

# Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.134\_Pneumonia (13 – 19 November 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system during 1 January to 7 November 2017, there were 225,252 pneumonia cases with 230 deaths. Most pneumonia cases were children under 15 years old (41%) and people aged 60 years or older (36%).

The pneumonia cases of this year is higher than the median of the past 5 years (199,489 cases). Higher number of cases were also found in both children and elderly people. Increasing trend occurred during April to October.



According to this week disease forecast, trend of pneumonia is likely to increase especially in young children and the elderly. Moreover, in areas with cold weather, people have more risk to fall ill due to less physical activities and less hygienic behavior and environment.

The Department of Disease Control advises people, especially young children under 5 years, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases who may have weakened immunity and are at risk of severe illness, to protect themselves well from pneumonia by these practices, i.e. 1) have young children vaccinated against diseases such as influenza, measles and whooping cough (pertussis), 2) give babies exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life to improve children's natural defences, 3) keep warm with proper clothes, 4) have regular exercise and enough rest, 5) maintain good hygiene especially hand washing, and 6) use body lotion.

In addition, people should pay special attention to young children and elderly people. In case of respiratory tract infection, a hospital visit is urgently needed.

For queries and information, please call DDC hotline 1224.



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