



## PILOT JOINT WORKSHOP

3 - 4 AUGUST 2022

# Summary Report

“Enhancing local COVID-19 specimens’  
preparedness, packaging, and transportation.”

## SUMMARY

### Pilot Joint Workshop

**“Enhancing local COVID-19 specimens’ preparedness, packaging, and transportation.”  
during 3 - 4 August 2022 at Phetchaburi Provincial Public Health Office**

Regarding the umbrella of the Global Health Security Agenda Detect 1 Laboratory Systems and Detect 5 Workforce Development, Thailand, through the collaboration between the Department of Medical Sciences and the Ministry of Public Health, took the lead in establishing the Regional Public Health Laboratory Network [RPHL Network] to strengthen national capacity on prevention and control emerging infection disease by facilitating capacity building for laboratory workforce. The workshop tends to support and strengthen multisectoral collaboration to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other unforeseen pandemics.

To enhance the collaborative network between field epidemiologists and laboratory experts in local specimen shipment scope through best practices, lessons learned, and sharing experiences, the joint pilot workshop, named “Enhancing local COVID-19 specimens’ preparedness, packaging, and transportation”, is implemented to provide workforce staff of field epidemiologists, communicable disease control unit [CDCU], and laboratory experts in Thailand with practical knowledge on transport requirements as well as exchange knowledge and best practices for specimens’ preparedness, packaging, and transportation. In addition, the outcome of the pilot workshop will be utilized to develop an adjusted curriculum; further, develop an adjusted curriculum to be standard and effectively meet the needs based on the needs of trainees in both national and sub-national contexts.

The stated workshop was held on 3 and 4 August 2022. The workshop format is an onsite workshop, and the workshop curriculum is from the Department of Medical Sciences. The curriculum, named “Infectious substances packaging and transportation, consists of 3 main sections. The first section focuses on a review of infectious substance shipping regulations, the risk assessment process, decontamination, and the basics of triple packing, followed by the second section on Marking and labeling with a demonstration. The last section directs toward temperature requirements, receipt, tracking, and notification. Furthermore, the workshop is also contrived to include a session on sharing authentic practices from participants so that a mutual understanding of the significance of each role between field epidemiologists and laboratory experts could be achieved for the sustainable control of pandemics.

## Day 1: August 3, 2022

1. Chair: Dr. Kanchit Limpakarnjanarat, member of ASEAN Plus 3 FETN Steering Committee  
Facilitator: ASEAN Plus 3 FETN Coordinating Office

Participants: 37 valubles focal points of the National Institute of Health of Thailand, the Bureau of Epidemiology, Communicable Disease Control Unit: CDCU, Phetchaburi Provincial Public Health Office, Samut Songkhram Regional Medical Sciences Center, Ratchaburi Provincial Disease Control Epidemiological Section, district public health office, and Medical Center Hospital, Community Memorial Hospital, and Tambon Health Promoting Hospital.



The banner features three circular logos at the top: the Department of Medical Sciences, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Department of Disease Control. The central text reads 'PILOT JOINT WORKSHOP' in a blue box, followed by the Thai title 'การอบรมหลักสูตรนำร่อง' and the English title '“ENHANCING LOCAL COVID-19 SPECIMEN'S PREPAREDNESS, PACKAGING AND TRANSPORTATION”'. The dates '3-4 สิงหาคม 2565' are listed below. At the bottom, the location is given as 'ณ ห้องประชุมชั้น 3 อาคารกาญจนาภิเษก สำนักงานสาธารณสุขจังหวัดเพชรบุรี'. Illustrations of a syringe, a test tube, and a person wearing a mask are also present.

