



Highlights of Diseases and Events in March 2015

1. Situation of Influenza

According to the national epidemiological surveillance data (R506) in Thailand, total 14,743 influenza cases were reported to Bureau of Epidemiology since 1 January to 10 March 2015. The data from Outbreak Verification Program stated that from 1 January to 15 March 2015, 15 deaths were identified, including 8 from Nakhon Ratchasima, 1 from Lamphu, 1 from Maha Sarakham, 1 from Sukhothai, 2 from Buriram, 1 from Chaiyaphum and 1 from Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya. Male to female ratio was 1:1 and median age was 60 years old (range 1.5-89 years). The case history showed that 40% were over 65 years old elderly and children aged 6 months to 5 years, 47% were people with underlying diseases such as heart diseases and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and 20% were people with no risk factor. Only 2 cases had been vaccinated for influenza and 3 had received Oseltamivir within 2 days after the onset of symptoms. Laboratory testing revealed 10 cases of influenza A (H1N1) 2009, 3 cases of influenza A (unknown subtype), 1 case of influenza A (H3N2) and 1 case of influenza B.

Proportion of influenza-like illness (ILI) cases among all patients treated in hospitals of Thailand during 10th week of 2015 was 3.8% and proportion of hospitals that reported ILI was 70% out of all hospitals registered in Thailand.

According to the data from the National Influenza Center, total 169 specimens from ILI cases in out-patient department of hospitals under sentinel

surveillance were tested for influenza virus since January to 7 March 2015. Among them, influenza A/H1N1 (2009) was found in 2%, with influenza A/H3N2 for 15% and influenza B for 7%.

2. Situation of Dengue

Data from the national epidemiological surveillance data (R506) showed that Bureau of Epidemiology was notified of total 4,347 dengue cases and 4 deaths from 1 January to 10 March 2015, with case fatality rate of 0.09%. The deaths were from Chonburi, Nakhon Ratchasima, Yasothon and Lopburi Provinces. Children aged 5-14 years old were the age group with the highest attack rate (20.4 per 100,000 population), followed by 15-24 years old with attack rate of 13.8 per 100,000 population.

The number of cases reported in this week was higher than that of the same period in 2014 and similar to 5-year median.

Provinces with the cumulative attack rate of more than 10 per 100,000 population during previous 4 weeks (14 February to 10 March 2015) included Samut Songkhram, Phetchaburi, Rayong, Nakhon Pathom and Samut Sakorn.

Data from prediction of dengue cases in 2015 stated that fewer number of dengue cases would be reported in February and March. Then, more cases are likely to be reported and outbreaks could occur rapidly in May. Highest number of cases will be identified during the rainy season (June to August), with outbreaks taking place in the southern part earlier than other areas. The dengue virus that may cause outbreaks in 2015 will be DEN-1 as the dominant serotype as usual while there might be less cases of DEN-2. Hence, most of the people already have immunity for these 2 serotypes. Nevertheless, serotypes DEN-3 and DEN-4 might be found more in children.