

YANGON “Current situation and countermeasures undertaken by the Health Department of Yangon City Development Committee against infectious diseases in Yangon City”

Yangon city is nearly 4.5 millions with the population growth rate of 2.02 percent (2001). Health Department of Yangon city Development committee was reorganized in 1990. It plays the supportive role of Ministry of Health (MOH).

Functions of YCDC Health Department with regard to prevention and control of Infectious diseases are as follows. (1)Health education, (2)Disease Surveillance, (3)Prevention and Control measures, (4)Training, (5)Outbreak responses.

Health education

Early signs and symptoms, pathogenesis and mode of transmission of infectious diseases are informed in simple language.

Disease surveillance

Morbidity and mortality data are collected from Health centers of Ministry of Health. Data analysis and necessary actions are taken in collaboration with Ministry of Health.

Prevention and Control measures

Food Safety recommendation and Health hazards free certificate are issued after inspection. Public Health law (1972), National Drug law (1992), National Food Law (1997) and YCDC Health bye-laws (1999) were passed to protect the citizens from health hazards. Sanitary inspection of food service establishments, bazaars and public bathing places has been practiced frequently. Institutional sanitation of inns, motels and small hotels are also checked and corrected.

Severe diarrhea and DHF are on the decreasing trend in Yangon City. Social mobilization for larva control activity for the prevention of DHF has been organized by YCDC mayor. Space spray control measure for DHF is conducted by the YCDC Health department. Blood examination of VDRL is carried out for trishaw peddlers and treatment is given if seropositive. Nasal swabs and stool samples from food handlers are examined to exclude infectious and parasitic diseases. Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system is applied in food service and production establishment. Chemical and Bacteriological examination of water from public and Private supplies are made to determine whether the water for drinking ad household purpose is safe.

The Health Department of YCDC participates in prevention of severe Acute Respiratory Syndromes (SARS) infection. For prevention and control of Avian influenza, YCDC representative is a member of working committee formed by MOH.

Training

Training of food handlers, food stall managers and supervisors has been conducted since 1996. Refresher training courses for Health personals of YCDC Health Department are held every two years.

Outbreak response

Immediate control measures include Prophylaxis, exclusion/Isolation, Public warning and hygienic measures. YCDC is responsible for public warning and hygienic measures.

Healthy City Project

YCDC fulfills the Primary objective of HCP advocated by WHO by strengthening its capabilities and provide opportunities for individuals, families and community groups to address their environment and Health problems.

Collaborative measures

YCDC health department is technically under MOH and administratively under the YCDC. The Ministry of Health cooperated with several organizations; These organizations are WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA. These WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA are actively involved in technical assistance and health care activities. Other organizations such as the UNDP, UNHCR, JICA are involved in health development activities.

The YCDC is one of the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC-21) since 2000/2001 is committed to work together to tackle the issue that major cities share in common.



Minister Of Health, Yangon City Mayor seen supervising social mobilization activity for environmental sanitation to prevent severe diarrhoea in Yangon City 2005.



NGO members seen filtering household water for larva control to prevent DHF in Yangon City in 2005.



NGO members seen throwing away the empty tins where larva breed.



Health personnels, seen spraying the Yangon Railway Station for prevention of SARS..