



Highlights of Diseases and Event in June 2015

Situation of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease in Thailand

Since 1 January to 16 June 2015, total 12,152 cases of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) were reported from 77 provinces to the Bureau of Epidemiology, with attack rate of 18.66 per 100,000 population. The highest attack rate per 100,000 population was found in the northern part (24.83), followed by central (19.20), southern (16.94) and northeastern (15.49) parts. As for provinces, Nan (69.84) was the province with the highest attack rate per 100,000 population, followed by Phayao (47.06), Loei (45.59), Chiang Rai (41.57) and Samut Prakan (34.32).

Trend of HFMD incidence showed that the number of HFMD cases was higher than the median since January and had been higher than the median throughout the time. However, the number of cases was still similar to the trend of 2014.

According to laboratory surveillance data on enterovirus from Department of Medical Science during 2008-2014, 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).

Every year, most of the HFMD outbreaks occur in childcare centers and kindergarten schools. Therefore, all childcare centers and kindergarten schools located in HFMD risk areas should be invited to join the “Disease-free Childcare Centers Project” by Department of Disease Control, including promoting the project activities and encouraging them to report about sick children to Department of Disease Control more timely and comprehensively.