

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.137\_ Meningococcal disease (4 – 10 December 2017)

According to the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January – 28 November 2017, there were 24 meningococcal disease patients and 8 died. Provinces with the highest disease incidence rates included Yala, Maehongson, Satun, Pattani and Buengkan respectively.

In 2017, the numbers of patients and deaths are higher than last year, i.e. there were 17 cases with 2 deaths in 2016. The disease can be found all year round with an average of 2 to 4 cases per month. The latest 2 reported cases were found in Chiangmai and Pattani in October this year.



According to this week disease forecast, meningococcal disease can be sporadically occur in the southern provinces and the northern border provinces.

The meningococcal disease bacteria is transmitted from person-to-person through droplets of respiratory or throat secretions from carriers through a close and prolonged contact. The disease can be found in all age groups with a higher incidence in children. Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis include high fever, headache, stiff neck and vomiting. A less common but more severe form of the disease (meningococcal septicemia) is characterized by a hemorrhagic skin rash and shock. People with impaired immunity or underlying chronic diseases such as liver disease, kidney failure, heart disease, thalassemia, and alcoholism are at risk of developing severe illness or even death. Meningococcal disease is potentially fatal therefore urgent admission to a hospital is necessary. The disease is a communicable disease under surveillance that is needed to be notified to the communicable disease control officer.

The Department of Disease Control advises people to protect themselves well from the disease by avoiding close contact with ill persons with sneezing or coughing such as living in a crowded room, sharing eating or drinking utensils. For people who plan to visit Africa or the Middle East, meningococcal vaccination 2 weeks prior to travelling is highly recommended.

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



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Page 2/2

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