

U. S. CDC Thailand

Accessible Link: www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/thailand

For over 40 years, CDC has collaborated with public health institutions in Thailand to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; innovation and research; and policy, communications and diplomacy. Priority program areas address major public health challenges in the country, throughout Southeast Asia, and beyond.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Support sentinel surveillance and sequencing of viruses to monitor circulating influenza and respiratory pathogens



Laboratory

- Performed more than 10,000 COVID-19 diagnostic tests in support of Thai government partners, the International Rescue Committee, and the U.S. Embassy community from 2020–2023



Workforce & Institutions

- More than 1,100 public health workers have graduated from the Thai FETP since 1980



Prevention & Response

- Supported Thailand in receiving the World Health Organization (WHO) certification for elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis, becoming the first Asian country to receive this certification



Innovation & Research

- Researched a novel PrEP drug that demonstrated the injectable and long-acting drug is safe and effective, leading to U.S. FDA approval in 2021 and to Thailand FDA approval in 2023

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC supports Thailand in achieving the goals outlined in the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and implementing the International Health Regulations. Thailand is a member country of GHSA, a permanent member of the GHSA Steering Group. Thailand also served as the Chair of the GHSA Steering Group in 2021. CDC's global health security work focuses on strengthening the country's public health systems across the following core areas:

Surveillance systems

CDC funding helps support various surveillance system strengthening efforts in Thailand, including:

- Wastewater surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in quarantine settings
- Surveillance of COVID-19 in patients presenting with febrile illness and post COVID-19 conditions in two provinces
- Improving early warning and response for dengue infection
- Laboratory-based surveillance of antimicrobial resistant organisms in four Thai Regional Medical Science Centers
- Sentinel surveillance for influenza among those with severe acute respiratory infections and influenza-like illnesses

Laboratory systems strengthening

CDC funding aims to improve capabilities to detect, confirm, and identify pathogens of public health importance for global health security. This work includes training, surge capacity testing during public health emergencies, and research.

Workforce development

CDC supports training scientists through the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), established in Thailand in 1980. The program consists of three levels of training: frontline, intermediate, and advanced. CDC and the Thai FETP also established the FETP-Emerging Infectious Diseases track. Residents and graduates have played central roles in Thailand's successful response to numerous infectious disease outbreaks. They have also been integral to staffing Thailand's Public Health EOC. CDC also supports a newly established Southeast Asia Regional Global Laboratory Leadership Program to foster and mentor current and emerging leaders to build, strengthen, and sustain national laboratory systems.

Emergency response

CDC works to strengthen capacity of Thailand's emergency preparedness response operations. This work aims to improve emergency management in Thailand, and across neighboring Cambodia, Laos, and Malaysia. CDC supported activities include establishment of the Thai public health EOC and strengthening Thailand's emergency preparedness and response system both at the national and sub-national levels. CDC supports enhancing surge capacity of the Thai MOPH rapid response teams to support investigation and response to outbreaks.

HIV AND TB

Through the U.S. Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC partners with Thailand to build a robust national HIV response. The PEPFAR South and Southeast Region Program includes a diverse group of 5 countries: Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos, Nepal and Thailand. The PEPFAR regional coordination unit is based in Bangkok. This office provides advice in planning, budgeting, program implementation, results monitoring,

and reporting. CDC's work focuses on 14 Thai provinces with high HIV burden. Activities include efforts to:

- Strengthen disease surveillance systems, laboratory capacity, case-finding strategies, and safe delivery of medicine
- Promote pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) use and research new prevention and treatment strategies
- Implement programs to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- Promote continuous quality improvement along the HIV continuum of care

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

CDC provides technical assistance to support Thailand's national strategic plan to prevent, detect, and respond to AMR. CDC activities include:

- Assessing and building the capacity of health facilities in Bangkok to detect and respond to AMR
- Strengthening national and sub-national AMR laboratory networks
- Strengthening data quality and supporting expansion of WHO's supported Enhanced Gonorrhoea Antimicrobial Surveillance Programme

MIGRATION HEALTH

CDC's global migration health experts address public health threats before they cross international borders. CDC experts help prevent the spread of disease among international travelers, immigrants, refugees, and other mobile populations in Southeast Asia. CDC provides technical support to Thai MOPH and Lao MOH on disease surveillance, emergency response and disease prevention at border crossings. Activities include but are not limited to:

- Development of an electronic record system that confirms COVID-19 vaccination for international Thai travelers and influenza and meningococcal vaccination records for Hajj pilgrims.
- Support of disease detection and prevention at international points of entry in Laos and Thailand.
- Training and development of migrant health volunteer networks.

INFLUENZA

CDC supports Thailand to sustain robust influenza surveillance and develop effective seasonal influenza vaccination programs with full regulatory and delivery systems. These efforts increase local, regional, and global pandemic preparedness. CDC's primary objectives include:

- Providing epidemiologic and laboratory technical support for influenza detection, response, and prevention activities in Southeast Asia
- Growing the evidence-base to inform policy decisions for influenza prevention and control programs, including influenza vaccination

