

Department-of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.108_Measles (15 – 21 May 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system in 2016, there were 1,474 measles cases (incidence rate of 2.25 per 100,000 population). There was no death. However, the number of measles cases this year is higher than the same period of last year as well as the median of the past 5 years.

Last week, there were 2 measles outbreaks in 2 provinces, i.e. Nakhonpathom (8 cases) and Chiangrai (6 cases).



This week disease forecast reveals a continue occurrence trend of measles cases indicating a need for active surveillance of the disease. Measles are mostly found in young children especially those who have not received measles vaccination. Measles can cause severe complications that might end up with death.

The Department of Disease Control encourages parents to bring young children to get measles vaccination, i.e. first time at the age of 9 to 12 months and the second time at the age of two and a half years. Adult people who have not received the vaccine is recommended to receive a dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

The virus is easily spread by coughing, sneezing , close contact with patients or direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions. Common symptoms are fever, running nose and red eyes. On the fourth day of illness rash usually erupts on the face and upper neck. The rash then spreads eventually to trunk, hands and feet. The rash lasts 5 to 6 days, and then fades. If anyone especially young children has suspected measles, a special medical care at a hospital is urgently needed as measles can be serious from complications such as encephalitis.



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