

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.23/2021\_Mushroom Poisoning (20 - 26 June 2021)

From the disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals 218 cases of mushroom poisoning with no deaths during 1 January – 6 June 2021. The first three highest age groups were the elderly aged 65 years and over, 45 -54 years, and 35 – 44 years respectively. The highest incidence rate were found in the Northeastern, Northern, Central, and Southern regions respectively. During the past week, there were 2 deaths from consumption of poisonous mushroom from the source in Yasothon province.

According to this week disease forecast, mushroom poisoning is likely to continue sporadically during this rainy season as there have been rainfalls in many areas of the country which will allow more wild mushrooms to grow.



As it is very difficult to distinguish the poisonous mushrooms from the edible ones, and the poisons of some mushrooms are heat-stable that will not be destroyed despite well cooking, the Department of Disease Control advises people to consume only grown mushrooms and avoid collecting unsure and unknown wild mushrooms which safety can not assured. In addition, it is safer to avoid eating mushrooms together with alcoholic drink as alcohol will make the poisons spread more quickly.

The common symptoms of mushroom poisoning are nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and abdominal cramp, diarrhea, dizziness within 6 – 24 hours after mushroom consumption. After 24 hours, kidney or liver failure can be life-threatening.

In case of mushroom poisoning, first aid must be given immediately to the patients to induce vomiting by eating 3 – 4 raw egg whites or drinking 2 glasses of warm water mixed with crushed absorbent carbon tablet (activated charcoal) or 3 teaspoon of table salt. However, this first aid is forbidden in young children under 5 years old. Giving an enema to the patients is forbidden as it might increase the risk of dehydration. Using fingers to induce vomiting instead is safer. An urgent visit to the nearest hospital for emergency life saving medical care is crucial. Bringing along the left over mushroom samples or foods for identification is helpful.

For queries or additional information, please call Ramathibodi Poison Center hotline 1367 or DDC hotline 1422.