

Department of Disease Control, Weekly Disease Forecast No.127_Mushroom Poisoning (25 Sep- 1 Oct 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January – 15 September 2017, there were 972 mushroom poisoning cases with 4 deaths. Most of the cases were found in the age groups 45 – 54 years, over 65 years and 55 – 64 years respectively. Most were in the Northeastern and the Northern regions of the country.

This year there were a total of 24 mushroom poisoning incidents. Last week, a person died from poisonous mushroom consumption in Amnatcharoen province. Laboratory analysis of the mushroom type is on-going. Another two clusters of mushroom poisoning were found in Chiangmai province (3 cases) and Maehongson province (4 cases). All were hospitalized and recovered.



According to this week disease forecast, during this rainy season, there is a possibility of increasing number of patients from poisonous mushrooms ingestion especially in the Northeastern and the Northern regions of the country.

The most common fatal poisonous ones are the Amanita species mushroom which are locally called Hed ra-ngok hin or Hed khai-tai-sark in the Northeastern region or called Hed mong-kong or Hed Khai-han in the Northern region. This toxic mushroom can cause liver failure or even death. The toxin of this mushroom is heat-stable and therefore will not be destroyed despite of well cooking.

The Department of Disease Control warns people to be most cautious when collecting wild mushrooms. One should never consume *Amanita* "eggs", which are *Amanitas* still entirely encased in their universal veil. *Amanitas* at this stage are difficult to distinguish from edible mushrooms. The folk traditions concern the defining features of poisonous mushrooms are unreliable. One more important reminder is that people should avoid eating mushrooms with alcohol because alcohol can cause mushroom toxins to spread faster. All are encouraged to choose grown mushrooms for safe consumption.

The symptoms of mushroom poisoning are nausea, stomach ache, vomiting, and diarrhea. Serious symptoms, such as depression and hallucination, can end up with life-threatening organ failure resulting in death. Hallucinogenic. Mushroom poisoning requires immediate hospitalization.

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

