Department of Disease Control
Weekly Disease Forecast No.130_Leptospirosis
(16 – 22 October 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system during 1 January to 7 October 2017, there were 2,285 Leptospirosis cases with 44 deaths.

Most Leptospirosis cases were male agricultural workers (48.9%) in 45 – 54 years age group (21.93%). The highest morbidity rates were found in the Southern region.

During the past 2 weeks, from 2 – 15 October 2017, there were 3 suspected Leptospirosis deaths.

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According to this week disease forecast, during this rainy season, there is a continue risk of Leptospirosis especially among agricultural workers. There is also a risk in flooding areas especially when the water level has decreased. The risk of acquiring leptospirosis is by wading, swimming or working in water that might be contaminated with urine of animals, especially rats. The bacteria can enter the body through skin with superficial cuts and open wounds or mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth).

The Department of Disease Control therefore advises people with wounds on their skin to avoid wading in water. All agricultural workers and people in flooding areas should wear rubber boots. It is also helpful to wash hands and feet immediately after exposure to potentially contaminated water.

Leptospirosis symptoms include high fever, headache, chills, muscle aches (especially calf muscle), jaundice (yellow skin and eyes) and red eyes which usually occur 1 to 2 weeks after exposure to contaminated water. The patients should go to the hospitals nearby for prompt and life saving treatment. Informing the doctors of history of water exposure is very useful. In severe cases, delay in seeking medical attention might end up with complications such as renal failure, pulmonary haemorrhage or myocarditis or even death.

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

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