



Highlights of diseases and event in January 2018

Situation of Measles

Regarding to the situation of measles in Thailand, total 2,893 cases and 2 deaths of suspected measles with fever and rash were reported from 69 provinces according to the information from the measles control project. These included 2,483 cases from specific disease investigations and 410 cases from outbreaks. There were 1,457 (50.4%) laboratory confirmed cases, 399 (13.8%) probable cases and 1,037 (35.8%) suspected cases.

Analyzing the information on confirmed and probable cases revealed that 1,228 (66.1%) were males and 629 (33.9%) were females. Median age was 17 years, ranged from 1 month to 54 years. Most of the cases (550 cases, 29.6%) were 16-25 years old, followed by 1-5 years old (444 cases, 23.9%), 26-35 years old (332 cases, 17.9%), under 1 year (222 cases, 12.0%) and 6-10 years old (156 cases, 8.4%). Regarding to the ethnicity, there were 1,575 (84.9%) Thai people, 254 (13.7%) Myanmar and minorities, 14 (0.7%) Cambodian and 13 (0.7%) others.

About 80.1% (1,486 cases) had never received measles vaccination before or unsure about the vaccination status. There were 146 (7.9%) cases with no vaccination record, 111 (6.0%) cases who had received measles vaccination for 1 time, 87 (4.7%) cases who had received vaccination but unsure about the frequency of vaccination received, and 26 (1.4%) cases who had received vaccination for 2 times.

The measles cases were identified most in Chiang Mai (271 cases), Samut Sakhon (269 cases), Pattani (215 cases), Narathiwat (198 cases) and Yala (188 cases). The highest number of measles cases were observed during January to March 2017.

Total 3,196 cases and 2 fatalities of measles were reported to the national R506 disease surveillance system from 1 January to 31 December 2017. The national trend of disease occurrence is going in the same direction as the median of the measles control project.

Top 10 provinces with the highest attack rate per 100,000 population included Samut Sakhon (84.7), Narathiwat (44.59), Yala (44.37), Pattani (40.49), Chiang Mai (14.67), Pathum Thani (13.99), Samut Prakan (13.51), Prachuap Khirikhan (12.39) and Bangkok (10.72).

The disease trend tends to be higher constantly. During last 4 weeks, measles cases were still reported from the outbreak areas, including Chiang Mai, Lamphu, Loei, Samut Sakhon and Pathum Thani Provinces. Hence, guidelines on measles disease control and prevention, and vaccine coverage should be reviewed in every province. In case of vaccine coverage lower than the national standard, vaccination should be administered to the target groups and public health personnel promptly. The disease surveillance and the measles control project should be implemented in parallel for early detection of outbreak and rapid disease control and prevention.

People can protect themselves by administering the measles vaccine following the recommendations from the Ministry of Public Health. The guardians should bring their children for complete measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination at least 2 times: first at the age of 9-12 months and second as a booster dose at 2 years old. People should also avoid close contact with the infected cases.

Source of information: Outbreak Verification Summary, 2nd week during 8-14 January 2018