

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No. 109_ *Streptococcus suis* Infection (22 - 28 May 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system in 2017, there were 111 cases with 6 deaths from *Streptococcus suis* infection. The highest incidences were found in Phayao, Chiangmai, Chaiyaphum and Pichit provinces. Most of the patients got the infection from local favorite food, i.e. raw pork dish prepared in merit festivals during April to June.

Last week, there were 4 *Streptococcus suis* patients who are recovering from the illness in Phayao province. Investigation revealed a total of twenty-one people who had a known history of eating the same raw pork dish at a merit festival.



According to this week disease forecast, *Streptococcus suis* infection tends to occur sporadically especially in the northern and the northeastern regions due to risky occupational exposure and eating behavior.

Streptococcus suis is transmitted to humans through close or direct contact with infected pigs which usually carry the pathogen asymptotically in the upper respiratory tract, genitals and intestine. People are infected through the skin via a cut, wound or abrasion, and through mucosal membranes of the nose and mouth. Infection occurs by consumption of raw pork.

Symptoms are fever, headache, vomiting and meningitis. Severe complications are pneumonia, arthritis, endocarditis and septicemia that might cause death. Prompt treatment at a hospital is crucial. Among the patients who survive, neurological sequelae such as hearing loss, permanent deafness and ataxia are common.

Advice on prevention include 1. Do not eat raw or undercooked pork. Cook pork thoroughly at a temperature of at least 70°C for at least 10 minutes. 2. Food handlers and farmers should wear gloves where appropriate, cover open wounds with water-proof bandage and wash hands and arms thoroughly after each contact with pigs or pork. 3. Do not buy pork from unquestionable source and do not buy pork with abnormal dark color and smell.

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

