Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.179\_Chikungunya (30 September – 6 October 2018)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals that this year up to the present there had been 355 chikungunya cases (354 Thais, 1 Myanmar) with no deaths.

Provinces with the top five incidence rates (cases per 100,000 population) were Satun, Narathiwat, Songkhla, Krabi and Trang respectively. The highest incidence rates were found in the Southern region followed by the Central region. From April onwards, the numbers of cases were higher than the median of past 5 years and were on an increasing trend.

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This week disease forecast shows a continue trend of chikungunya occurrence during this rainy season with more outdoor stagnant water serving as mosquito breeding sites.

Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease. This disease can be found in all age groups. Symptoms are quite similar to those of dengue including an abrupt fever, skin rash, muscle pain, nausea and fatigue. However, the characterized symptoms are severe joint swelling and joint pain which usually last for many weeks or months. There is no plasma leakage leading to shock. Chikungunya virus is transmitted to humans by bites of infected Aedes mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on an infected person during the high grade fever period. The patient therefore should stay in a room with anti-mosquito window and door screens or sleep under a mosquito net.

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) therefore advises people in all households, communities, and workplaces to routinely eliminate mosquito breeding sites using the measure called "3 Do's to prevent 3 diseases (dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus)", i.e. 1) cover water-storage containers, change water in small containers every 7 days and eliminate all outdoor mosquito breeding sites, 2) dispose garbage properly, and 3) keep houses tidy without any corners suitable for mosquitoes to rest. DDC also emphasizes that strong and continuous public participation is a key success factor for prevention and control of chikungunya and other vector-borne diseases.

For people who have history of mosquito bites or live in risk areas especially the southern region and have symptoms such as an abrupt fever, rash, and severe multiple small joint pain (often of the hands and feet), an urgent hospital medical care is needed.

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

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