

Department of Disease Control, Weekly Disease Forecast No.117_HFMD (17 - 23 July 2017)

During 1 January to 11 July 2017, the national disease surveillance system revealed 34,520 Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) cases with 2 deaths (one was caused by Enterovirus 71 or EV71). The highest incidence rates were in children aged 1, 2, and 3 years respectively. The number of cases in these young children made up 69% of the total cases.

HFMD is a common disease of infants and young children caused by enteroviruses. Although the disease is usually mild, EV71 can cause severe illness. The laboratory surveillance in 12 sentinel hospitals in June 2017 showed that 53 of 113 (47%) confirmed HFMD patients were infants and children up to 5 years old. Among the confirmed cases, 16 were infected with EV71.



According to this week disease forecast, trend of HFMD is likely to increase in young children as outbreaks occur more often during the rainy season from June to August.

Places where children gather, especially nurseries, child-development centers, and kindergartens, are recommended to provide health education and hygienic facilities for the disease prevention. Facilities and utensils should be kept clean and hygienic. It is also safer to provide separate utensils, especially water cup, for each child. Children should be encouraged to wash their hands often especially before having meals and after using toilets.

The Department of Disease Control highly recommended that parents, child-caregivers and teachers observe small children carefully for the disease symptoms such as fever, mouth sores or skin rash with flat red spots on palms of hands and soles of feet. Children with these symptoms should be brought for medical care followed by home care which usually takes 7 – 10 days. Sick children should be well taken care of by a person and avoid close contact with other family members and others in the community.



For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1442.



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