

Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.136_Measles (27 Nov – 3 Dec 2017)



From the national disease surveillance system during 1 January – 17 November 2017, there were 2,637 measles cases with no death. The high incidence rates were found in newborn – 4 years, 10 – 14 years and 5 – 9 years age groups respectively. Most of the patients were Thais (88.6%) while 11.4% were Non-Thais.

Last week, there were a measles outbreak in Chiang Mai province. Among the 48 cases, 40 cases (83%) were Myanmar people. Most of the patients (44) did not receive any measles vaccination while 1 case received only 1 dose of vaccine and the other 3 cases had unknown history of vaccination.

This week disease forecast reveals a continue trend of measles occurrence during this cold season since the virus remains active longer in cold weather. Measles can be found in all ages but are mostly found in young children especially those without vaccination.

The virus, found in nasal and throat secretions of the patient, is easily spread by coughing, sneezing, and close contact with patients. Common symptoms are high fever, 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, a rash erupts, usually on the upper neck and face. The rash then spreads eventually to trunk, hands and feet. The rash lasts 5 to 6 days, and then fades. The most serious complications include blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhea and dehydration, ear infections, or severe respiratory infections such as pneumonia. Severe measles is more likely among young children with malnutrition or weakened immunity.

Measles illness needs a hospitalization. A medical care include supportive care that ensures good nutrition, adequate fluid intake and treatment of dehydration with oral rehydration solution. Antibiotics are prescribed to treat eye and ear infections, and pneumonia.

The Department of Disease Control encourages parents to bring young children to get measles vaccination, i.e. first time at the age of 9 to 12 months and the second time at the age of two and a half years. Precaution should also be taken to prevent measles transmission from a suspected infected person from 4 days prior to the onset of the rash to 4 days after the rash erupts.

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

