

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.9/2021_XDR-TB (28 February – 6 March 2021)

From the Department of Disease Control (DDC) disease surveillance system, this year up to the present, there had been 3 Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) cases in Kanchanaburi, Pathumthani, and Prachinburi provinces.

XDR-TB is the thirteen dangerous disease under the Communicable Diseases Act B.E.2558 (2015). The cause s of drug -resistant TB comprise 1) infection of drug-resistant TB without prior TB treatment, and 2) misused or mismanagement of drugs .

Misused or mismanagement of drugs occur when patients do not complete their full course of treatment; health-care providers prescribe the wrong treatment, the wrong dose, or length of time for taking the drugs; when the supply of drugs is not always available; or when the drugs are of poor quality. This leads to natural selection of drug-resistant strains.



According to this week disease forecast, there is a risk of XDR-TB occurrence which can be widely spread.

TB bacteria are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings. These bacteria can float in the air for several hours, depending on the environment. Persons who breathe in the air containing these TB bacteria can become infected. Persons with close contact with an XDR-TB patient can be infected and develop XDR-TB illness TB without prior TB treatment.

XDR-TB treatment is much more complicated and the cost is much higher compared to the treatment of drug sensitive TB (DS-TB). It need at least 18 months to complete the course of treatment. Moreover, the success of treatment is much smaller.

The DDC, therefore, advises all hospitals to set up their surveillance, diagnosis, and prompt report of new cases to the Division of TB (DTB), DC. This will result in proper treatment to prevent and control the spreading of disease. In addition, the patients must be advised to wear face mask at all time.

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

