

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.275_Mushroom Poisoning (16 - 22 Aug 2020)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals 1,093 cases of mushroom poisoning (7 had died) from 43 provinces during 1 January – 13 August 2020. Most patients were the 65 years and over (24.43%), 45 – 54 years (23.06%), and 55 – 64 years (20.13%) age groups.

There had been 13 incidents with 63 patients that fit for the outbreak investigation definition. The incidents occurred mostly in June, July and August respectively. Most of the cases were in the northeastern and northern regions. Last week, a cluster with 9 severe cases was found in Ubonratchathani province.

According to this week disease forecast, mushroom poisoning is likely to continue during the rainy season and there will be more wild mushrooms.



As it is very difficult to distinguish the poisonous mushrooms from the edible ones, and the poisons of some mushrooms are heat-stable that will not be destroyed despite of well cooking, the Department of Disease Control advises people to consume only grown mushrooms and avoid collecting unsure and unknown wild mushrooms which safety can not not assured. In addition, it is safer to avoid eating mushrooms together with alcoholic drink as alcohol will make the poisons spread more quickly.

The common symptoms of mushroom poisoning are nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and abdominal cramp, diarrhea, dizziness within 6 – 24 hours after mushroom consumption. After 24 hours, kidney or liver failure can be life-threatening.

In case of mushroom poisoning, first aid must be given immediately to the patient to induce vomiting by eating 3 – 4 raw egg whites or drinking 6 -7 glasses of warm water mixed with crushed absorbent carbon tablet or salted water. However, this first aid is not for young children under 5 years old. Giving an enema to the patient is forbidden as it might increase the risk of dehydration. Instead, an urgent visit to the nearest hospital for emergency life saving medical care is crucial. Bringing along the left over mushroom samples or foods for identification is helpful.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422 and Ramathibodi Poison Center hotline 1367.

