



Highlights of diseases and event in April 2017

Situation of Measles

From 1 January to 27 April 2017, total 1,391 cases and no fatalities were reported to the national 506 surveillance system in the Bureau of Epidemiology, Thailand. The attack rate was 2.13 per 100,000 population. Regarding to the age groups, the highest attack rate was identified in the age group of 15-24 years old (19.99 per 100,000 population), followed by 25-34 years old (18.91) and 1 year old (8.99). The southern part of the country revealed the highest attack rate with 5.72 per 100,000 population, followed by the central (3.25), northeastern (0.42) and northern (0.38) parts. Pattani (25.65 per 100,000 population), Narathiwat (25.16), Yala (24.46), Samut Sakhorn (23.58) and Prachuap Khiri Khan (10.19) were the provinces with the highest attack rate in the country.

Measles cases reported during 2017 trend to be higher than those in the same period of 2016 and 5-year median. In January-March 2017, the cases reported in every week were 4-5 times higher than those of 2016 and 5-year median. Most of the children infected with measles were those who have never received the measles vaccination and thus, could progress to severe condition and even fatal. The best preventive measure is to administer measles vaccine for at least two times: first dose at 9-12 months old and second dose at 2.5 years of age.

Parents and guardians should be encouraged to bring their children for measles vaccination. As for adults who have never been vaccinated, they should receive one dose of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The mixed preparation of MMR vaccine can help to protect measles infection as well as other potential infections and complications.