

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.14/2021_Drowning (4 - 10 April 2021)

From the Department of Disease Control (DDC) surveillance system, there were 20 drowning incidents with 21 deaths. Age groups with the highest number of victims were 6 – 9 years (12 victims), followed by 10 – 14 years (6 victims). The incidents mostly occurred in Buriram province (5), and 2 incidents each were provinces including Phitsanulok, Suphanburi, Uttaradit, and Ubonratchathani.

Most of the drowning sites were public ponds, canals and rivers. The main causes were that children had no knowledge on safe water activities and skills to survive in water. They sneaked out to swim far away from the communities unattended by adults (14 victims). Other factor was slippery into the water sources.

According to this week disease forecast, the risk of drowning tends to increase especially in children during the hot season, school vacation and a long holiday of Songkran festival.



The Department of Disease Control (DDC) urges all communities to implement preventive measures against drowning, i.e. 1) survey for risky water sources such as community water resources, check dams and irrigation canals, 2) communicate and warn the communities of drowning risk and promote community participation using available channels such as village broadcast, 3) install safety fences and warning signs at all risky natural water sources and provide safety devices, e.g. empty plastic gallon jugs or bottles tied up with ropes, swimming rubber rings, sticks, and belts.

During the school vacation and a long holiday, parents should pay more attention and warn their children to avoid risky water settings and not to go swimming without adults' attendance. Moreover, children should learn swimming and rescue skills. Households with newborns to 2 years old children should keep them in playpens especially while unattended. In addition, all households should not leave risk groups such as children, the elderly, the disabled and people with chronic medical illnesses unattended.

In case of seeing a drowning person, do not attempt to jump to rescue him or her as the person may be panic and pull you underwater. Therefore, you should use the measure “**shout, throw, and extend**”, i.e. 1) **Shout** for help from people nearby and ask them to call the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) hotline 1669; 2) **Throw** floatation devices such as empty plastic gallon jugs or bottles tied up with ropes or swimming rubber rings to the drowning person; 3) **Extend** objects such as sticks, belts or cloths to pull the person from the water; and 4) Give the person rescue breaths and CPR while waiting for the EMS team.

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



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