กระทรวงสาธารณสุข  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

กรมวิทยาศาสตร์การแพทย์  
Department of Medical Sciences

กระทรวงสาธารณสุข  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

กระทรวงสาธารณสุข  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

กรมควบคุมโรค  
DEPARTMENT OF DISEASE CONTROL

**PILOT JOINT WORKSHOP**

การอบรมหลักสูตรนำร่อง  
“ENHANCING LOCAL COVID-19 SPECIMEN'S  
PREPAREDNESS, PACKAGING AND  
TRANSPORTATION”

3-4 สิงหาคม 2565

ณ ห้องประชุมชั้น 3 อาคารกาญจนาภิเษก  
สำนักงานสาธารณสุขจังหวัดเพชรบุรี



### WELCOME REMARKS

2. The Day 1 Pilot Joint Workshop was chaired by Dr Kanchit Limpakarnjanarat, Senior Advisor of Coordinating Office, ASEAN Plus 3 FETN, Ministry of Public Health Thailand. He greeted a warm welcome to all participants. He outlined the rationale and objectives of the meeting, which were to provide knowledge, requirements, and lessons required for the COVID-19 specimen preparedness, packaging, and transportation to review and adjust the curriculum to be compatible with the implementation of the targeted contexts. The existing agreed joint activities between the Department of Medical Sciences and the Bureau of Epidemiology would further strengthen the workforce development in both surveillance and outbreak in Thailand since field epidemiologists and laboratory experts have played a significant role in the investigation and response to mitigate and respond to the spreading of the COVID-19 specimens, especially in the areas of handing and packaging COVID-19 specimens.



Welcome Remark from the Chair

"Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging, and transportation"  
3-4 August 2022 in Petchaburi Province







## PILOT JOINT WORKSHOP

Enhancing Local COVID-19 specimen's preparedness, packaging and transportation



Welcome Remark from Petchaburi Provincial health office

"Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging, and transportation"  
3-4 August 2022 in Petchaburi Province

### ROLL OF INTRODUCTION

3. Mr. Chair invited Dr Jintana Sriwongsa, GHSA Advisor, to ask all participants to introduce themselves briefly.



Greeting from the Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control

"Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging, and transportation"  
3-4 August 2022 in Petchaburi Province



Greeting from the National Institute of Health of Thailand, Department of Medical Sciences

"Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging, and transportation"  
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### ADOPTION OF MEETING OBJECTIVES AND THE AGENDA

4. Dr Jintana Sriwongsa outlined the meeting objectives and the agenda of Day 1 to inform all participants. All participants agreed with no objection to all objectives and the meeting agenda. See more detail in **Annex 1**. Next, Dr Jintana proceeded to the opening session of the agenda, which was the sharing practices of the participants.

### **Agenda Item 1: Shared practices, experiences, and challenges from volunteered participants in responding to COVID-19**

5. In this session, the objective was to ice break all the participants and lecturers and, most importantly, to share and exchange authentic practices when they performed all their tasks so that the lecturers could be utilised as the input for curriculum adjustment.



6. The first presentation slide was from Ratchaburi Provincial Disease Control Epidemiological Section. They presented the process of infectious substances collection by sharing pictures of their process. They also displayed their procedures in sample containment with primary, secondary, and outer boxes, followed by displaying the marking and labeling samples on the outer box. Moreover, the challenges and pain points of specimens' preparedness, packaging, and demonstration were raised to be further answered and clarified by the lecturers. See more details about the presentation in **Annex 2**. All participants actively participated and asked questions during the presentation



7. The following presentation from Samutsongkram Regional Medical Center gave the overview and details of their method and inquired questions during the presentation. See more detail in **Annex 3**. The presentations from Community Memorial Hospital were included in this presentation as the presentation intended to allow all the participants to share and be involved in the workshop instead of only listening to lectures from the lecturers. Consequently, the CDCU staff and laboratory experts at the provincial level could exchange their practices of COVID-19 specimens with patient specimens.



