

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.96 _Diphtheria (20 – 26 February 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system, there were 20 diphtheria cases with 5 deaths in 2016. Cases were reported from 10 provinces. Most of the cases were Thais (95%). Some were Myanmar (5%). The highest diphtheria incidence rates were found in age groups 7-9 years followed by 35-44 years and 10-14 years respectively.

In 2017, there were 8 suspected cases. One death was a probable diphtheria case from Pattani province. The victim was a four and a half years old boy with a history of receiving only one dose of vaccine at the age of 2 months and lived in the areas with low vaccination coverage.



According to this week disease forecast, there is a possibility of diphtheria occurrence, especially in some areas with low vaccination coverage against diphtheria while having high number of migrant workers.

Diphtheria can cause illness in unvaccinated children and adults and those who have got incomplete vaccination including the “booster” doses of diphtheria vaccine in every 10 years.

The best way to prevent diphtheria is to get vaccinated. The Department of Disease Control therefore advises parents to bring their children to get a complete vaccination series against diphtheria, i.e. the DTP vaccine, as per the MOPH recommended immunization schedule.

Main symptoms of diphtheria are fever, weakness, sore throat, swollen neck and thick gray or white patch in throat. To save life, the patient must visit a hospital for a special medical care immediately.

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

