

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.126\_HFMD

### (18 – 24 September 2017)

During 1 January to 10 September 2017, the national disease surveillance system revealed 55,870 Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) cases with 2 deaths. The highest incidence rates were found in young children (newborn to 4 years old) and children aged 5 to 14 years respectively.

Top five provinces with the highest incidence rates (cases per 100,000 population) were Chantaburi, Suratthani, Trat, Phichit and Phitsanulok.



According to this week disease forecast, occurrence of HFMD is likely to continue during this school semester in rainy season especially in child-development centers and kindergartens.

The Department of Disease Control advises parents, child-caregivers and teachers to screen all children for the disease symptoms on a daily basis during the high risk period by observing children's symptoms such as fever, mouth sores or skin rash with red spots on palms of hands and soles of feet, and sometimes on knees, elbows and buttocks. HFMD illness is usually mild. Nearly all patients recover in 7 to 10 days by symptomatic treatment and home care. However, urgent hospitalization is needed in patients with warning signs such as high fever, stiff neck, recurrent vomiting, rapid breathing, excessive tiredness, irritability, drowsiness and limb weakness. To help prevent the disease from spreading, after seeking medical care, sick children should stay home and avoid close contact with family members or others in the community, especially during the first week of illness.

In places where children gather, i.e. nurseries, child-development centers, and kindergartens, disease preventive measures should be undertaken including 1) observe small children for disease symptoms, 2) take children with serious illness to the hospital immediately, 3) keep all facilities clean and hygienic, and 4) teach children and child-caregivers to wash hands often before having meals and after using toilets.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1442.

