

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.232\_Measles (20 - 26 October 2019)

From the national disease surveillance system during 1 January - 14 October 2019, the Department of Disease Control reveals 4,582 measles cases of which 17 had died. The highest number of cases were found in teenagers and adults aged 15 - 24 years and 25 - 34 years old and also young children under the age of 5 in some areas.

Provinces with the top three highest incidence rates (cases per 100,000 population) were Narathiwat, Phetchaburi, and Pattani respectively. The measles outbreaks were mostly found in schools (12), factories (10), and prisons (8).

This week disease forecast shows a continue risk of measles occurrence as Thailand has entered the winter season and the measles virus remains active longer in cold weather.



The measles virus, found in nasal and throat secretions of the patient, is easily spread by coughing, sneezing, and close contact with the patient. At present, measles patients are mostly found in areas with low vaccination coverage.

Common symptoms are high fever (usually last for 3 days), dry coughing, running nose, red and watery eyes, and small white spots inside the cheeks that can develop in the initial stage. After several days, the rash erupts, usually on the upper neck and face. The rash then spreads eventually to trunk, hands and feet. The rash usually lasts 5 to 6 days, and then fades. Complications are diarrhea and middle ear infection. The most serious complications include encephalitis, pneumonia, convulsion, and blindness and may result in death. Measles patients usually need urgent hospital visits for prompt treatment. They should also stay away from schools and works for at least 4 days after the rash erupts. In crowded places such as prisons and military camps, efforts should be taken to screen and separate the patients as soon as possible to stop spreading of the disease.

The Department of Disease Control encourages parents to bring their children to get measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination as scheduled by the Ministry of Public Health, i.e. the first time at the age of 9 months and the second time at the age of two and a half years.

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



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