

Department-of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.192_Chikungunya (6 - 12 January 2019)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals 3,444 chikungunya cases with no deaths from 14 provinces during 1 January – 30 December 2018.

Provinces with the top five incidence rates (cases per 100,000 population) were Songkhla (165.47), Satun (70.92), Phuket (45.47), Pattani (36.86), and Narathiwat (36.32). Most of the chikungunya clusters were found in some districts of tourist destination provinces .



This week disease forecast reveals a continue occurrence trend of chikungunya especially in the Southern provinces and Bangkok after the New Year holidays due to more movement of the people. Moreover, rains still remain in the Southern 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 should promptly seek hospital medical care for relief of symptoms. Patients, with history of travelling to or live in risk areas especially the Southern region within 14 days before symptoms develop, should inform the risk history to the doctors.

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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