

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.139\_Leptospirosis

### (18 - 24 December 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system, there were 3,257 leptospirosis cases with 59 deaths during 1 January – 11 December 2017. The highest incidence rates were found in the Southern region followed by the Northeastern region.

There were 4 suspected leptospirosis deaths in the Southern provinces including Trang, Yala, Songkhla and Suratthani.



According to this week disease forecast, there is an increasing trend of leptospirosis cases in the Southern region. The risk of the infection in flood areas where the water level has decreased is due to high concentration of causative bacteria (Leptospire) in water contaminated with rat and other animals (such as dogs and cattle) urine.

The Leptospire can enter into humans through skin with open wounds, superficial cuts and mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth) and perhaps through waterlogged skin. The disease symptoms include high fever, chills, muscle aches (most notable in the calf and lumbar areas), red eyes, and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes).

The Department of Disease Control encourages all people, who have to wade in flood water, walk in wet soil or clean houses after the floods, to wear rubber boots or other protective footwear and take a thorough shower right after.

If such symptoms occur within 1-2 weeks after wading in water, the patients should go to hospitals immediately for prompt and life saving treatment.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422



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