



Highlights of diseases and event in December 2017

Situation of Leptospirosis

Cases of leptospirosis were reported to the national disease surveillance R506 system during 1 January to 11 December 2017 included 3,257 cases and 59 deaths. The flooding is still occurring in the southern part of Thailand. As the floodwater has receded in some areas, the bacteria contamination in the water becomes more concentrated. This might bring into more leptospirosis outbreaks in these areas. During the 50th epidemiological week, 4 fatalities attributable to leptospirosis were observed in 4 southern provinces, including Trang, Yala, Songkhla and Surat Thani Provinces.

Leptospirosis or Weil's disease is a disease among animals and also can transmit to humans. Common clinical manifestations are high fever, headache, conjunctivitis, muscle pain (mostly leg muscles) or jaundice, depending on types of the virus and viral dose introduced into the body. Viruses can be released from the infected animals through urine, and can contaminate the water, damp soil and vegetables. Viruses can enter the human body by direct contact through skin scratches or wound, mouth, eye and nose. In addition, normal skin softened by soaking in the water for a long time, walking in the mud, or soaking and swimming in the floodwater may also increase the risk of getting the infection.

Due to the facts mentioned above, people living in the flooded areas should avoid contact with floodwater as much as possible. Otherwise, the wound should be covered with the waterproof material, and protective equipment such as boots and rubber gloves should be used. People should not walk on the dump area, especially the small ponds or even clay in the houses while cleaning the houses after the floodwater recedes since the viruses might be highly concentrated in the pond with little water and wet ground. If people who have contacted with floodwater develop fever, muscle pain, headache, conjunctivitis or high-

colored urine, they should seek for medical attention at earliest as well as disclosing the exposure history of the floodwater to the medical personnel. For any inquires about health problems, the hotline of the Department of Disease Control can be reached at telephone number 1422.

Source of information: Outbreak Verification Summary, 50th week during 11-17 December 2017