

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

### Dengue

- **India:** Dengue cases have surged in Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Maharashtra due to monsoon onset (TNM Staff, 2024). The Kerala health department plans to implement a special action plan to prevent the disease. The state has reported 1,075 dengue cases in the past ten days, with Ernakulam district having the highest number. The disease is endemic to over 100 countries and is caused by intermittent rain, contaminated water, and lapses in pre-monsoon cleaning. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Iran:** Iranian Deputy Health Minister reported that 93 people have been infected with dengue fever through mosquito bites, with three deaths (Vesna, 2024). The virus is primarily spread through travel to Gulf countries due to weather conditions and recent floods. The disease is characterized by symptoms like nausea, vomiting, severe bone pain, and body aches. The yellow fever mosquito was first detected in Hormozgan in 2018, and preventive measures have been launched to prevent its spread. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United States (US):** Massachusetts has reported 50 cases of dengue fever this year, with Worcester County having between one and four cases (Worcester, 2024). The CDC issued a health advisory highlighting an increased risk of the illness in the US, with over double the cases reported compared to 2023. Worcester's Hometown Services recommend eliminating standing water, wearing repellent, and wearing long sleeves to prevent mosquito bites. [\[Full article\]](#)

### Malaria

- **India:** Health authorities in Assam's Kokrajhar district have increased efforts to combat malaria, particularly during the monsoon season (Digital Desk, 2024). 138 cases have been detected this year, including a single dengue case, with no fatalities recorded. The increase in cases is largely due to improved diagnosis efforts. Affected areas include Balajan, Dotma, Kachugaon, Gosaigaon, Ultapani, and the vicinities of Kokrajhar town. The Director of Health Services mentioned that the cases are concentrated in Balajan Primary Health Centre (PHC), Dotoma PHC and some parts of Kasugaon. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Pertussis

- **Canada:** The New Brunswick government has declared an outbreak of whooping cough in the Acadian Peninsula, with 11 cases reported in the last two weeks (Morin, 2024). Public Health is closely monitoring the situation and working with health professionals, community partners, and the public to reduce risks. The contagious disease resembles a cold, and the government urges people with symptoms to stay home. [[Full article](#)]
- **Greece:** The Health Ministry in Greece is urging pregnant women to get vaccinated against whooping cough due to an alarming outbreak (Bouloutza, 2024). From the beginning of the year until mid-June, 264 cases of the disease were recorded, with 58% affecting children and adolescents under 18. The surge is attributed to delayed immunization of certain age groups and reduced pathogen circulation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Infants under 6 months old are at the greatest risk of severe disease and complications, with a mortality rate of 2%. [[Full article](#)]

## Zika

- **India:** Zika virus infection cases in Pune have risen to five, with two new cases reported on Friday (Pathare, 2024). The new cases include a 28-year-old pregnant woman from Ganeshnagar, Erandwane, and a 22-year-old man from Mundhwa. The Public Health Department has initiated preventive measures in the Erandwane area and has ordered screening of all pregnant women within a five-kilometer radius after the woman tested positive. The second Zika virus infection was detected in a 22-year-old man from Mundhwa, who reported fever and body ache. [[Full article](#)]

## Regional Situation

### Dengue

- **Malaysia:** Dengue fever cases in Malaysia decreased to 2,438 during the 25th Epidemiological Week (ME25) from June 16 to 22, compared to 2,900 the previous week (Malay Mail, 2024). Two deaths from complications were reported. 81 hotspots were identified with a cumulative number of cases of 72,475 with 55 deaths compared to 56,721 with 39 fatalities in 2023. [[Full article](#)]
- **Philippines:** Baguio City has experienced a 134-percent increase in dengue fever cases from January 1 to June 28, with 940 cases recorded compared to last year's 401 (Dumlao, 2024). The City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit of the Baguio City Health Services Office (CHSO) noted a 376-percent increase in cases for weeks 21 to 24, with 10 hotspot barangays clustering cases. [[Full article](#)]
- **Vietnam:** Hanoi has recorded 84 cases of dengue fever. The city recorded 940 cases and 0 deaths from the beginning of 2024 to present (Ha, 2024). The CDC has organized monitoring of two active outbreaks in Dong Da and Dan Phuong, and coordinating with units to organize surveillance at 8 old dengue outbreaks in 2023. The hot and rainy weather conditions are favorable for the development of mosquitoes and disease-transmitting larvae. [[Full article](#)]



## Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

- **Vietnam:** Hanoi has recorded 30 cases of hand, foot, and mouth disease, a decrease of 17 cases compared to the previous week (Ha, 2024). Last week, the city recorded 30 cases of hand, foot, and mouth disease with no deaths, down 17 cases compared to the previous week when 47 cases were reported with no fatalities. Cumulatively, there were 1,595 cases and zero death reported in 2024, an increase compared to the same period in 2023. No outbreak was recorded during the week. So far in 2024, there have been 39 outbreaks reported. The city has organized 44 environmental sanitation campaigns and epidemic prevention checks in over 120,331 households and 1,779 other areas. [Full article]

## Rabies

- **Indonesia:** West Kalimantan Province Plantation and Livestock Office reported five deaths due to rabid animal bites from January to June 2024 (Elgiant, 2024). From January to June, 3,075 cases were reported, mainly from pet dogs. In 2023, the rate reached 6,970 cases, resulting in 16 deaths. Public awareness of rabies vaccines is low, and understanding in handling bite cases is considered trivial. Socialization of rabies case control continues with 15,000 doses of vaccine distributed to 14 districts and cities. [Full article]
- **The Philippines:** The Department of Health (DOH) is warning the public about leptospirosis, a deadly disease that has caused 878 cases and 84 deaths from January 1 to June 15, 2024 (Pang-Masa, 2024). The disease is primarily caused by children who often paddle in floods, and is primarily transmitted by rats and other animals. Symptoms include fever, body chills, leg, muscle, and joint pain, red eyes, jaundice, headache, and tea-colored urine. To combat leptospirosis, citizens should maintain cleanliness in the environment and homes, including proper garbage disposal. The DOH should also launch a campaign to raise awareness and teach the public how to avoid the disease. [Full article]

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