



每週疫情監測速訊

Disease Surveillance Express

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Altogether the number of suspected cases of notifiable infectious diseases in Taiwan reported last week was 916, out of which 477 cases were acute and 439 chronic. Also 8 cases died in the week. Aside from those, we also received the reports of 8 clustering outbreaks of infectious diseases involving 47 individuals. These clusters comprised of 4 incidents of diarrhea, 2 incidents of chicken pox, and one incident each of encephalitis and measles. Among them, the identities of the pathogen(s) responsible for the encephalitis, diarrhea, and measles infections are still under lab investigation.

At this moment, the domestic enterovirus endemic appears to be rather quiet and static, but its consultation rate at local sentinel physicians has been climbing up gradually over the past few weeks. We predict that its situation may reach an alarming level within 2 weeks (expectation value: 2.02), and probably enter an epidemic period (epidemic threshold value: 3.54) in 4 weeks. As to the measles epidemic, the onset date of the last confirmed case remains to be March 17, the epidemic status will be duly lifted this coming week unless a new confirmed case would show up before then. Furthermore, the onset date of the very first indigenous Dengue fever case this year confirmed on March 29 turned out to be March 21, and there has been no other confirmed cases surfaced ever since. This is one area we are going to keep a watchful eye on. Finally, regarding our year-round, relentless efforts of mosquito vector control, our records show that the average of Breteau indices of the worst 5 counties/cities of Southern Taiwan during the epidemic season last year was 5.25, and it is now 0.94, still rather far away from the former figure. However, the current such indices of Tainan County and Kaohsiung County are above the average and hovering at 1.81 and 1.11, respectively.

Based on all surveillance records and statistic data available, the overall epidemic situation last week was quite static. We recommend having the epidemic alert index remain at the yellow colored warning light signal.