

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.223\_Leptospirosis (18 – 24 August 2019)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals that this year up to 3 August, there had been 1,170 leptospirosis patients (14 had died). Most of the cases were male in the working age groups, i.e. the 45 - 54 years old and the 35 - 44 years old respectively. The Southern region has the highest number of patients followed by the Northeastern region. The Top-five provinces include Phangnga, Sisaket, Yasothon, Yala, and Ranong.

Last week, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) received reports of 4 suspected leptospirosis deaths. Two deaths each were from Sisaket and Trang provinces.



According to this week disease forecast, the risk of acquiring leptospirosis sporadically, during this rainy season and the planting season, is likely to continue. Hence, farmers have the highest risk of contacting leptospirosis contaminated animals' urine while working in wet land. The leptospira bacteria enters human body through skin with superficial cuts and open wounds or mucosa of mouth, eyes and nose or through waterlogged skin.

The Department of Disease Control encourages people to help control the rat population in agricultural areas and around houses. Farmers and people who have to wade in flood water should wear rubber boots or other protective footwares, cover their wounds and abrasions with waterproof bandages, and wash hands and feet immediately right after the exposure. Taking a thorough shower is very helpful.

If symptoms occur within 1-2 weeks after exposure, including high fever, chills, muscle aches (most notable in the calf and lumbar areas), red eyes, and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), the patients should go to the hospitals nearby for prompt life saving treatment. Informing the doctors the history of wet land and water exposure is very useful. In severe cases, delay in seeking medical attention might end up with complications such as renal failure, pulmonary hemorrhage or myocarditis or even death.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422.



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Page 2/2

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