# PILOT JOINT WORKSHOP

Enhancing Local COVID-19 specimen's preparedness, packaging and transportation



ศูนย์วิทยาศาสตร์การแพทย์ที่ 5 สมุทรสงคราม



Slide template: Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging and transportation

ศูนย์วิทยาศาสตร์การแพทย์ที่ 5 สมุทรสงคราม



Slide template: Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging and transportation



"Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging, and transportation"  
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Lastly, more Laboratory experts' experiences were shared to provide authentic practices for the lecturers. See more detail in **Annex 4**

โรงพยาบาลแก่งกระจาน



Slide template: Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging and transportation

โรงพยาบาลบ้านลาด



Slide template: Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging and transportation

Laboratory workforce shared their experience when dealing with COVID-19



"Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging, and transportation"  
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Enhancing Local COVID-19 specimen's preparedness, packaging and transportation



วิธีการตรวจสอบและPack Specimen PCR-Covid-19 เพื่อส่งตรวจ  
ของงานเทคนิคการแพทย์ โรงพยาบาลเขาย้อย อำเภอเขาย้อย จังหวัดเพชรบุรี



ภาพตัวอย่างที่ 3 ต่อ ใส่ถุงชั้นที่ 3 ปิดแอลกอฮอล์ที่ถุง วางตั้งลงในกล่องใส่ ice pack ปิดกล่องและพัน  
รอบฝากล่องด้วย แอลกอฮอล์

วิธีการตรวจสอบและPack Specimen PCR-Covid-19 เพื่อส่งตรวจ  
ของงานเทคนิคการแพทย์ โรงพยาบาลเขาย้อย อำเภอเขาย้อย จังหวัดเพชรบุรี



ภาพตัวอย่างที่ 1 พันรอบฝาหลอดด้วยแผ่น Parafilm

Specimens of PCR-Covid-19 Packing Medical laboratory scientists

"Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging, and transportation"  
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## Agenda Item 2: Review of infectious substances shipping regulations and Risk assessment process



Lecture in the first section on the topic of infectious substance shipping and Risk assessment process

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8. Mr. Ratigorn Guntapong, the National Institute of Health of Thailand, the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health from Thailand, lectured on infectious substance shipping regulations and risk assessment. The lecturer covered the topic of Biosafety and Biocontainment to



provide the required information and knowledge for the relevant staff to prevent them from contacting or exposing them to infectious substances.



10. He also addressed Biorisk management to review assessment, mitigation, and performance as well as biosafety and biosecurity. Shipping and transport regulations were addressed to give an overview of related laws. The "Monkeypox" information was shared during this session as well. At the end of this session, questions were designed to recheck participants' understanding. See more detail in **Annex 5**.





11. Dr Athiwat Primsirikunawut, the National Institute of Health of Thailand, the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, presented Packing and Packing instructions. He gave a clear overview of packaging, including primary receptacle, secondary packaging, and outer packaging. The requirements, packing considerations, and shipping limitations of each category of samples were clearly explained. He also addressed the topic of decontamination from the collection point to the laboratory by utilizing a secure container and waste management. Furthermore, he also illustrated the process of packing by using both pictures in the presentation and an onsite demonstration. He highlighted the Do's and Don'ts that might be mistaken. Many participants actively took part in this packaging and inquired about their difficulties when they performed their sample collection processes. At the end of the session, there were comprehension check questions to ask all the participants. See more detail in **Annex 6**.



### The Day 2 Pilot Joint Workshop August 4, 2022

#### **Agenda Item 3:** REVIEW MARKING AND LABELING

12. Dr Supaporn Suparak, the National Institute of Health of Thailand, the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, lectured on the topic of Marking and labeling to inform all the participants about how to properly mark and label since many staff pointed out that there were many problems in this process. The classification of dangerous goods was posed and identified how to categorize UN numbers and proper shipping names. She also mentioned the Hazard label required for most dangerous goods. She presented an exercise of categorizing and identifying situations and microorganisms to assess whether the participants could catch up with the lessons. See more detail in **Annex 7**.



