

Department of Disease Control, Weekly Disease Forecast No.120_Leptospirosis (7 - 13 August 2017)

The national disease surveillance system revealed 1,362 Leptospirosis cases with 29 deaths during 1 January to 29 July 2017.

Data showed that 50% (674 patients) and 10 deaths of confirmed Leptospirosis patients were in the Northeastern (NE) region. The top-five highest incidences were found in the NE provinces, i.e. Srisaket, Nakhornratchasima, Mahasarakam, Kalasin and Ubonratchathani respectively.



According to this week disease forecast, trend of Leptospirosis is likely to increase during the current rainy season. Apart from agricultural fields, the disease can also be found in flooding areas especially after water level has decreased. Leptospirosis outbreaks were usually occurred following floods.

The disease occurs commonly through superficial cuts and open wounds after exposure to urine of infected animals (e.g. rat) or a urine polluted environment (e.g. rice field, flood areas). Common symptoms include fever, chills, muscle aches, red eyes, and jaundice (yellow skin). While, severe patients may have acute renal failure (decreased urine output), acute liver failure (jaundice or yellow skin and eyes), pulmonary haemorrhage with respiratory failure, or myocarditis. Severe cases could quickly have acute septicaemia and shock within 4 - 5 days. Therefore prompt medical treatment is crucial for life saving.

The Department of Disease Control encourages all people who have to wade in flooding water, walk in wet soil or clean houses after the floods to wear rubber boots or other protective footwear. Taking a thorough shower after finishing the cleaning task is also helpful.

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

