

Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.196_Measles (3 – 9 February 2019)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals that there were 18 clusters of measles (2 or more patients) during 1 October 2018 to 30 January 2019. There were 2 to 60 cases with an average of 10 cases per cluster.

The measles occurrence of this year has shown an increasing trend as there had already been 6 measles clusters in January 2019. The most common sites of the outbreaks were schools (33.33%), residences (22.22%), factories (16.67%), prisons and department stores (11.11%), and military base (5.56%).



This week disease forecast reveals a continue trend of measles outbreaks especially in the southernmost provinces where the vaccination coverage is quite low.

The virus, found in nasal and throat secretions of the patient, is easily spread by coughing, sneezing, and close contact with the patient. 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 usually 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. Young children, especially those with malnutrition, have higher risk of serious complications and therefore need an urgent visit to the hospital for prompt treatment.

The Department of Disease Control encourages parents to bring their children to get measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination as scheduled by the Ministry of Public Health, i.e. the first time at the age of 9 months and the second time at the age of two and a half years. Those who have close contact with measles patients should seek medical advice concerning MMR vaccination within 72 hours after exposure.

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

