

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.114_HFMD

(26 June – 2 July 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system during the past 5 years, there were 40,000–76,000 Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) cases with 2 to 3 deaths per year. From 1 January to 19 June 2017, there were 24,005 cases with one death. The highest incidence rates were found in newborn to 4 years old children (86.49%) and in Bangkok followed by the upper provinces of the central and the southern regions respectively.

Last week report revealed higher number of HFMD patients compared to the same period of the past 5 years. Outbreaks of HFMD were reported from child-development centers. Two deaths from suspected HFMD are under laboratory investigations.



According to this week disease forecast, the occurrence of HFMD is likely to continue during the rainy season and the beginning of school semester from June to August. Every year, the highest incidence of HFMD is usually found in July.

Places where children gather especially nurseries, child-development centers, kindergartens are recommended to provide health education and hygienic facilities for the disease prevention. Facilities and utensils should be kept clean and hygienic. Children should be encouraged to wash their hands often especially before having meals and after using toilets.

The Department of Disease Control highly recommended that parents, child-caregivers and teachers screen all children for the disease symptoms on a daily basis during the high risk period. This can be done by observing young children's symptoms such as fever, mouth sores or skin rash with red spots on palms of hands and soles of feet, and sometimes on knees, elbows and buttocks.

HFMD illness is usually mild. Nearly all patients recover in 7 to 10 days by symptomatic treatment and home care. However, urgent hospitalization is needed in patients with warning signs such as high fever, stiff neck, recurrent vomiting, and limb weakness. To help prevent the disease from spreading, after seeking medical advice, sick children should stay home and avoid close contact with family members or others in the community, especially during the first week of illness.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1442.

