

Nipah Virus Infection in Thailand: Status

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Editorial

Dear Editor, the Nipah virus is an important emerging infectious disease that is still included in the list of disease to be surveillance by WHO [1]. The neurological involvement in Nipah virus infection is an important clinical manifestation. This pathogenic virus of this disease was firstly detected and reported by professor Bing from Malaysia [2], a Southeast Asian country [2]. Here, the authors would like to discuss the present situation of Nipah virus infection in Thailand, a Southeast Asian country next to Malaysia. At present, Nipah virus infection is still under the closed surveillance from Thailand public health ministry. According to a recent report on pathogen causing neurological infection, the Nipah virus is still not observed as a cause of neurological infection in Thai patients with neuro infections [3]. Nevertheless, there are some reports on the survey of prevalence of Nipah virus in several animals, especially for bats, in Thailand [4-6]. According to the survey in bats, the prevalence of Nipah virus contamination was seen in 6.29% of bats collected from several regions in Thailand [6]. Of interest, although bat is proved to be the carrier of several pathogenic virus such rabies, the bat has never been the problem of zoonosis in Thailand. This might be due to the fact that there is no blood sucking bat in Thailand and the local people usually live far from bats. At present, the Nipah virus is observable in animal

but not human in Thailand. The risk of human Nipah virus infection in Thailand and nearby countries still needed the closed surveillance.

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