

# ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

### GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

May 31 - June 2, 2025



This report is based on media monitoring of infectious and emerging diseases globally and within ASEAN Member States. To enhance pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response in the ASEAN Region, we publish this report three times a week.

## Global Situation

### *Mpox*

- **Ethiopia** has reported its first mpox death with five additional cases, according to the Ethiopian Health Ministry (Anadolu Ajansı, 2025). The initial infections were identified in Moyale, a town near the Kenyan border, affecting a family of three including an infant. In response, the government has increased surveillance in border areas and launched public awareness campaigns. The source of the outbreak is still under investigation. [[Full article](#)]

### *COVID-19*

- The **United States**: On May 15, 2025, Washington State recorded its first case of the new SARS-CoV-2 variant, NB.1.8.1, at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Traveler Genomic Surveillance Program (The Seattle Times, 2025). Despite the rise in its prevalence (from 2.5% to 10.7% of COVID-19 samples) in early April, vaccines remain effective in preventing severe illness, and no significant increase in disease severity or hospitalization rates has been observed. Public health authorities emphasize ongoing surveillance and caution but report no heightened threat from this variant. [[Full article](#)]

### *Dengue*

- **Bangladesh** reported 147 new dengue cases in the 24 hours leading up to June 1, raising the total number of confirmed cases in 2025 to 4,492, including 390 patients currently hospitalized (UNB, 2025). The Barisal division had the highest number of new cases, with 89 infections. Other regions reporting new cases include the Chittagong division (20 cases), Dhaka division (10 cases), Dhaka North City Corporation (3 cases), Dhaka South City Corporation (13 cases), Khulna division (2 cases), Rajshahi division (9 cases), and Rangpur division (1 case). Health authorities continue to monitor the situation closely and urge the public to take preventive measures to control the spread of the disease. [[Full article](#)]



## Melioidosis

- **Hong Kong (SAR):** The Centre for Health Protection in Hong Kong reported two new melioidosis cases between May 23 and 29, bringing the year's total to seven (Hong Kong Government, 2025). The cases involved an 88-year-old male from Eastern District and a 58-year-old male from Kwun Tong, both confirmed to have *Burkholderia pseudomallei* infection. Melioidosis often increases after typhoons or rainstorms due to contaminated soil and water. Public health advice includes avoiding muddy water, wearing protective gear, maintaining hygiene, and seeking medical attention. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Poliomyelitis

- **Pakistan:** Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer district has reported a new wild poliovirus case involving a two-year-old boy from Tangir Valley who had not completed the full routine immunisation schedule (The News, 2025). In response, health authorities are strengthening surveillance efforts, collecting samples from individuals who have been in close contact with the boy, and launching a Rapid Response Immunization campaign in Diamer and neighboring high-risk districts. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Regional Situation

### COVID-19

- The **Indonesian** Ministry of Health issued a circular on May 23, 2025, to increase vigilance against rising COVID-19 cases in Asian countries like Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore (CNBC Indonesia, 2025). The circular aims to strengthen the preparedness of health authorities, quarantine units, laboratories, healthcare facilities, and other stakeholders. Despite the presence of regional variants such as XEC and JN.1, transmission and mortality rates remain low. In Indonesia, weekly cases of COVID-19 declined from 28 in week 19 to three in week 20 of 2025, with the MB.1.1 variant predominant. The government emphasizes the importance of early detection, reporting, and readiness to maintain national public health security. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Viet Nam:** Ho Chi Minh City reported 79 new COVID-19 cases between May 19 and 25, along with two related deaths among patients with severe health conditions (VietnamNews, 2025). The deceased included a 53-year-old man with leukemia and organ failure and a 46-year-old woman with septic shock and chronic illnesses. Despite the uptick, total 2025 cases remain 43% lower than during the same period in 2024. The NB.1.8.1 variant was predominant in recent hospitalizations but has not shown increased severity. Health authorities continue to urge vigilance and protective measures, especially for high-risk individuals. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Dengue

- **Indonesia:** East Kalimantan province reported 2,210 dengue fever cases in 2025, with Balikpapan having the highest number (602 cases), followed by Penajam Paser Utara (409), Kutai Kartanegara (407), and Kutai Timur (252) (ANTARA News Kalimantan Timur, 2025). Health authorities have emphasized community vigilance, especially during the rainy season, to prevent mosquito breeding. Preventive measures include draining water containers, covering storage units, recycling unused containers, and conducting mosquito breeding site eradication. Additional measures include mosquito nets, repellents, insect screens, and dengue vaccination. The public is urged to seek medical attention if experiencing sudden fever, muscle pain, or skin rash. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **Philippines** reported 3,389 dengue cases and 11 deaths in Cagayan Valley from January 1 to May 24, 2025, a significant increase from the 1,678 cases and five deaths in the same period last year (The Manila Times, 2025). Isabela Province experienced the highest surge, with a 219% increase. Cagayan and Quirino also saw significant increases. Meanwhile, cases decreased slightly in Nueva Vizcaya and Batanes. Authorities emphasized the need for active community participation and cooperation in dengue prevention, and the regional health department has intensified interventions in high-risk areas to contain the disease's spread. [\[Full article\]](#)

**Zamboaga City** reported 524 cases and three deaths of dengue in the first four months of 2025, a 42% increase from the same period last year (Manila Bulletin, 2025). Despite the number remaining below alert and epidemic thresholds, health authorities are closely monitoring the situation. The highest case counts were in Kasanyangan, San Roque, Talon Talon, Putik, Tetuan, and Santa Catalina. Authorities urged residents to maintain cleanliness to prevent further spread of the disease. [\[Full article\]](#)

## HIV/AIDS

- **Thailand** has reported 8,862 new HIV infections in 2025, with teenagers being the most vulnerable group (The Nation Thailand, 2025). Maha Sarakham province recorded 136 new hiv cases and 49 related deaths, along with 443 cases of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The Department of Disease Control calls for increased surveillance, diagnostic and treatment services, and public education to address the rising STI and HIV burden, particularly among adolescents in Maha Sarakham and across Thailand. [\[Full article\]](#)

## Leptospirosis

- **Philippines:** Bacolod City Health Office has reported nine cases of leptospirosis so far this year, a 12.5% increase compared to the same period in 2024 (SunStar Publishing Inc, 2025). The affected barangays included Banago, Villamonte, Estefania, Mansilingan, Bata, and Handumanan. Two deaths occurred in Barangay Banago and Barangay Villamonte. Health authorities emphasized poor health-seeking behavior and denial of exposure to contaminated environments as key factors contributing to complications and mortality, and also emphasized community involvement in rat population control and encouraged reporting breeding grounds to local authorities. [\[Full article\]](#)



## Melioidosis

- The **Philippines** Department of Agriculture (DA) is enhancing containment measures following confirmed human cases of melioidosis in Siquijor province (Daily Tribune, 2025). Surveillance teams have been deployed to conduct active case finding and implement disease control measures. The DA prioritizes public health and livestock protection, urging animal raisers to improve farm biosecurity, adhere to sanitary protocols, and refrain from slaughtering and selling sick animals. The public is advised against slaughtering and selling sick animals, and consumers are encouraged to purchase meat from inspected sources and practice safe food handling. [Full article]

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