

# ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

## Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

October 03 – 04, 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

#### *Mpox*

- **Australia:** New South Wales Health has reported 433 confirmed cases of mpox since June 1, the largest outbreak since May 2022 (Xinhua, 2024). Of these, 37% were fully vaccinated, 14% had received one dose, and 46% were unvaccinated. NSW's chief health officer expressed concern over the rising cases, with 26 requiring hospitalization due to severe symptoms. No cases of clade Ib strain of mpox have been detected in Australia. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Ghana** has confirmed a case of mpox in the Western North Region, marking the first case in 2024 (Frimpong, 2024). The patient, a 15-year-old boy, was initially hospitalized but later discharged and is currently stable at home. Public health emergency measures have been activated by the Western North Regional Health Directorate and the Bia West District. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Uganda** has reported 41 confirmed cases of mpox within the past two weeks, according to data from a regional consortium (Tugume & Zuguo, 2024). The disease is spreading rapidly in the central region, with most cases coming from fishing communities. Contact tracing and isolation efforts are ongoing. [\[Full article\]](#)

#### *Dengue*

- **Bangladesh:** Three dengue deaths have been reported in Bangladesh in the last 24 hours, bringing a total to 177 in 2024 (UNB, 2024). During the same period, 1,022 patients were hospitalized with the viral fever, contributing to a total of 33,099 cases since January 1, 2024. In 2023, 1,705 people lost their lives due to dengue. [\[Full article\]](#)



## ***Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)***

- **Saudi Arabia:** A human case of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) was reported in Saudi Arabia on September 5, involving a patient in his 50s with underlying health conditions and no camel contact (WHO, 2024). Before receiving a confirmed MERS-CoV diagnosis, the patient traveled to Pakistan on September 2. Notified by Saudi authorities on September 5, Pakistani health officials located the patient and transferred him to a hospital for isolation. He was discharged on September 13 after testing negative, with a follow-up on September 19 confirming his recovery. Since the start of 2024, five MERS cases, including four deaths, have been reported in Saudi Arabia. [[Full article](#)]

## ***Polio***

- **Afghanistan** is experiencing a surge in polio cases, with two reported in Kandahar province and one in Helmand province (ANI, 2024). The increase coincides with a ban on vaccinations imposed by the Taliban regime, further endangering efforts to control the disease. Since the beginning of this year, more than 20 polio cases have been recorded in the country.
- **Pakistan:** Polio cases have surged in Pakistan with three new confirmed cases, threatening global eradication efforts (ANI, 2024). The World Health Organization reported three new cases on September 30, bringing the total to 26. Pakistan and Afghanistan continue to remain the only two polio-endemic countries in the world with active cases. [[Full article](#)]

## ***Rabies***

- **Canada:** A child in Brantford, Ontario, died from rabies, the first human to contract the disease in over half a century (Takagi, A., 2024). The child was exposed to the disease in the Timiskaming region, where they woke up with a bat. The parents did not seek the rabies vaccine. [[Full article](#)]

## **Regional Situation**

### ***Dengue***

- **Indonesia:** Cimahi Municipality Health Office, West Java Province, reported six cases of death from dengue, highlighting the need for increased vigilance (Kurniawan, 2024). Dengue cases have been decreasing, with a downward trend observed from April through September. [[Full article](#)]
- **Malaysia:** The Pahang State Health Department reported 1,409 dengue fever cases, including five deaths, as of September 28 (Bernama, 2024). The deaths were primarily due to patients delaying treatment, with some dying just one day after admission. The public is urged to visit a health facility if they have a high fever and to return to the same clinic soon if symptoms persist. The state ranks second highest in Malaysia for dengue-related deaths. [[Full article](#)]



- **Philippines:** Three children died from dengue in Negros Occidental, bringing the total to 13 (Gomez, 2024). Dengue cases in the region reached 4,400 on September 28, a 272% increase from 1,181 in the same period last year, with the 1 to 10-year-old age group most affected. The Provincial Health Officer emphasized the importance of cleanliness and the removal of stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding. [[Full article](#)]

### **Malaria**

- **Indonesia:** The Jayapura District Health Office in Papua Province is working to reduce malaria cases by strengthening malaria cadres and providing counseling (Cepos, 2024). In 2024, a total of 25,364 people were infected, with the highest cases in March. The Yapsi District has the most cases, followed by Namblong and West Sentani. Pregnant women are prioritized for treatment due to the risk of maternal and child fatalities. [[Full article](#)]

### **Rabies**

- **Malaysia:** Sarawak faces an urgent need to combat rabies, as 12,587 animal bite cases reported this year, averaging 360 cases weekly (Umpang, 2024). In 2024, six new human rabies cases were reported. The majority of bites were inflicted by cats (63.3%), followed by dogs (43.3%). Pets were responsible for 69.1% of the bites, while wild or stray animals accounted for 30.86%. [[Full article](#)]

### **Tuberculosis**

- **Indonesia:** The Pekalongan City Government is conducting Active Case Finding (ACF) screening activities from October 1-4 to accelerate the elimination of Tuberculosis (Triantoko, 2024). The head of the Pekalongan City Health Office emphasized the need for increased tuberculosis case identification and treatment to achieve the 2028 elimination goal. In 2024, a total of 700 cases were detected out of a target of 1200. The ACF activities involve 300 participants from 27 sub-districts, utilizing laboratory tests and portable X-ray with support from a pulmonologist. [[Full article](#)]

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