

# Department-of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.286\_RSV

### (8 – 14 November 2020)

From the Department of Disease Control (DDC)'s surveillance system, starting in October up to the present, there have been many cases of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) especially in Udonthani, Ubonratchathani and Chaiyaphum. A female infant aged 10 months died from the disease in Chaiyaphum.

From the health database of the Ministry of Public health during 2017 - 2020, RSV patients were mostly found during the rainy and cold seasons (August to November). The top five provinces with the highest number of cases were Nakhonratchsima, Surin, Khonkaen, Mahasarakham and Pattani.

RSV cases can be found in all age groups but severe illness normally occur in small children, babies born prematurely, elderly people aged 65 years and over, and those with underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, lung disease, heart disease, and impaired immunity.

This week disease forecast reveals a continue trend of RSV occurrence during the disease season.



RSV causes respiratory infections. It can be spread easily through droplets from a sneeze or cough of an RSV patient. People can also be infected by touching hands with an RSV infected person or contaminated items. The virus enters human body through nose, eyes and mouth. Symptoms begin 4 to 6 days after infection. Most cases have mild symptoms resemble a cold that begin with fever, running nose, cough, and ear infection. Recovery from illness usually takes 8 to 15 days.

Warning signs include lethargy, irritability, poor feeding, wheezing and shortness of breath. Young children and those with severe RSV illness usually need hospitalization for proper symptomatic treatment. Diagnosis can be confirmed by laboratory tests for the virus in nose and throat samples.

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) advises all people to wash hands often especially before having meals and after using toilets. Small children should be taught to practice this personal hygiene. Avoiding sharing water cups and eating utensils is helpful. An RSV patient should be absent from nurseries and schools, put on a surgical mask and wash hands often to prevent spreading of the virus to others. Prevention, particularly for babies born prematurely and babies aged 1-2 months old, should be done by avoiding close contact with persons with flu-like or pneumonia illnesses. Parents should not bring small children to crowded places especially during the RSV season.

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

