

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.247_Pertussis (2 – 9 February 2020)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) reveals that last year (2019) there were 83 pertussis cases of which 2 died. Most of the cases (35%) was in the age group of infants to 4 months old. The number of cases was higher than the median (74 cases) of the past five years (2014 to 2018).

In January of this year, there were 6 pertussis cases with no deaths. Most were those with incomplete vaccination history. The latest case was a 2 months old boy in Tak province.

According to this week's disease forecast, the sporadic occurrence of pertussis is likely to continue particularly in young children who have had no or incomplete vaccination.



Pertussis, or whooping cough, is an acute respiratory infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. Pertussis is easily transmitted through droplet contact from coughing and sneezing. The most at risk of getting the infection is the unimmunized or incompletely immunized young children (infants to 4 years old). Young children also caught the disease from the household members who have very mild pertussis. Therefore, any person with mild symptoms such as coughing or sneezing should not stay close to young children and should always wear a face mask.

Pertussis initial symptoms are similar to those of common cold including low-grade fever, runny nose, sneezing, and coughing. The following characteristic symptoms are numerous rapid cough (5 to 10 coughing at a time) and high-pitched whoop (wheezing sound made when a person gasps for breath after a severe coughing). A medical care at the hospital is crucially needed for life saving.

The Department of Disease strongly advises parents to bring their children to receive the complete DTP immunization course at the public hospital nearby at the age of 2, 4, 6, and 18 months. The booster dose for 4 years old children is also crucial.

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



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