

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.49_Diphtheria (14 - 20 March 2016)

From the national disease surveillance system during 1 February – 10 March 2016, there have been 8 suspected diphtheria cases (7 Thais and 1 Laotian) in 5 provinces, i.e. Maehongson, Lumpoon, Chiangmai, Petchburi and Songkhla.. The highest diphtheria incidence rates were found in 15-24 years age group followed by more than 25 years age group.

In 2015, there were 19 confirmed and probable diphtheria cases of which 6 died. The highest diphtheria incidence rates were found in 10-14 years age group followed by 15-24 years age group. The patients were Thai, Lao, Cambodia and Myanmar nationalities and were mostly found in the Southern region and border provinces.



According to this week disease forecast, there is a possible occurrence of diphtheria cases, especially in some northern provinces with low vaccination coverage against diphtheria while having high number of migrant workers. Provinces with high risk of diphtheria should enhance disease surveillance measures in crowded places such as construction sites, military camps and schools.

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, sneezing and close contact. A Person can also get infected by contacting with shared utensils contaminated with the bacteria.

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.

In case of developing symptoms including fever, sore throat and white patch in throat, the patient must visit a hospital for medical care immediately.

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

