



Highlights of diseases and event in February 2017

Situation of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

From 1 January to 14 February 2017, total 6,790 cases of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) were reported with no associated fatalities. The attack rate was 10.38 per 100,000 populations. The reported HFMD cases were higher than the 5-year median about 1.5 times. The highest attack rate was observed among children under four years old, with 154.02 per 100,000 populations, followed by the age group of 5-14 years old (10.92). Surat Thani Province revealed the highest attack rate, with 25.30 per 100,000 populations, followed by Chiang Rai (18.83), Lampang (17.40), Phuket (17.26), Chanthaburi (16.06), Phichit (15.18), Satun (14.64), Surin (13.85), Yasothon (13.70), Sisaket (12.88), Phang Nga (12.56) and Mae Hong Son (12.26) Provinces.

One person died of suspected enterovirus 71 in Nakhon Ratchasima Province. Laboratory testing was carried out in the Emerging Infectious Disease Section in Thai Red Cross Society, and no enterovirus was detected. However, bacteria in the respiratory tract, including *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, were identified by Respiratory Full Panel Assay.

At present, the reported number of HFMD cases is much higher than the median. Hence, risk of HFMD infection should be communicated to the people such as avoid bringing infants and young children to the crowded places, and monitor the symptoms of HFMD infection. If children develop fever after contact with neighbors, classmates or siblings who have HFMD infection, they should be brought for health care and should not allow to go to schools until completely recover. Screening of sick children should be carried out in day-care centers and kindergarten schools, especially during the period with disease outbreak. In

case a sick child or a suspected case is detected, the local public health authority should be informed to clean the floor, toys and materials with bleach (chloroform) regularly while 20 cc of bleach is used for 1,000 cc of water and rinse with clean water again. Personal hygiene of children should be properly managed as well. The schools should be closed according to recommendations of the public health authorities.