



Highlights of Diseases and Event in August 2015

Dengue hemorrhagic fever

Situation of Dengue hemorrhagic fever in Thailand from 1 January to 29 August 2015 revealed that total 59,432 cases and 45 deaths attributable for dengue infection, with attack rate of 91.26 per 100,000 population, death rate of 0.07 per 100,000 population and crude death rate of 0.08%. The 5-14 years old age group showed the highest attack rate of 242.99 per 100,000 population. Five provinces with the highest cumulative attack rate per 100,000 population were Rayong (455.85), Phetchaburi (351.44), Trat (298.43), Tak (258.76) and Ratchaburi (256.86).

During 1 January to 29 August 2015, the number of case in 2015 was higher than that of 2014, with one time more than that of January to March and 2-3 times more than that of end March to August. Although the number of case in 2015 was similar to the median of last 5 years (2010-2014) in the beginning of the year, it was likely to get higher since 18th week (May). Nevertheless, it was predicted to decrease during August 2015.

The 45 deaths included 21 males and 24 females who aged 2-77 years old. The highest proportion of death was among 5-14 years old with 20 deaths (44.44%). Residency of the deaths included 22 deaths in central, 13 in northeastern, 5 in northern and 5 in southern parts. There was no death reported in Bangkok.

Duration of illness onset to death was 1-7 days in 29 deaths (64.44%) and 0-3 days in 21 deaths (46.66%). Out of 32 deaths reported from the event-based surveillance system until 34th week, 8 deaths (25%) were found to be overweight.

During previous 4 weeks (2-29 August 2015), top 5 provinces with the highest attack rate per 100,000 population included Rayong (81.35), Phetchaburi (73.64), Uthai Thani (52.51), Chanthaburi (49.80) and Nakhon Ratchasima (48.01).

Total 31 provinces were reported to have the number of case higher than median+20% in last 4 weeks (2-29 August 2015), including 13 provinces in central, 8 provinces in northern, 9 provinces in northeastern and one province in southern parts.

Recommendations

For Public

Measures should be focused on providing health knowledge and raising awareness among the public.

1. Dengue virus can infect all age groups, but mostly occurs in children. People who are at risk of getting severe infection were those who had dengue infection before and those with BMI higher than normal standards.
2. In the early stage of dengue, it is hard to differentiate it from other diseases. Thus, people should seek treatment in the early stage of disease and follow physician's advice strictly. Frequent changing of health care places to receive treatment may result in delay of getting appropriate treatment.
3. People should protect themselves for being bitten by mosquitoes such as using appropriate mosquito repellants.

For Health Care and Public Health Workers

1. Educating health care workers about caring dengue cases systematically for both aspects in providing treatment and prevention and control measures in order to avoid delayed diagnosis and inappropriate treatment. The education could be provided in various methods such as continuous training about investigation and control measures of dengue infection
2. Promoting technology development in prevention and control measures of dengue infection such as protecting self from being bitten by mosquitoes and elimination of mosquito larvae
3. Encourage public and local authorities to participate in prevention and control of dengue infection more actively and consistently
4. Publicize up to high-risk children and adults in different ways, including main media, vice media and online social media
5. Analyze the causes and outline control measures for the next year before the outbreak starts by utilizing the problems encountered when implementing the prevention and control measures in this year