Department-of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.189\_Chikungunya (16 - 22 December 2018)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals 2,143 chikungunya cases with no deaths from 13 provinces during 1 January – 10 December 2018. The highest incidence rates were found in provinces including Songkhla, Satun, Narathiwat, Phuket and Pattani respectively.

Last week, from the active disease surveillance, chikungunya new cases were found in Pattani, Bangkok and Chiangmai provinces.





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This week disease forecast reveals a continue occurrence trend of chikungunya during this rainy season, especially in the Southern region of the country which has had the highest incidence rate. Rains will continue in this region resulting in more outdoor stagnant water serving as mosquito breeding sites.

Chikungunya symptoms include an abrupt fever, skin rash, muscle pain, nausea and fatigue. 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. However, patients who have history of mosquito bites or live in risk areas should promptly seek hospital medical care and advice.

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

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