Department of Disease Control
Weekly Disease Forecast No.257_Diphtheria
(12 - 18 April 2020)

From the national disease surveillance system, there were 18 diphtheria cases (5 died) last year (2019). Top five provinces with the highest incidence rates (cases per 100,000 population) included Satun, Songkhla, Patani, Yala and Sakaeo respectively.

This year (2020) up to the present, there have been 2 confirmed cases. A total of 27 suspected incidents for investigation were notified. From 1 - 9 April, there have been 3 suspected cases under investigation in Yala and Pattani provinces.

According to this week disease forecast, there is a continue risk of sporadic diphtheria in crowded places with low diphtheria vaccination coverage in the border areas .

Diphtheria is an acute bacterial infection of respiratory system which can cause mild to severe illness. Symptoms, develop 2 – 5 days after infection, include fever, sore throat, and swollen lymph glands in the neck. Severe illness presents with swollen neck and thick gray or white patch of dead tissue in the throat and tonsils caused by the bacterial toxin. Complications are blocking of the airway and absorption of the toxin into the blood stream that may cause damage to the heart, kidneys and peripheral nerves and thus can lead to death. All diphtheria suspected patients need hospital medical care immediately to save life.

Diphtheria is spread from person to person through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing and close contact. Some mild cases can transmit the bacteria to people around them. Some might be contagious for up to two months.

The best way to prevent diphtheria is to get vaccinated. The Department of Disease Control strongly advises parents to bring their children aged 2 months old onward to get the complete vaccination series against diphtheria (DTP vaccine) as per the MOPH recommended immunization schedule. Pregnant women should also get the dT vaccine as per the MOPH schedule.

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

กรมควบคุมโรค
Office design co.,ltd.
★★★★★
FREE

Disease Forecast No.257