

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.16/2021\_Leptospirosis (18 – 24 April 2021)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals that this year up to 3 April, there had been 219 leptospirosis patients (3 had died). Most of the leptospirosis cases were found in the southern region with the top-five provinces with the highest incidence rate (case per 100,000 population) including Ranong, Yala, Songkhla, Phatthalung, and Phangnga respectively. Most of the cases were in the age groups 45 - 54 years, 35 – 44 years and 55 – 64 years respectively. Around one-third of the patients (35.6%) were agricultural workers.

According to this week disease forecast, the sporadic occurrence of leptospirosis is likely to increase. Leptospirosis cases are mostly found in raining and flooding areas and agricultural fields.



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 or other proper protective footwear, cover their wounds and abrasions with waterproof bandages, and wash hands and feet immediately right after the exposure. In addition, taking a thorough shower is very helpful.

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

