

Department of Disease Control

Weekly disease forecast No. 79_Diphtheria (10 – 16 October 2016)

From the national disease surveillance system, there were 13 diphtheria cases of which 3 died during 1 January – 4 October 2016. Cases were reported from 10 provinces. The highest diphtheria incidence rates were found in 10-14 years age group followed by 34-44 years age group and 25-34 year age group respectively. All were Thais.

Almost all patients did not get diphtheria vaccination or got incomplete doses.



According to this week disease forecast, there is a possible occurrence of diphtheria cases, especially in some areas with low vaccination coverage against diphtheria while having high number of migrant workers.

Diphtheria is an acute bacterial infection of respiratory system. The toxin produced by the bacteria causes dead tissue over the throat, tonsils, and nose. The toxin may be absorbed into the blood stream and may cause damage to the heart, kidneys and peripheral nerves and thus can lead to death.

In case of developing symptoms including fever, sore throat and white patch in throat, the patient must visit a hospital for medical care immediately.

The Department of Disease Control encourages all parents to bring their children aged 0-5 years to receive free immunization services against diphtheria as per the MoPH's recommendation at all public hospitals nearby. It is also strongly advised that all people aged 20-50 years receive free diphtheria and tetanus vaccination service.

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

