

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.293\_Road Traffic Injuries (3 – 9 January 2021)

According to the Department of Disease Control (DDC) surveillance system for road traffic accidents that must be investigated including major accidents with more than 5 deaths or more than 15 injured victims, accidents of ambulances, public transportation vehicles, and school buses. Last year up to 30 December 2020, there were 43 investigated incidents with 676 injured victims and 64 deaths. The types of vehicles with the most incidents were school buses (14), tour buses and public buses (7), pick-up trucks (7), ambulances (5), buses for recreational field trip (4), rented vans (4), buses of entertainment actors (1), and trucks (1).

Provinces with the highest number of road traffic accidents were Songkhla (7), followed by Nakhonratchasima, Buriram, and Phichit (3 each) and Kamphaengphet, Angthong, Udonthani, and Ubonratchathani (2 each). While provinces with the highest number of deaths were Chachoengsao (18), Nakhonratchasima (12), followed by Buriram, Udonthani, Phetchabun, and Chiangmai (5 each).

The road accidents occurred most frequently during early period of the year, i.e., January (8), February (8) and the last quarter: October (8) and December (6).



According to this week disease forecast, there is a possibility of more road traffic accidents due to the people travel back to Bangkok during the New Year long holidays. Many more Thais will be travelling across the country from their hometowns or their tourist destinations by road.

The Department of Disease Control encourages all road users and motorists to avoid risky behaviors (fast speed driving, drink-driving, drowsy-driving, as well as lacking use of motorcycle helmets, seat-belts and child restraints). Motorists must always carry along the driving license and strictly observe and obey the traffic rules and regulations including the speed limit. Vehicle safety condition should be checked before travelling, i.e. all the main controls (steering, clutch, brake and accelerator), wiper blades, tires, and lights. All motorists should drive slowly and cautiously, leave lots of space from the vehicle in front, i.e. twice as normal and slow down the vehicles before entering the heavy raining or foggy areas.

If motorists feel drowsy, frequent stops for 15 minute naps are crucial. If a long distance driving is planned, another driver should be ready to take turns. Avoid drink-driving by having someone drive for you or use public transport such as taxi instead. There is also an increasing concern over the distracted driving such as the use of mobile phones while driving. Sitting in the open rear area of the pick-up truck has shown a risk of severe injuries or even deaths resulting from falling out of the vehicles.

In case of seeing an accident, please immediately call the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Teams at 1669. For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422.

