

Department-of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.269_Chikungunya (5 – 11 July 2020)

From the national disease surveillance system, this year (2020) up to the present, the Department of Disease Control reveals 3,258 chikungunya cases with no deaths from 65 provinces. The top three highest incidence rates (1 case per 100,000 population) were found in 25 – 34 (18.17%), 35 – 44 (17.46%), and 45 – 54 (16.02%) years age group respectively. The disease was found in all regions of the country, i.e., the central, northern, southern, and northeastern respectively. The top five provinces with the highest incidence rates were Chanthaburi, Uthaithani, Lamphun, Rayong and Trat respectively.

Last week, from the outbreak detection platform, new cases have been found in provinces 2 provinces including Buriram and Lampang.

This week disease forecast reveals an increasing risk of chikungunya during this rainy season with more outdoor stagnant water serving as mosquito breeding sites.



Chikungunya virus is transmitted to humans by bites of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on an infected person during the high grade fever period. The patient therefore should stay in a room with anti-mosquito windows and door screens or sleep under a mosquito net or use insect repellent while feverish.

Chikungunya symptoms include an abrupt fever, skin rash, muscle pain, nausea and fatigue. The characterized symptoms are severe joint swelling and joint pain which usually last for many weeks or months. There is no plasma leakage leading to shock. However, patients should promptly seek hospital medical care for relief of symptoms. Patients, with history of travelling to or live in risk areas especially the Southern region within 14 days before symptoms develop, should inform the risk history to the doctors.

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) strongly advises people to protect themselves and their children well from mosquito bites. All sleeps, night-time or day-time, should always be in anti-mosquito rooms or nets. The DDC urges people in all households, communities, and workplaces to routinely eliminate mosquito breeding sites using the mosquito control measure called “3 Do’s to prevent 3 diseases (dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus)”, i.e. 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 tidy without any corners suitable for mosquitoes to rest. DDC also emphasizes that strong and continuous public participation is a key success factor for prevention and control of chikungunya and other vector-borne diseases.

All hospitals including sub-district health promotion hospitals should screen patients with fever, joint swelling and pain, and rash (or those suspected dengue with normal platelet level) for chikungunya. A prompt disease investigation and control should be implemented.

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



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