



Highlights of diseases and event in June 2017

Situation of Influenza

In Thailand, from 1 January to 8 June 2017, total 26,440 influenza cases were reported with the attack rate of 40.41 per 100,000 population. Four deaths were also recorded in Lamphu, Ayuthaya, Nakhon Ratchasima and Pattani Provinces, with one serotype identified in each death as A/H3, A/H1N1 2009, A unsubtype and B. Case fatality rate was 0.02%. The highest attack rate was observed in 0-4 years old with 156.28 per 100,000 population, followed by 5-14 years old. Top five provinces with the highest attack rate included Chanthaburi, Uttaradit, Bangkok, Phitsanulok and Phayao Provinces.

At present, the number of influenza case and proportion of influenza A(H3N2) trend to be increasing, especially in the southern part (according to the results from the laboratory network of hospitals in Bangkok). It is predicted that there might be about 5,500 influenza cases reported in June and 8,500 cases in July 2017. Hence, outbreaks and deaths attributable to influenza might occur during this period, especially in mass-gathering places such as schools, camps for arm force and adolescents, training centers, prisons and hospitals.

Respective public health authorities should inform people in high risk groups and the public about preventive measures and how to take care of themselves when infected by influenza. Risk groups include pregnant women with more than four weeks of gestation, children aged six months to two years old, those with underlying disease (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD, heart disease, asthma, renal failure, stroke, cancer with chemotherapy and diabetes mellitus), and elderly more than 65 years old. People in these four risk groups should be administered with influenza vaccine.

Surveillance for prevention of outbreak occurrence and spread, screening and isolation of patients with symptoms, and preparing of isolation room, mask and materials for hand washing should be carried out in the high risk areas. Furthermore, in order to achieve better preventive and control measures, the situation should be analyzed and data of influenza-like illness (ILI) should be monitored regularly to evaluate the influenza situation and identify the outbreaks.