

# Department of Disease Control, Weekly Disease Forecast No.184\_HFMD (4 - 10 Nov 2018)

From the national disease surveillance system during 1 January 2018 up to the present, the Department of Disease Control reveals 60,639 Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) cases with no deaths. Most of the patients were children aged 1 to 3 years old. Provinces with the highest incidence were Chanthaburi, Phayao, and Chiangrai respectively.

This year the disease intelligence program has also detected 69 HFMD outbreaks. Most of the outbreaks occurred in schools (40), child-development centers (16) and residence areas (10).



According to this week disease forecast, the occurrence of HFMD is likely to continue during this school semester especially in nurseries, child-development centers, and kindergartens.

The Department of Disease Control advises child-caregivers and teachers to screen all small children for the disease symptoms on a daily basis by observing symptoms such as fever, mouth sores, skin rash with red spots on palms of hands and soles of feet. Children with these symptoms should be brought for medical care followed by home care. HFMD illness is usually mild. Nearly all patients recover within 7 to 10 days by symptomatic treatment. However, urgent hospitalization is needed in patients with warning signs such as high fever, stiff neck, recurrent vomiting, rapid breathing, excessive tiredness, irritability, drowsiness and limb weakness.

Educational institutes with small children are recommended to provide health education. Children should be encouraged to wash their hands often especially before having meals and after using toilets. Facilities and utensils should be kept clean and hygienic. It is also safer to provide separate utensils, especially water cup, for each child.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1442



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