



Highlights of diseases and event in May 2017

Situation of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

According to the data on hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) reported through the national 506 surveillance system from 1 January to 30 May 2017, there were total 18,989 cumulative cases, with attack rate of 29.02 per 100,000 population, and one death from Chanthaburi Province.

Children aged 0-4 years old exhibited the highest attack rate with 429.45 per 100,000 population, followed by 5-14 years old (30.6). The highest attack rate was found in the northern part (2.63 per 100,000 population), followed by the central (2.08), southern (1.95) and northeastern (1.91) parts.

The trend of HFMD situation is declining at present, yet the number of cases display higher than the 5-year median. Provinces with the highest attack rate were Chanthaburi (90.14 per 100,000 population), followed by Trat (86.31) and Surat Thani (73.89).

Coxsackieviruses A16 and *Coxsackieviruses* A were commonly detected while other types of Echovirus and Enterovirus71 were also identified as well. Children under five years old are often being infected during the raining season until the winter arrives. HFMD cases are increasingly reported since June and expected to be the highest in December 2017.

The disease can be transmitted by nasal secretion, respiratory droplet and stool of infected cases through direct and indirect contact of toys, hands, and contaminated foods and drinks. HFMD outbreaks usually occur in kindergarten schools and child care centers. No vaccination is available to prevent the infection yet. Thus, the important preventive measures are isolation of infected children from others and avoid bringing children to the crowded areas during the outbreak period.