

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast_Rotavirus Infection

(15 – 21 January 2018)

From to the national disease surveillance system, there were more reported diarrhea cases as well as rotavirus gastroenteritis in adults during last week. For a closer monitoring, the surveillance and rapid response teams of the Department of Disease Control randomly collected specimens from 32 diarrheal patients for laboratory investigation. The results showed that 30 of them were infected with rotavirus.

Since 2016 up to the present, there had been 13 outbreaks. Laboratory investigation revealed ten with norovirus infection while the other three were caused by rotaviruses. Among a total of 1,510 patients, there were no deaths.



According to this week disease forecast, the risk of viral diarrhea tends to continue during this cold season as viruses can survive for a longer time in the environment.

Rotaviruses are found in the stool and vomit of patients. The viruses are contaminated in food, water, or surfaces by the hands of those who have not washed hands adequately after using toilet. People become infected by eating or drinking contaminated food or water. Transmission may also occur through touching contaminated surfaces or objects (e.g. door-handles, water taps, toilet-seats and toys) and then touching their mouth. The infectious dose is small.

Rotavirus infection is generally mild but can be severe in young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immunity. Symptoms include fever, vomiting and watery diarrhea. To prevent dehydration, patients should drink oral rehydration solution (ORS). Patients with severe illnesses including i.e. high fever, prolong vomiting, diarrhea that lasts more than two days, or having signs of dehydration (such as crying without tears, dry mouth, little or no urination, and severe weakness) need to seek hospital medical care urgently.

The Department of Disease Control therefore advises people to practice proper hygiene, i.e. eat freshly-cooked food and clean water, use serving spoon and wash hands often especially after using toilet, caring for a sick person, and before preparing or having meal. In households with diarrheal patients, toilets should be frequently cleaned and disinfected with bleach-based cleaner containing sodium hypochlorite (2%). Objects including toys should be cleaned and let dry in sunlight.

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



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