



## Highlights of Diseases and Event in August 2016

### Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

One new probable case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) was identified in Thailand, who was a 18-year-old male from the Middle East. He arrived Thailand on 25 July 2016 and began to sick on 26 July 2016. He was treated in an isolation room of Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute. At present, he has no fever, dyspnoea or other symptoms. His laboratory results showed negative for MERS infection and returned back to his country on 4 August 2016.

An investigation was carried out by Department of Disease Control and Department of Health in Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to find out more cases and high risk contacts. No more case was identified. High risk contacts were quarantined on 28 July 2016.

Screening for MERS patients and surveillance measures for people who traveled to the outbreak areas have been strictly carried out by the Ministry of Public Health every day. The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is prepared for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, and ready to report the updated situation in 120 minutes. Three main areas of surveillance measures under operation include control of the disease in international, hospitals and communities. In hospitals, areas for screening of travelers, treating and isolating patients, and laboratory testing are well prepared. Meanwhile, surveillance in the communities is carried

out by local provincial health offices and Offices of Disease Prevention and Control.

Measures on surveillance, prevention and control are strictly conducted by the Department of Disease Control according to the Communicable Diseases Act 2015 and make announcement as hazardous infectious disease. In addition, the information is closely coordinated with World Health Organization (WHO) as well.

According to the reports from WHO, as of 25 July 2016, total 1,791 cases and 640 fatalities were reported from 27 countries, mostly in the Middle East. The first MERS case was identified in Thailand during June 2015 and the second case in January 2016. Since many people are traveling to the outbreak areas and coming back to Thailand, surveillance should be conducted strictly and continuously.