



Highlight of Diseases and Events in May 2018

Situation of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

On 1-12 May 2018, a total of 11,670 cumulative hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases (17.84/100,000 population) and two deaths were reported in Thailand. Of two deaths, one was from Maha Sarakam Province, caused by human echovirus 9, and another one was from Lopburi Province, caused by human echovirus 25. During last four weeks, the number of HFMD cases continued to decrease about more than 50%, compared to that of reported in the beginning of 2018. The HFMD cases were reported 240-370 cases per week from week 15 to 19 in 2018, and the period was the lowest number of HFMD cases reported in 2018. However, the HFMD cases are more likely to increase from late May or after week 20 of the year.

The highest attack rate of HFMD infected cases per 100,000 population was observed among children 1-4 years of age (294.63/100,000 population), followed by children under 1 (164.77/100,000 population), and 5-9 years of age (35.73/100,000 population).

The areas with the highest attack rate of HFMD per 100,000 population were the northern (29.00/100,000 population), central (23.37/100,000 population), southern (10.91/100,000 population), and northeastern in Thailand (9.03/100,000 population).

The top three provinces with the highest attack rate of HFMD reported cases per 100,000 population were Phayao (75.90/100,000 population), Chiang Rai (61.71/100,000 population) and Chanthaburi (54.99/100,000 population).

As hand, foot and mouth disease is usually found among children under five years, children in daycare centers and kindergarten schools are most prone to be infected. The disease is a common infectious disease caused by a group of enteroviruses, including Coxsackievirus A16 and *Enterovirus 71 (EV 71)*. Mild infections can recover after a period. Infection with *EV 71* is of particular concern as it can cause severe disease in children such as pneumonia, myocarditis, encephalitis and even resulting in death by heart and respiratory

failure. Since no specific treatment or vaccine is currently available for HFMD, health care providers can provide symptomatic treatments and in case of severe complications, the patient should be hospitalized and receive supportive medications via intravenous fluid.

Recommendations: To reduce the risk of infection, people should wash their hands frequently, cleaning and disinfecting of touched surfaces, toys and toilets, and when children are sick, let them stay at home.

Source of information: Outbreak Verification Summary on 19th week during 13-19 May 2018