

Department-of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.83_Measles (14 – 20 November 2016)

From the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January to 4 November 2016, there were 1,352 measles cases (incidence rate of 2.07 per 100,000 population) from 66 provinces. There was no death. However, the number of measles cases this year is higher than the same period of last year.

Last week, there were 2 measles outbreaks. Both were among health personnel. One outbreak with 8 reported cases was found in a hospital in Roi-Et province. The other one with more than 30 cases occurred in a university in Nakhonnayok province.



This week disease forecast reveals a continue occurrence trend of measles cases during this winter season since the virus remains active longer in cold weather.

Measles cases are mostly found in young children. The virus is easily spread by coughing, sneezing, close contact with patients or direct contact with infected nasal or throat secretions. Common symptoms are fever, rash, running nose and red eyes. Severe measles complications such as brain swelling and pneumonia, are more likely found in young children, patients with weakened immune and pregnant women.

The Department of Disease Control encourages parents to bring young children to get measles vaccination. Health personnel in hospitals who are at risk of contacting with measles patients need to receive measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. People should protect themselves routinely with the measures called “cover, wash, avoid, absence”, i.e. 1. cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with a tissue 2. wash hands often 3. avoid close contact with measles patients and 4. be absent from class, work or mass gathering activities if having infectious illnesses.

If anyone has suspected measles, a special medical care at a hospital is urgently needed as measles can be serious.

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

