Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No. 204_Dengue (31 Mar – 6 April 2019)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals 12,545 dengue cases of which 14 died during 1 January – 25 March 2019. The number of cases were higher compared to the same period of last year. The regions of the country with the highest incidence rates (cases per 100,000 population) were the Southern, the Central, the Northeastern, and the Northern respectively. The highest number of cases were found in the age groups 5 -14 years followed by the 15 – 34 years.

Among the 14 deaths, 7 were male while the other 7 were female. Most were in the age group 5 -14 years (5) and over 25 years (7). The patients with high risk of dengue complications and severe illness were those with chronic diseases such as hypertension, heart diseases, obesity, and asthma. The other at risk groups were those who had a history of previous dengue infection and patients who had delay hospital visits after self treatment with improper-set drugs.

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This week disease forecast reveals a continue occurrence trend of dengue especially in the Southern region with rainfalls leaving outdoor stagnant water in natural and artificial water containers that can serve as mosquito breeding sites.

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) advises that a special medical care at the hospital for life saving is urgently needed for patients with abrupt high grade fever that lasts more than 2 days, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, body ache, red eyes, eye socket pain, facial skin redness, skin petechiae on arms, legs, and joints. The warning signs include shock, especially when temperature declines, include bleeding from nose or gums, drowsiness or irritability, pale, cold, or clammy skin or difficulty breathing..

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) strongly advises people to protect themselves and their children well from mosquito bites. DDC urges people in all households, communities, and workplaces to routinely eliminate mosquito breeding sites using the mosquito control measure called "3 Do's to prevent 3 diseases (dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus)", i.e. 1) cover water-storage containers, change water in small containers every 7 days and eliminate all outdoor mosquito breeding sites, 2) dispose garbage properly, and 3) keep houses tidy without any corners suitable for mosquitoes to rest.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hot line 1422.

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