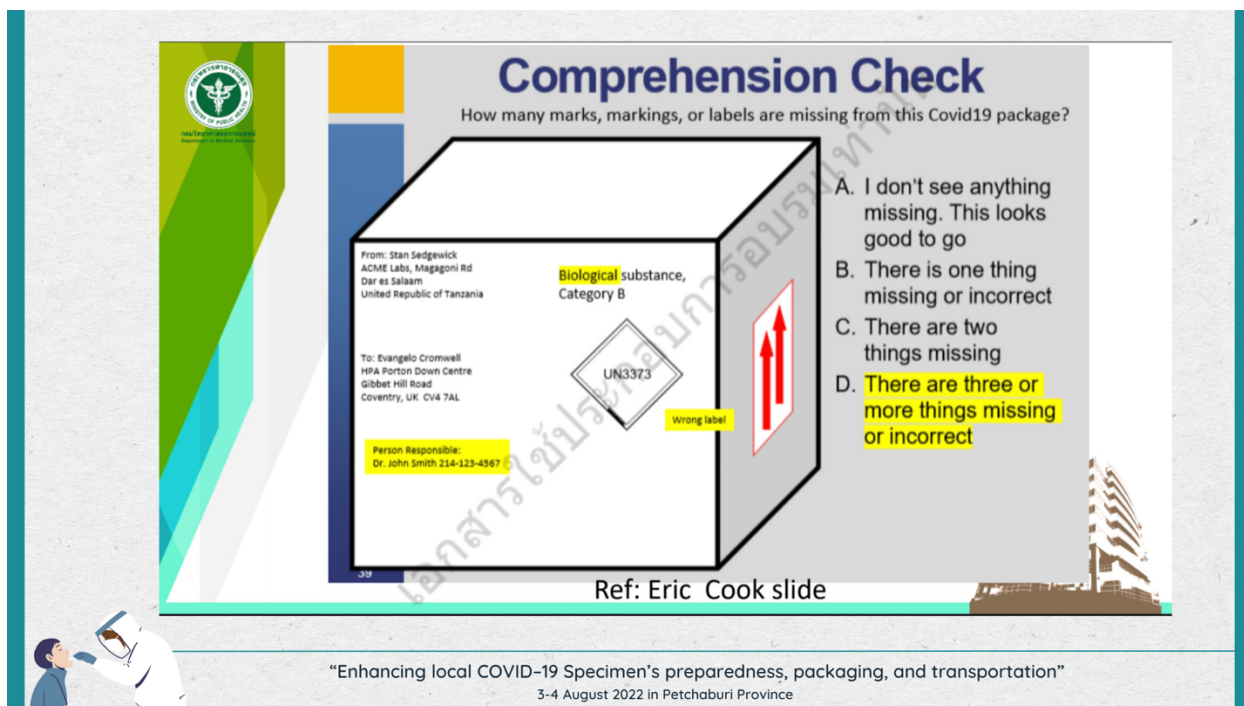
# PILOT JOINT WORKSHOP

Enhancing Local COVID-19 specimen's preparedness, packaging and transportation



Lecture in the third section on the topic of Marking and Labelling

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Ref: Eric Cook slide

"Enhancing local COVID-19 Specimen's preparedness, packaging, and transportation"  
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## Agenda Item 4: REVIEW TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENTS AND TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS



13. Miss Tipamas Suthivarakom, the National Institute of Health of Thailand, the Department of Medical Sciences, described the topic of temperature requirements by employing each refrigerant, including gel pack, dry ice, and liquid nitrogen. The procedure of utilising refrigerants and a cold chain system was elaborately detailed. In addition, there were also choices on how to DIY or homemade refrigerants, such as DIY Gel Pack, saline, dishwashing liquid, alcohol, and sponge. Lastly, she addressed transport requirements, receipt, tracking, and notification by emphasising that adequate transportation of infectious substances is required collaboration among shippers, couriers, and sample recipients. See more detail in **Annex 8**.

### Closing remark

14. Dr Athiwat Primsirikunawut, the National Institute of Health of Thailand, the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health Thailand, gave the closing remark and expressed his gratitude for the active participation in this joint pilot workshop. He highlighted the significance of this joint collaborative workshop implementation and the ways forward that could greatly benefit the adjustment of the curriculum. All the challenges, concerns, and difficulties raised by relevant staff will be considered to design an effective curriculum for CDCU staff and laboratory experts at every level of the disease prevention network to enhance and strengthen emergency response capacity. Moreover, it would be advantageous for training systems to train our focal points in the areas to be nodes in local staff training.



**The workshop ended at 2.30 p.m. (Bangkok Time)**