



ข่าวเพื่อสื่อมวลชน

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MOPH announced – a probable case of MERS detected in Thailand, a man from the Middle East

Today (30/07/2016) – Dr.Amnuay Gajeena, Director General of the Department of Disease Control (DDC), the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) said that the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) surveillance system has been in operation to detect any MERS case since 2012. And the functions of the DDC’s Emergency Operation Center (EOC) are available 24/7 to provide real-time urgent situation report and prompt response. Recently, DDC received a notification of a probable case of MERS, a 18 years old man from the Middle East who was ill with flu-like symptoms while staying in Thailand. However, the laboratory testing of this case shows inconclusive result. Therefore, as per MOPH’s case classification, this case is an imported probable case of MERS. Now, the patient has been in proper medical care and isolation at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute under MOPH.

Under the Communicable Disease Act B.E.2558, the MOPH has announced MERS as a dangerous communicable disease. The Act requires the person who is the case, or the suspected case, or the contact of any dangerous communicable disease to receive diagnosis or medical treatment, or medical examination. And as a precautionary measure, an order may be given for isolation, quarantine, or observation of such person at any place specified by health officer, until it is confirmed by the result of medical examination that the transmission period is over, said Dr.Amnuay.

This probable case arrived to Thailand on July 25 and developed acute febrile respiratory illness symptom on July 26. The patient had a travel history from the Middle East in past 14 days, thus he was tested for the MERS. There is some laboratories that show an evidence of MERS-CoV infection, but the testing is inconclusive. Regarding to the case definition for reporting to World Health Organization (WHO), this patient is a probable case of MERS. Even if this case is not met the confirmed MERS case as per the case definition, for precautionary measure the case was isolated in the proper medical care facility and the high risk contact will be requested to quarantine or observation for control.

Dr. Amnuay said, the patient was under stringent medical care, the virus could not spread, so the public should be safe and no reason to become panic. He encouraged to the public to always practice good hygiene such as “eat hot-well cooked food, use utensil that assign for common plate to prevent cross mixing when eating in group and wash hands regularly”. When traveling to affected country, please avoid direct or close contact to camel and avoid visiting the hospital or persons with illness. Report the country you have visited immediately upon arrival to Thailand and report any illness you may have during the first 14 days to the doctor. Call free hot-line 1422 for more information

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