

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No. 57_Influenza

(9-15 May 2016)

According to the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January - 3 May 2016, there were 44,618 influenza patients with 5 deaths. Most of the deaths were elderly people with chronic diseases.

The highest incidence rates were found in age group 7 - 9 years, followed by 25 - 34 years, and 10 - 14 years respectively. Regions with the highest incidence rates were the Northern, Central and Southern respectively.



According to this week disease forecast, influenza cases may continue to occur during the opening of the first semester of schools and educational institutes next week. The re-gathering of children may increase the risk of the disease transmission.

The Department of Disease Control recommends that schools run screenings for sick students. If a student has symptoms of influenza such as fever, cough, and sore throat, he or she should wear a face mask and be isolated in the first aid room. The parents should then be contacted and advised to pick up the child for home or hospital care.



All schools should encourage students and staff to take everyday preventive actions against influenza through provision of hand washing areas with soap and water. Face masks should be available in school first aid rooms.

Students, parents and staff should be taught that the single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each flu season. Influenza vaccination is recommended for people who have high risk of complications if getting sick with flu, i.e. the elderly, small children, pregnant women, and people with chronic diseases. Free influenza vaccination is now available for them at all public hospitals, from 1 May to 31 July 2016.

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

