

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.182_Drowning (21 - 27 October 2018)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals the situation of child drowning (under 15 years old) in Thailand during 1 January-16 October 2018 that there had been 68 child drowning incidents with 58 injured children and 97 deaths. Children in the 5 - 9 age group ranked first for drowning deaths, followed by the 10 - 14 age group. The highest incidents occurred during 15.00 - 18.00 hrs. The most frequent sites of drowning were natural water settings of which pond and canal ranked first, followed by sea and river.



According to this week disease forecast, the risk of drowning is likely to continue during the school vacation.

The Department of Disease Control therefore advises all parents to take good care of their children and never allow them to swim without adult supervision. All communities should implement preventive measures against drowning, i.e. 1) survey for risky water sources; 2) warn the communities of drowning risk using available channels such as village broadcast; 3) install safety fences and warning signs at all risky natural water sources and provide safety devices, e.g. empty plastic gallon jugs or bottles tied up with ropes, swimming rubber rings, sticks, and belts; 4) teach children to swim and warn them to avoid the risky water settings.

In case of seeing a drowning person, do not attempt to jump to rescue him or her as the person may be panic and pull you underwater. Therefore, you should use the measure “**shout, throw, and extend**”, i.e. 1) **Shout** for help from people nearby and ask them to call EMS hotline 1669; 2) **Throw** floatation devices such as empty plastic gallon jugs or bottles tied up with ropes or swimming rubber rings to the drowning person; 3) **Extend** objects such as sticks or belts to pull the person from the water; and 4) Give the person rescue breaths and CPR.

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

