

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No. 243_ Drought Related Diseases (5 - 11 January 2020)

The Department of Meteorology has announced that during this dry season, Thailand will be facing the drought problem in several provinces as rainfall is lower than average. Drought can result in inadequate water supply and can lead to public health problems. Common diseases related to drought are diarrhea, food poisoning, dysentery, cholera, Typhoid fever and Hepatitis A.

In 2019, the Department of Disease Control reveals the number of cases as follows diarrhea (1,031,998), food poisoning (105,672), dysentery (2,049), cholera (13), Typhoid fever (1,065), and Hepatitis A (413).



According to this week disease forecast, the risk of drought related diseases will be increasing especially in 8 provinces along the Mekong River: Chiangrai, Loei, Nakhonphanom, Nongkhai, Mukdahan, Buengkan, Amnatcharoen and Ubonratchathani.

The Department of Disease Control advises people to always follow good personal hygiene, i.e. “eat freshly-cooked and clean food, use serving spoon and wash hands often”, and drink only safe water. All individuals should avoid consuming foods that are left overnight out of refrigeration or foods with unusual smell. Food handlers should practice good personal hygiene including washing hands often especially before cooking food and after using toilets. Paying attention to food cleanliness will help prevent pathogen contamination. In case of having wounds on hands, food handlers should always wear plastic gloves while cooking. Involved agencies must implement the quality control of water for drinking and consumption.

The best first aid for diarrhea is drinking Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) solution to prevent dehydration. Severe illnesses include high fever, severe abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea, prolong vomiting or signs of dehydration (dry mouth, decreased urination, dizziness, fatigue, or increased heart rate or breathing rate). These symptoms can lead to mineral imbalance, acute renal failure, and even deaths. Therefore, medical care at the hospital should be sought immediately.

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

