sharing activities plan based on best practice from implementation of EBS Application.

27 – 29 October 2021: MBDS Foundation Secretariat has attended in the “Focus Group Discussions with G20 Health Working Group”, hosted by GHSA Indonesia Secretariat. The meeting has involved international and national resource persons to keep GHSA members abreast of various important issues related to Global Health preparedness and response, Health System Transformation and AMR and TB.

MBDS is regularly updating regional alerts related to public health events including COVID-19 situation, progress of vaccination, measures and information related with public awareness. These regional alerts are available in this [MBDS webpage](#).

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Recent Update

MBDS Secretariat Office has been updating National and Regional disease information on [MBDS website](#) and those updates can be easily accessed via [MBDS Facebook](#), [MBDS Instagram](#), and [MBDS Twitter](#).

Useful links

MBDS has been updating useful links (Disease Surveillance Networks, Health Related Links, Links for Disaster Management, Research Links, Global Conference Alerts and Others Links) on [MBDS website](#).

Sincerely yours,

MBDS Foundation Secretariat

