

Department-of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.180_Measles (7 – 13 October 2018)

From the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January – 29 September 2018, there were 2,149 measles cases with no deaths. The high incidence rates were found in 15 – 24 years, 25 – 34 years and 35-44 years age groups respectively.

Last week, there were two measles outbreaks. The first outbreak of 10 measles cases occurred in a prison while the other one was found in a school among its 32 students and school staff.



This week disease forecast reveals a continue trend of measles occurrence as Thailand is currently entering the cold season and the virus remains active longer in cold weather. It is noted also that more cases were found in adults.

The virus, found in nasal and throat secretions of the patient, is easily spread by coughing, sneezing, and close contact with the patient. Measles can be found in children and adults especially those who lack immunity against the disease. Common symptoms are high fever (usually last for 3 days), dry coughing, running nose, red and watery eyes, and small white spots inside the cheeks that can develop in the initial stage. After several days, the rash erupts, usually on the upper neck and face. The rash then spreads eventually to trunk, hands and feet. The rash lasts 5 to 6 days, and then fades. Complications are diarrhea and middle ear infection. The most serious complications include encephalitis, pneumonia, convulsion, and blindness and may result in death.

As measles can be serious, people with suspected measles illness therefore should urgently visit a hospital for proper diagnosis and medical care.

For the best disease prevention, the Department of Disease Control encourages all parents to bring their children to get measles vaccination as scheduled by the Ministry of Public Health.

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



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