



Highlights of Diseases and Events in February 2015

Situation of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

Since 1 January to 21 February 2015, total 4,317 cumulative cases of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) and 1 death were reported to Bureau of Epidemiology through 506 system from 77 provinces, with attack rate 6.70 per 100,000 population. The age group with the highest attack rate was 1 year old (28.96%). The northern part was the area with the highest attack rate per 100,000 population (8.42), followed by southern (7.45), northeastern (6.11) and central (6.04) parts. The provinces with the highest attack rate per 100,000 population were Nan (35.80), Phuket (17.18) and Phayao (15.57).

At the beginning of 2015, although the HFMD cases were reported more than 5-year median, it was still lower than that of the same period in 2014. However, this might be due to delayed reporting in R506 reporting system. Thus, monitoring of the disease situation should be continued, along with providing health information and screening among high-risk children by coordinating with schools and public health offices that are responsible for kindergarten schools and child-care centers.

According to the laboratory surveillance data on enterovirus from Department of Medical Science, hospitals or surveillance units in the local area collect specimens from 338-1,234 patients and send for pathogen confirmation in laboratories every year since 2008 to 2014, which was about only 1-10% when compared with the reported cases through R506 surveillance system. Actually,

this was rather low and fewer specimens are sent for testing every year. During 2014, among specimens of 854 HFMD cases were sent for confirmation, 44.69% were other type of enterovirus while 31.42% were enterovirus EV71 and 23.89% were coxsackievirus (CA16).