Department of Disease Control
Weekly Disease Forecast No.128_Pertussis
(2 - 8 October 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system, there were approximately 50 pertussis cases per year in 2016 and 2017. Most of the cases were infants. However, about 20% of the patients were adults aged 25 years and over. Mortality rate in infants was 3.8% while no death was found in adults.

Last week, 2 pertussis cases were found in a school in Chiang Mai province.

According to this week disease forecast, there is a possibility of pertussis occurrence especially in young children who had got incomplete immunization.

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a bacterial disease easily transmitted through droplet contact from coughing and sneezing. Unimmunized or incompletely immunized person has a 90 % risk of getting the infection. The clinical illness is divided into three stages. The first stage is quite similar to the common cold (low-grade fever, sneezing, runny nose, and a mild, occasional cough). The cough gradually becomes more severe, and after 1–2 weeks, the second stage begins. The patient has numerous, rapid coughs and a characteristic high-pitched whoop. The patient, especially a young child, may become cyanotic (turn blue) Complications such as seizures, encephalopathy and pneumonia can occur during this stage. Without complications, the convalescent stage starts after 1 to 10 weeks. The cough becomes less and disappears in 2 to 3 weeks.

The Department of Disease Control advises parents to bring their children to receive the complete immunization course at the hospital. The ill person with coughing should wear a face mask and avoid crowded places. For the patient with coughing that last more than 10 days or having numerous, rapid coughs and a high-pitched whoop, a medical attention is crucially needed.

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

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