

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

March 30 – April 01, 2024



With Support by:

This report is the result of media monitoring on infectious and emerging diseases happening around the world and among the ASEAN Member States. In order to improve pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response in the ASEAN Region. We provide this report three times a week starting January 2024.

Global Situation

Influenza A (H1N2)

- The **United States (US)**: Pennsylvania Department of Health reported the first variant H1N2 infection in 2024, involving a patient under 18. The patient had contact with pigs before symptoms began, and two close contacts also reported mild illness. No person-to-person spread of H1N2v has been identified. [\[Full article\]](#)

COVID-19

- **Bangladesh** reported 20 COVID-19 cases in 24 hours until Sunday morning, increasing its total caseload to 2,049,519 (SA, 2024). The official death toll remained at 29,493, with recovery and death rates at 98.41% and 1.44%, respectively. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India**: Chhattisgarh has reported a sudden increase in COVID-19 cases, with 11 cases detected after a two-month gap (The Times of India, 2024). A total of 241 samples were tested across the state, with Durg district reporting 10 cases and one in Balod. All patients have been placed under quarantine and are under observation. The health department advises health centres to be vigilant and continue regular COVID-19 tests in all districts. As part of the strategy to combat further spread, instructions have been issued to wear masks in public places, avoid crowds, and maintain social distancing. The number of active patients across the state has reached 14, with Durg having 10 active patients, Raipur having two, and Balod and Dhamtari having one active patient each. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh** has reported no new dengue cases in 24 hours, but 11 patients were hospitalized with viral fever (New Age, 2024). Since January 1, 2024, there are 1,684 cases have been reported, with September being the deadliest month with 396 deaths and 79,598 cases. The Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS) recorded 321,179 cases and 318,749 recoveries last year. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US)**: Dengue cases are surging across the Americas, with 3.5 million reported so far this year, three times the number reported last year (Radio Jamaica News, 2024). The majority of cases are in the Southern Hemisphere, with Brazil having the highest number. Over 25,000 cases have been reported in the Caribbean, with French Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic most affected. The surge in cases has led to public health emergencies in Rio de Janeiro, Peru, and other provinces. [\[Full article\]](#)



Measles

- **Australia:** A measles alert has been issued in western Sydney after New South Wales (NSW) Health received a report of a woman with the disease (Black, 2024). Symptoms include fever, sore eyes, runny nose, cough, and a red, blotchy rash. Potential contacts include people visiting Baby Bunting, Winston Hills Mall, and Westmead Hospital Emergency Department. The disease can cause respiratory or neurological complications in young children or older patients, and in pregnant women, can cause low birth weight or premature birth. Free measles vaccine is available for those born during or after 1966. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **New Zealand** has confirmed one case and identified a second probable case involving young children visiting family members in Auckland, Waikato, and Tauranga between March 23 and 26 (RNZ News, 2024). The children are related and caught the highly contagious disease locally. About 20-30 people may have been affected so far. The authorities encourages people to be aware of their immune status and have their children vaccinated. Symptoms of measles can start a week to 18 days after exposure, including fever, cough, runny nose, and sore eyes. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** A 47-year-old resident in San Diego County has confirmed the second measles case this year, following a February 2024 case in an unvaccinated infant (Saunders, 2024). The adult is hospitalized and may have exposed others at several locations in Encinitas and Carlsbad. County Epidemiology and Immunization Services are working with Scripps Encinitas Hospital and Scripps Coastal Medical Center. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Russia:** A measles outbreak in Tyumen Sloboda has led to doctors visiting high-rise buildings and requesting vaccinations for residents who have not received the vaccine (Morozova, 2024). The announcement, urges residents to provide access to their apartments for examination. Medical staff plan to visit residents door-to-door. [\[Full article\]](#)

Rabies

- **Nepal:** An eight-year-old boy from Tanahun died from rabies infection at the Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital in the last eight months (The Kathmandu Post, 2024). The case is among eleven deaths at the Sukraraj hospital from rabies infection since the start of the fiscal year 2023-24. The country's aim to eliminate dog-transmitted rabies by 2030 is challenged by the alarming rise in dog bite incidents. The majority of victims dying of rabies are children and the poor, who often avoid the vaccine due to fear of scolding or injections. The government provides anti-rabies vaccines free of cost from state-run health facilities, but many people are not aware of them. The World Health Organisation states that rabies causes 59,000 deaths globally every year, mostly children and the poor. [\[Full article\]](#)



Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** The Ministry of Health reported a three-fold increase in dengue fever cases in the first quarter of 2024, reaching 43,271 by the 12th week, with 343 deaths (Bernama, 2024). [\[Full article\]](#)

In Sragen, dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases have doubled in 2024, with 152 cases recorded across 20 sub-districts (Nabilla, 2024). The most cases are expected in Masaran, Sidoharjo, Jenar, Kalijambe, Sumberlawang, Plupuh, Kedawung, and Sragen, while the fewest are in Miri. The Sragen Health Service recorded 152 cases of DHF during January-March 2024, doubling the number from the previous year. [\[Full article\]](#)

- **Singapore:** Seven people have died from local dengue infection in Singapore, surpassing the six deaths from 2023. The National Environment Agency reported over 5,000 cases in 2024, a rise from 2,360 in the first quarter of 2023. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population remains high, with breeding habitats doubled in January 2024. The campaign aims to raise community awareness and reduce infection risk. [\[Full article\]](#)

Malaria

- **Indonesia:** The malaria outbreak on Simuk Island, South Nias, has increased cases to 103, with five deaths (Amisha, 2024). Rapid malaria tests were conducted on 118 residents, with 45 positive and 73 negative. Two residents suspected of malaria refused self-examinations and refused to be examined by Health Service Facilities. The five deaths were aged 4-16. No person infected with malaria has fully recovered, but some have improved and started carrying out activities. The increase in cases is due to delays in treatment due to local people still believing in shamans. The outbreak is a routine and common disease in South Nias. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **The Philippines:** The Iloilo Provincial Health Office (IPHO) has stated that a province-wide outbreak of pertussis, or whooping cough, cannot be declared due to the confirmed cases are only "isolated" in several towns. The latest data shows 16 reported cases, nine of which are confirmed, including three deaths. Two suspected cases have tested negative for the infection. Santa Barbara has reported the highest number of confirmed cases, with two cases from Barangay Inangayan and Barangay Mirage-Guibuangan. [\[Full article\]](#)



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