

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.41\_Diphtheria

### (11- 17 January 2016)

From the national disease surveillance system, during last week there were 3 suspected diphtheria patients in age group 20 - 35 years in Phuket and Prachuapkhirikhan provinces. The history of diphtheria vaccination of all were uncertain .

In 2015, there have been 18 confirmed and probable diphtheria cases of which 6 died. The highest diphtheria incidence rates were found in 10-14 years age group followed by 0 - 5 years age group. The patients were both Thai and Myanmar nationalities and were mostly found in the Southern region and border provinces.



According to this week disease forecast, there is a possibility of more diphtheria cases, especially in some provinces with low vaccination coverage against diphtheria while having high number of migrant workers.

Diphtheria is an acute bacterial infection of respiratory system. The toxin produced by the bacteria causes dead tissue over the throat, tonsils, and nose. The toxin may be absorbed into the blood stream and may cause damage to the heart, kidneys and peripheral nerves and thus can lead to death.

Diphtheria is spread from person to person, usually through respiratory droplets, from coughing and sneezing. A Person can also get infected by contacting with an object contaminated with the bacteria.

If anyone develops symptoms including fever, weakness, sore throat and thick gray or white patch in throat, the patient must visit a hospital for a specific medical care immediately.

The Department of Disease Control encourages parents to bring their children to receive free immunization services against diphtheria as per the MoPH's recommendation at all public hospitals nearby.

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

