

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.163_Mushroom Poisoning (3 - 9 Jun 2018)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals 13 mushroom poisoning incidents with 251 cases from 33 provinces during 1 January - 26 May 2018. Most patients were the 45 - 64 years age group in the Northern and the Northeastern regions of the country.

During the first month of this rainy season (May), there were 10 mushroom poisoning incidents with 78 cases (3 died) scattered in all regions of the country.



According to this week disease forecast, mushroom poisoning is likely to continue as Thailand has entered the rainy season and there will be more wild mushrooms especially during May and June.

As it is very difficult to distinguish the poisonous mushrooms from the edible ones, and the poisons of some mushrooms are heat-stable that will not be destroyed despite of well cooking, the Department of Disease Control advises people to consume only grown mushrooms and avoid collecting unsure and unknown wild mushrooms which safety can not not assured. In addition, it is safer to avoid eating mushrooms together with alcoholic drink as alcohol will make the poisons spread more quickly.

The common symptoms of mushroom poisoning are nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and abdominal cramp, diarrhea, dizziness within 6 – 24 hours after mushroom consumption. After 24 hours, kidney or liver failure can be life-threatening.

In case of mushroom poisoning, first aid must be given immediately to the patient to induce vomiting by eating 3 – 4 raw egg whites or drinking 6 -7 glasses of warm water mixed with crushed absorbent carbon tablet or salted water. However, this first aid is not for young children under 5 years old. Giving an enema to the patient is forbidden as it might increase the risk of dehydration. Instead, an urgent visit to the nearest hospital for emergency life saving medical care is crucial. Bringing along the left over mushroom samples or foods for identification is helpful.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422 and Ramathibodi Poison Center hotline 1367.

