



## Highlights of Diseases and Event in July 2015

### 1. Situation of Diphtheria in Thailand

Since 1 January to 21 July 2015, total 11 confirmed and probable diphtheria cases were identified, including 3 deaths with one each in Yala, Phang-nga and Phuket Provinces. Among 9 confirmed cases, 3 (Myanmar) were sporadic cases in Tak Province while there were 2 cases in Yala and one case each in Nonthaburi (Laos), Bangkok, Chanthaburi (Cambodian) and Phang-nga (Myanmar). Two probable cases were from Chachoengsao and Pruket Provinces. The highest number of cases was reported in the central and southern parts, with 4 cases each, followed by the northern part with 3 cases.

The age group with the highest number of cases was 0-4 years old children (4 cases), followed by 5-9 years old (3 cases), 45-54 years old (2 cases), 15-24 years old (1 case) and 10-14 years old (1 case). Most of the cases had never received the diphtheria vaccination before since they were foreigners and people living in the southern border areas.

### 2. Situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Outbreak in Thailand

According to the surveillance data of Department of Disease Control, total 178 cases met the criteria to investigate for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) since 1 January to 20 July 2015, which included 80 males and 98 females, with age range of 6 months to 91 years old (median 34 years). The

laboratory testing revealed DNA of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in one case while 175 cases were negative and no information was available for 2 cases.

### **3. Situation of Ebola Surveillance in Thailand**

Since 8 June 2014 until 5 July 2015, the International Health Control has been screening the travelers who returned from the countries with Ebola disease by checking their history and temperature. Hence, total 5,038 travelers from Ebola affected countries were identified, including 2,066 people from Guinea, 252 from Sierra Leone, 260 from Liberia and 2,460 from other countries. Among them, 1,995 people met the criteria of follow-up for 21 days after they left the affected country. To date, 7 people who were investigated and tested for laboratory confirmation resulted to be negative of Ebola infection. Thus, Thailand is still free of Ebola virus at present.

Since Ebola cases were still reported in Guinea and Sierra Leone during previous 3 weeks with outbreaks occurring in some cities, especially in border areas of these 2 countries, and new cases were also identified in Liberia, surveillance and tracing of travelers from these 3 affected countries should be continued strictly in Thailand.