

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No. 90_Influenza

(2 – 8 January 2017)

According to the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January – 27 December 2016, there were 167,220 influenza patients with 44 deaths.

During the past four weeks, the number of reported influenza patients showed a decreasing trend. The percentage of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) patients found in outpatient departments (OPD) of public hospitals also continued decreasing. There were no outbreaks or influenza deaths.



According to this week disease forecast, influenza patients tend to occur in areas with cold weather. Moreover, during the new year holidays, many people will travel back to their hometowns in crowded vehicles. These factors can cause people to get the illness easily.

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) recommends people, especially those with chronic diseases, the elderly, pregnant women and young children to protect themselves from influenza by having enough sleep and avoiding close contact with people with influenza-like illness and unnecessary visit to crowded or poorly ventilated places.

DDC also strongly advises that people with risk of severe influenza illness, i.e. pregnant women, young children aged 6 months to 2 years, those with chronic diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, heart disease, stroke, renal failure, and the elderly aged 65 years or more, receive free annual influenza vaccination at all public hospitals.

The patients with symptoms of coughing, sneezing, runny nose, should wear face masks and wash hands often to help prevent the spread of influenza virus to others. For those who take medicines to relieve influenza symptoms but do not feel better within 2 - 3 days, it is wise to seek a medical care at a hospital nearby immediately.

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

