

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

GLOBAL & ASEAN REGION

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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

Avian Influenza (H5N1)

- The **United States (US)**: The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed two human cases of H5 bird flu in California, marking the first cases in the Golden State (Xinhua, 2024). The cases occurred in people with occupational exposure to infected dairy cows. There is no known link or contact between the two cases, suggesting separate cases of animal-to-human spread of the virus. [\[Full article\]](#)

Chikungunya

- **India**: Chikungunya is rapidly spreading in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, marking an outbreak in mosquito-borne diseases (Ojha, 2024). Based on the data of the District Malaria Department, 20 Chikungunya fever patients were detected in Indore in 9 months, with 18 recorded in September. This is an increase from 13 chikungunya cases reported in the whole of 2023. [\[Full article\]](#)

COVID-19

- **Italy**: From September 26 to October 2, Italian authorities reported 13,073 COVID-19 cases and 85 deaths, with a 17% increase in cases compared to the previous week (Prensa Latina, 2024). However, deaths decreased by 24.1% compared to the previous week. The Higher Institute of Health reported 95,017 tests for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, with a 0.6% positivity rate. [\[Full article\]](#)

Dengue

- **Bangladesh**: Dengue fever caused five deaths and 927 hospital admissions accros the country in the last 24 hours (Pratidin, 2024). A total of 35,365 people have been infected, including 182 deaths as of October 5. Dengue outbreaks occur annually during the rainy season, with the situation worsening since June 2023. [\[Full article\]](#)



- **Nepal:** The number of dengue infections in Nepal has reached 14,975, with seven deaths reported (Republica, 2024). The highest number is reported in Gandaki Province with 6,920 cases. Other provinces have also reported cases of dengue: Koshi with 1,329 cases, followed by Lumbini (995), Sudurpashchim (736), Bagmati (489), Madhesh (286) and Karnali (220). In the Kathmandu Valley, 2,998 people have been infected. [[Full article](#)]
- **Pakistan:** Rawalpindi's dengue outbreak continues, with 107 new cases confirmed in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of patients receiving treatment to 311 (Mirza, 2024). Potohar Town remains the primary hotspot, with 58 new cases and nine deaths reported this year. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Russia:** Measles outbreaks have been reported in Tatarstan, Saratov Oblast, and Khakassia (ProMED, 2024). In Tatarstan, 260 cases of measles were detected, with most patients unvaccinated. In the Saratov region, 35% of patients who were supposed to be vaccinated were not vaccinated. As of August, 96 cases of measles were registered across these areas, including 51 among children. Although anti-epidemic measures were taken to prevent the spread of the infection, only 1,516 people (64.7%) were vaccinated, and the situation remains relatively unchanged. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** The Cianjur District Health Office, West Java Province, has warned of the potential re-emergence of dengue fever during the rainy season (Jatnika, 2024). The disease typically occurs twice a year, coinciding with seasonal transition between dry and rainy seasons. This year, nearly 700 cases of dengue fever have been reported, resulting in six deaths among individuals aged 7-14 years. To prevent its spread, the public is urged to always behave in a clean and healthy way, and carry out mosquito nest eradication programs. [[Full article](#)]
- **Thailand:** Phuket has recorded 1,999 cases of dengue fever, with one death, according to the head of the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) (Phuket.fr, 2024). Notably, the regional Department of Disease Control had previously confirmed that Phuket had the highest rate of dengue infections among Thailand's seven southern provinces between January 1 and July 19. [[Full article](#)]
- **Viet Nam:** Ho Chi Minh City reported 370 dengue fever cases last week, a 19.8% increase from the previous four weeks (Tính, 2024). The total number of cases since the beginning of 2024 to last week is 7,739, with District 1, Thu Duc City, and District 7 having the highest incidence rates. [[Full article](#)]



Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

- **Viet Nam:** The Ho Chi Minh City Center for Disease Control reports an increase in hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) with 420 cases recorded last week, a 37.3% increase from the previous four weeks (Tính, 2024). The total number of cases in 2024 are 12,252, with Binh Chanh District, Nha Be District, and District 8 having the highest incidence rates. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Viet Nam:** The Ho Chi Minh City Department of Health reported 1,193 suspected measles cases since the start of the year, with 458 confirmed cases (Tính, 2024). As of October, 13 districts have reached over 95% vaccination rates for children aged 1-10 years, with 6 districts having 100% vaccination rates. The department has asked the People's Committees to accelerate progress and keep up to date with mobile children to avoid missing unvaccinated children. [[Full article](#)]

Streptococcus suis Infection

- **Thailand:** The Department of Disease Control (DDC) has issued a warning about uncooked pork following 12 deaths linked to *Streptococcus suis* bacterial infection in four northeastern provinces (Tangprasert, P., 2024). Between January and September, 149 cases of hearing loss caused by the bacterium were reported, with the majority concerning individuals aged 65 and older. The bacterium is normally found in the upper respiratory tract, particularly the tonsils and nasal cavity, and the alimentary and genital tracts of swine. Infection can occur through the consumption or exposure to raw pork, pigs' blood, and internal organs. To reduce the risk of infection, the DDC recommends purchasing pork from reliable sources and using separate utensils for raw and cooked pork. [[Full article](#)]

Tuberculosis

- **Indonesia:** In Gorontalo District, Gorontalo Province, tuberculosis (TB) cases remain high, with 1,428 drug-sensitive cases and 25 drug-resistant cases reported (Sanga & Akantu, 2024). Of the drug-sensitive cases, only 257 cases have been declared cured. Local authorities have implemented several initiatives to prevent and control TB, including the formation of a TB community team, the launch of TB-free villages, and the distribution of additional food assistance. Despite these efforts, the persistent high number of TB cases underscores the need for further treatment and support. [[Full article](#)]



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