



Influenza A outbreak in Thailand

September 25th, 2015

Dear State Refugee Health Coordinator:

On September 25th, 2015, CDC was notified of an influenza A outbreak among refugees living in several refugee camps in Thailand, and Bangkok. CDC is working with the International Organization of Migration (IOM) to enhance health education, hygiene promotion, and surveillance during the influenza A outbreak. At present this outbreak has primarily affected children under age 5. Refugees who are ill during their pre-embarkation departure check will be temporarily suspended from travel. Please be aware that refugees arriving to your state from Thailand could have influenza A and should be monitored for signs and symptoms. At this time no influenza strain subtyping is available. There are no Advanced Boarding Notifications (ABN) for this notification, so it will not be posted on Epi-X. CDC is working with our partners to gather more information on the outbreak.

In response to the current influenza A outbreak, CDC and its partners have implemented the following in Thailand:

1. Enhanced influenza education and hygiene promotion
2. Enhanced surveillance for influenza in refugee camps in Thailand
3. Temporary travel hold for refugees who are ill with influenza
4. Influenza strain subtyping has been requested

Influenza viruses are spread from person to person primarily through large-particle respiratory droplet transmission (e.g., when an infected person coughs or sneezes near a susceptible person). The typical incubation period for influenza is 1—4 days (average: 2 days). Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5 to 7 days after becoming sick. Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time. For more information on influenza please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/clinical.htm>

CDC, with in-country and international partners, will continue to monitor the situation in Thailand and will follow up with additional information and recommendations, if necessary.

Sincerely,

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