

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.4/2021_Leptospirosis (24 – 30 January 2021)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals that last year (2020), there had been 1,603 leptospirosis patients (21 had died). Most of the cases were in the working age, i.e., 45 - 54 years and 25 - 34 years. Most of the patients were agricultural workers. The Leptospirosis incidence was highest in the southern followed by the northeastern, northern, and central regions respectively. The Top-five provinces with the highest incidence rate (cases per 100,000 population) were Ranong, Yala, Phangnga, Phthalung, and Songkhla respectively. It was noted that the ratio of Leptospirosis case of the southern region of last year (55.6%) had increased compared to the previous year (36.5%).

This year (2021) up to 20 January, there were 32 cases. Most of them (25 cases or 78.1%) were in the southern region and 2 had died.



According to this week disease forecast, the sporadic occurrence of leptospirosis is likely to continue especially in the lower part of the southern region with heavy rains and flooding.

Leptospirosis is transmitted from contacting with contaminated animals' urine while working in wet land or areas following flooding. The leptospira bacteria enters human body through skin with superficial cuts and open wounds or mucosa of mouth, eyes and nose or through waterlogged skin.

If symptoms occur within 1-2 weeks after exposure, including high fever, chills, muscle aches (most notable in the calf and lumbar areas), red eyes, and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), the patients should go to the hospitals nearby for prompt life saving treatment. Informing the doctors the history of wet land and water exposure is very useful. In severe cases, delay in seeking medical attention might end up with complications such as renal failure, pulmonary hemorrhage or myocarditis or even death.

The Department of Disease Control encourages people to help control the rat population in agricultural areas and around houses. Farmers and people who have to wade in flood water should wear rubber boots, cover their wounds and abrasions with waterproof bandages, and wash hands and feet immediately right after exposure. In addition, taking a thorough shower is very helpful.

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



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