



## Highlight of Diseases and Events in July 2018

### Situation of Influenza in Thailand

According to the (R 506) national disease surveillance system in Thailand, there were total 72,523 influenza cases and 14 deaths during 1 January to 24 July 2018, and the attack rate was 109.78 per 100,000 population. Out of 14 deaths, seven were from Nakhon Ratchasima province, two were from Phichit province, and one each was from Roi-Et, Ranong, Surin, Nong Khai and Nakhon Sawan. Out of 14 deaths, nine died from influenza A virus and five died from A/H1N1 (2009) virus.

Nowadays, cases occur more often in epidemic season. The attack rate of influenza case found to be highest among children 0-4 years of age was 472.99 per 100,000 population, followed by among children 5-14 years of age (230.41 per 100,000 population), and among 25-34 years old (80.69 per 100,000 population). Similarly, the ten provinces with the highest attack rate per 100,000 population during past four weeks were Ubon Ratchathani (50.31 per 100,000 population), Bangkok (34.76 per 100,000 population), Nakhon Sawan (34.24 per 100,000 population), Nong Khai (33.39 per 100,000 population) Phitsanulok (32.35 per 100,000 population) Nakhon Ratchasima (30.77 per 100,000 population) Samut Prakan (30.18 per 100,000 population) Chachoengsao (29.84 per 100,000 population) Uttaradit (29.50 per 100,000 population) and Chanthaburi (29.24 per 100,000 population).

From surveillance on influenza virus in influenza-like illness (ILI) cases and pneumonia cases conducted in hospital network for Department of Medical Science and Department of Disease Control during 1 January to 21 July 2018, there were total 1,361 samples, of which 310 cases were infected, accounting for 22.78% of samples. From all influenza viruses, 147 (47.42%) cases were associated with influenza A/H1N1 (2009), 80 (25.81%) cases were related to A/H3N2 and 83 (26.77%) cases were caused by influenza B virus.

**Recommendations:** The most effective way to prevent the disease is vaccination. Annual vaccination is recommended to protect against influenza. WHO recommends annual for pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy, children aged between 6 months to 5 years, elderly individuals (aged more than 65 years), individuals with chronic medical conditions, and health-care workers.

Influenza vaccination is recommended before seasonal influenza outbreaks. In Thailand, the best time to get vaccine is during January to June of every year. Immunity from vaccination develops approximately two weeks after vaccination. Significantly, influenza viruses can evolve their nature constantly. Thus, annual vaccination is highly recommended because influenza vaccine is most effective when circulating viruses are well-matched with viruses contained in vaccine.

Information resource: Outbreak Verification Summary of 29<sup>th</sup> week during 22-28 July 2018