

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

02 – 03 July, 2024



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 from January 2024.

Global Situation

Covid-19

- **Taiwan:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported 932 new COVID-19 cases with complications last week, the highest weekly level in 2024 (Yi-ning & Yang, 2024). Confirmed local cases between June 25 and July 1 rose 14% compared to the previous week with a slower increase compared to the previous two weeks. 64 new deaths were reported, marking a new high in the Omicron outbreak. Around 100,000 COVID-19-related visits to emergency and outpatient departments were made last week. Models predict that the pandemic will continue to rise, peaking at 120,000 in mid-July and then slowly declining. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** A new death from dengue in Bangladesh has been reported, raising the total fatalities to 45 this year (The Daily Star, 2024). The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 51 more patients hospitalized with viral fever. The country has recorded 3,702 dengue cases since January 2024. [[Full article](#)]
- **Iran:** Dengue fever is at risk of becoming an epidemic in Iran, according to the Director of the Center for Infectious Diseases Management at the Ministry of Health of Iran (Bağışov, 2024). The Aedes mosquito, found in countries like the UAE, is carrying the disease. Since April 20, the number of dengue fever cases in Iran has reached 138, majority came from the UAE, Pakistan, Iraq, and other countries. There have been 7 cases of transmission within the country. [[Full article](#)]
- **Israel** has been warned of a deadly dengue fever outbreak in the Far East and South America, with seven cases reported in Sharm el-Sheikh (Gal, 2024). Experts suggest a mosquito subspecies can transmit the disease, and climate change will increase its spread. In May, three Italians contracted the disease after returning from Sharm el-Sheikh, while four Israeli residents were also infected. Experts believe the outbreak is likely due to infected mosquitoes. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Two cases of locally contracted dengue fever have been confirmed in Monroe County, Florida (Cooper, 2024). The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District is intensifying mosquito control measures in Key Largo and Upper Matecumbe Key, including door-to-door inspections, enhanced monitoring, and the use of aerial larvicide and adulticide treatments. [[Full article](#)]



Diphtheria

- **India:** Four 10-year-old children in Koraput, India, were rushed to Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLNMCH) after showing signs of diphtheria (Odisha, 2024). The children were surveyed during an ongoing health awareness programme by the Health and Social Welfare department in Narayanpatna and Bandhugaon blocks of Koraput district. The children were placed in isolation rooms and their swabs sent to public health laboratories for testing. The Koraput health administration is also preparing to re-vaccinate children in vulnerable areas. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- The **United States (US):** Pertussis, or whooping cough, has spread throughout Brookline, resulting in 19 confirmed cases (Cristantiello, 2024). Despite the current low public health risk, it's crucial to inform the community, especially with the school year ending. [\[Full article\]](#)

Zika

- **India:** Pune has confirmed six new cases of the Zika virus, including two pregnant women (Pti, 2024). The virus, originating in Uganda, is spread through Aedes mosquito bites and is particularly dangerous for pregnant women. The Pune Municipal Corporation has implemented aggressive mosquito control measures, including fogging and fumigation, to manage the outbreak. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Semarang City Health Office has reported a doubled number of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases compared to 2023, with 231 cases and 3 deaths in June 2024 (Wiranto, B., 2024). The city's high mobilization and population density make it vulnerable to climate change's impact on infectious diseases like Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, and respiratory illnesses. Rapid DHF tests are now available at all Community Health Centers in Semarang City. [\[Full article\]](#)

DHF cases in South Tangerang City have surged by over 130% from last year, reaching over 600 cases as of June 2024 (Hambali, 2024). The Mayor highlighted ongoing efforts, including the introduction of *Wolbachia*-infected mosquitoes to combat the disease, although results are pending. [\[Full article\]](#)

- The **Philippines** recorded 205 deaths related to dengue fever from January 1 to June 15, with 77,867 cases detected across the Southeast Asian country, a 15% year-on-year surge (VietnamPlus, 2024). Secretary of Health urged local governments to take action in destroying mosquito breeding grounds. The disease peaks at the start of the rainy season, particularly due to changing weather and contaminated water. [\[Full article\]](#)



Typhoid

- **Malaysia:** Five secondary school students in Kota Baru have been diagnosed with typhoid, with 17 others being screened at local hospitals (Online, T.S., 2024). The contagious disease caused by *Salmonella typhi*, which spreads through poor sanitation and hygiene. Symptoms include fever, diarrhea, stomach aches, vomiting, nausea, constipation, headache, fatigue, and lack of appetite. The Kelantan Health Department director urged immediate reporting of symptoms for prompt medical assessment and management. [[Full article](#)]

Rabies

- **Indonesia:** Three residents in Berembeng Village, Selemadeg Sub-district, Tabanan District, were bitten by a stray dog, confirming their positive rabies status (Mendala, 2024). The dog was eliminated and buried without any specimen collected to test for rabies. However, the veterinarian confirmed the symptoms. The residents received further treatment at the hospital. Further examinations and vaccinations were carried out. The head of the village has requested mass vaccination of dogs and other rabies reservoir animals. Stray dogs that had contact with the rabid dog were also treated. [[Full article](#)]

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