

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No 198 (17 – 23 February 2019)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) reveals that during the past five years (2014 to 2018) the number of pertussis patients were increasing with an average of 74 cases and 0 - 3 deaths per year. Most of the cases were infants aged 1 - 3 months. Provinces with the highest number of pertussis patients were Ubon Ratchathani, Yala and Lamphun respectively.

From 1 January to 13 February 2019, there were 13 pertussis cases with no deaths.



According to this week's disease forecast, the sporadic occurrence of pertussis is likely to continue particularly in young children with incomplete vaccination, areas with crowded living condition and weather variability.

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is an acute respiratory infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. Pertussis is easily transmitted through droplet contact from coughing and sneezing. The most at risk of getting the infection is the unimmunized or incompletely immunized young children (infants to 4 years old).

Pertussis initial symptoms are similar to those of common cold including low-grade fever, runny nose, sneezing, and coughing. The following characteristic symptoms are numerous rapid cough (5 to 10 coughing at a time) and high-pitched whoop (wheezing sound made when a person gasps for breath after a severe coughing). A medical care at the hospital is crucially needed for life saving.

The Department of Disease strongly advises parents to bring their children to receive the complete DTP immunization course at the public hospital nearby at the age of 2, 4, 6, and 18 months. The booster dose for 4 years old children is also crucial.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hot line 1422.

