

Abstract

In Thailand, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases are a serious threat. Many new (re)emerging infectious diseases outbreak happened these last few years, such as Zika virus.

Facing these outbreaks, in 1970, Thailand's Ministry of Public Health established a disease surveillance program that monitors 84 diseases nowadays. Two main teams are in charge of the program. The Situation Awareness Team is in charge of the surveillance system and of monitoring infectious diseases, while Surveillance and Rapid Response Team is in charge of controlling outbreaks in the field. Both teams are available at all time, 24/7 and are trained to handle any emergency health situation within hours following notification.

This report aims to present Thailand's Ministry of Public Health's capacity to prepare and respond to emerging infectious diseases outbreaks while taking into account the geographical, administrative, economic and socio-demographic variables of the country, as well as the politics and ecological ones.

Keywords: (Re)Emerging infectious disease, Outbreak, Preparedness and Response, Public health