

Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No. 258_Dengue (19 – 25 April 2020)

From the national disease surveillance system during 1 January to 14 April 2020, the Department of Disease Control reveals 8,746 dengue cases with 6 deaths. The highest incidence rates (case per 100,000 population) were found in the age groups 5 – 14 years, 15 – 24 years and newborn – 4 years respectively. Provinces with the highest incidence rates were Rayong, Angthong, and Nakhonratchasima.

It is also noted with concern that the number of cases of this year up to the present has already been accounted for 56% of the total number of last year (2019).

This week disease forecast reveals a continue risk of dengue in some areas with rainfalls that leave outdoor stagnant water in natural and artificial water containers serving as mosquito breeding sites.



Dry season during the early period of the year is a perfect time to eliminate mosquitoes' eggs which can survive long throughout the year in small containers such as vases, anti-ant plates or bowls, and waste tires. Therefore, these artificial water containers should be eliminated or else scrubbed routinely and thoroughly to remove all mosquitoes' eggs. Campaigns to eliminate mosquito breeding sites such as 'Big Cleaning Day' is helpful.

Dengue is transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. The Department of Disease Control (DDC) therefore strongly advises people to protect themselves and their children well from mosquito bites by sleeping in rooms with mosquito screens or in mosquito nets and by wearing long sleeve shirts, long pants and applying mosquito repellents such as DEET and Lemongrass to exposed skin or to clothing when staying outdoor especially after sunrise and before sunset.. DDC urges people in all households, communities, and workplaces to routinely eliminate mosquito breeding sites using the mosquito control measure: 1) cover water-storage containers, change water in small containers every 7 days and eliminate all outdoor mosquito breeding sites, 2) dispose garbage properly, and 3) keep houses, workplaces, and residence areas tidy without any corners suitable for mosquitoes to rest.

Common symptoms of dengue include abrupt high grade fever that lasts 2 to 5 days, headache, eye socket pain, body ache, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, coughing without running nose, facial skin redness, skin petechiae on arms, legs, and joints. For patients with the warning signs, occurring especially when temperature declines, including bleeding from nose or gums, drowsiness or irritability, pale, cold, or clammy skin or difficulty breathing, and shock, a special medical care at the hospital for life saving is urgently needed. The patients with high risk of dengue complications and severe illness are those with chronic diseases such as hypertension, heart diseases, obesity, asthma, alcoholism, thalassemia, those who had previous dengue infection as well as patients with delay hospital visits.

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



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