

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

February 29 – March 1, 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

- **Australia:** South Australia (SA) reported 1,496 new COVID-19 cases in the past week, with 4,281 people receiving a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, a 14% increase from the previous week (Adelaide, 2024). Rapid Antigen Tests are available for low-risk individuals with symptoms, and SA Health encourages vaccinations and a plan for vulnerable individuals to access PCR testing and antiviral treatments if they develop symptoms. [[Full article](#)]
- **Bangladesh** has reported one more COVID-19 death in February 28, raising the total fatalities to 29,490 (The Daily Observer, 2024). 57 new cases were reported, and 639 samples were tested, with a positivity rate of 8.92%. The country has 2,048,464 cases and 2,015,455 recoveries. [[Full article](#)]
- **Canada:** Ottawa Public Health reported 83 new confirmed cases and three new deaths during the period ending February 27 (Staff Reporter Ottawa, 2024). This week's reading brought the total number of Ottawa cases to 98,254 since the pandemic began in 2020, while 1,230 people have died. The health agency's weekly respiratory infections dashboard showed 12 new hospitalizations for flu patients in the seven days ending February 24, for a total of 199 this season. The report described flu levels as very high, the same as last week's data. Wastewater surveillance levels for flu continued to be very high, while levels for COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) were described as "moderate." There were five new outbreaks of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities, three new outbreaks of RSV, and no new outbreaks for flu, while two outbreaks are ongoing. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Indiana's COVID-19 death toll increased to 26,335 from 26,285 on February 13, with probable deaths increasing to 1,522 (Montgomery G, 2024). The total number of COVID-19 positive cases in Indiana rose to 2,200,358 from 2,194,098 on February 13. The state recorded a seven-day average of 50 hospital admissions and 307 emergency room visits. The Indiana Department of Health reported 3,866,813 Hoosiers completed the primary vaccination series through Tuesday. [[Full article](#)]



Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Dengue has not caused any deaths in the last 24 hours in Bangladesh, but 10 more people have been admitted to hospitals (Online Desk, 2024). This year, 17 people have died due to the disease, with six in Dhaka and four in the country. The number of hospitalized patients has reached 1394. [\[Full article\]](#)

Measles

- **Denmark:** Two new cases of measles have been detected in Region Central Jutland, Denmark, affecting an adult and a child (Ritzau, 2024). The cases are not related and are the fourth and fifth confirmed this year. The adult has no known contact with measles cases, and the child has a sibling who has a febrile illness but has not been examined for measles. Both children have been on a trip abroad at the end of January, making the infection potentially travel-related. The Swedish Agency for Patient Safety has initiated infection detection based on the infected person's close contacts in private life and healthcare. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Hong Kong:** Measles cases are on the rise globally, with over 58,000 people infected in Europe and Central Asia last year (Zhiqing, 2024). In Hong Kong, there have been three cases as of February 28 this year, with two people having completed the combined measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination and two not having a travel history for young children. The last major outbreak was in 2019, with 91 cases recorded in 2019. The Department of Health recommends vaccination for non-local-born persons, pregnant women, and children under one year old who have not received the first dose of MMR vaccine. A Honorary clinical associate professor of the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescence at the University of Hong Kong, advises public health precautions. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Russia:** A measles outbreak has occurred in a large residential complex in Surgut, with around ten people reportedly falling ill (Teplyakova, 2024). Doctors have conducted door-to-door visits, and residents are awaiting vaccination. The entrances are awaiting chemical treatment. Internet users noted that the house on the street likely was involved in the outbreak. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **The United Kingdom (UK):** The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirmed 69 laboratory confirmed measles cases in England since last week, bringing the total number since October to 650 (Deas, B.T., 2024). The outbreak initially dominated in the West Midlands, but clusters in other regions like the North West have continued to increase. A total of 17 cases were reported in October, 42 in November, 158 in December 2023, 268 in January, and 165 so far in February 2024. 63% of these cases were in the West Midlands, 15% in London, and 7% in Yorkshire and The Humber. [\[Full article\]](#)

Pertussis

- **The United Kingdom (UK):** Over 2,500 suspected cases of whooping cough have been diagnosed in 2024, with 365 cases in the last week ending February 25 (Ault, R. & Hurst, B., 2024). This is 25 times higher than the 108 cases identified last year and 35 times higher than the 76 cases at this point in 2022. General Practitioners are required to send notifications to the UKHSA to provide early warnings. Wales continues to have the most suspected cases, with 560 in the latest week. The spread is gaining pace in parts of England, particularly the South East. [\[Full article\]](#)



Regional Situation

COVID-19

- **Cambodia** has reported one new COVID-19 case, bringing the total to 139,094. No deaths were reported, with 3,056 fatalities (Tharith, 2024). Over 15.3 million doses of vaccines have been administered, with over 10 million shots for people aged 18 and above. The sixth dose is being accelerated. [[Full article](#)]
- **Singapore's** Ministry of Health has announced that mask-wearing will no longer be mandatory in some lower-risk healthcare settings, including polyclinics, general practitioner clinics, specialist outpatient clinics, dialysis centers, Traditional Chinese Medicine clinics, and dental clinics, starting March 1 (CNA, 2024). However, mask-wearing is still strongly encouraged for medically vulnerable persons, seniors, and those with acute respiratory infection. The revised measure comes a year after Singapore lowered its disease alert level to green. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** According to data from the Ministry of Health, until the seventh week of 2024, there were 10,655 cases of dengue fever reported and 89 deaths recorded (Anggita, N., 2024). Currently, cases are still relatively low compared to the previous year. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in Jombang have increased, with a 7-year-old girl dying while being treated at Jombang District Hospital (Budianto E.E, 2024). The number of dengue fever patients who died at the hospital increased to six this month, including five pediatric patients and one adult patient. Jombang District Hospital treated 182 patients with dengue virus infection, with 36 undergoing treatment. Doctors Appealed to the public to adopt a clean and healthy lifestyle, including eating and drinking more, getting enough rest, and being alert to the changing symptoms of dengue fever. [[Full article](#)]

DHF cases in West Java have increased, with 4,637 recorded in early 2024 (Nafilah Sagita, 2024). 36 people died in these cases, spread across several cities, including Bandung and Bogor. The Wolbachia technology strategy has been implemented in some areas, but it is still in its early stages. The Indonesian Ministry of Health reported 10,655 cases in 2024, with 89 deaths. The highest cases were in Kendari City, Kutai Kartanegara, Bogor City, Subang, and West Bandung. The Wolbachia mosquito program has been intensified to reduce the spread and transmission of DHF. Trials for the spread of wolbachia mosquitoes have been conducted in Yogyakarta City and Bantul District, with plans to continue expanding. DHF cases in these two regions have decreased relatively significantly. The government reminds the public to be aware of symptoms when exposed to DHF. [[Full article](#)]



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