

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

January 09 – 10, 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 2024.

Global Situation

Avian Influenza (H5N1)

- **Sweden** has reported an outbreak of the highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu virus on a farm in southern Sweden, killing 1,316 birds (Reuters, 2024). The Philippines has banned imports of French and Belgian poultry as a virus containment measure. The virus has ravaged global bird populations, disrupting supply, increasing food prices, and raising concerns about human transmission. [\[Full article\]](#)

COVID-19

- **Canada:** A Hamilton jamboree has reported 48 COVID-19 cases, more than initially reported by officials (Xia, 2024). The event's organizer, confirmed the cases were in the 30s and made up a small proportion of the 4000 scouts who had assembled. The medical team on site is confident in managing the positive COVID-19 case load. The 23rd Aotearoa New Zealand Scout Jamboree is being held at Mystery Creek, and participants are advised to isolate, travel home via the most direct route, and remain masked. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **India:** Maharashtra has reported 114 new COVID-19 cases today, with a recovery rate of 98.17% (PTI, 2024). The state has discharged 105 patients and conducted 13,845 COVID-19 tests. The day's positivity rate is 0.82%. The JN.1 variant has been identified in 250 individuals in the state. India has detected 475 new cases and 3,919 active cases, with six deaths reported in a 24-hour span. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Taiwan (Province of China):** Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported a rise in influenza-like illness among over 120,000 people last week, with the number expected to continue rising (Yi-ning and Hsiao, 2024). Adenovirus topped the list of dominating viruses, followed by influenza viruses (29.8%), influenza A virus H3N2, and parainfluenza virus (11.9%). The number of influenza-like illnesses reported that week is expected to hit 150,000, the second highest in 10 years. As of January 7, 250 of the 347 travelers tested positive for influenza and COVID-19. [\[Full article\]](#)



Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** A person died and 45 people were admitted to hospitals due to dengue in Bangladesh, with 18 in Dhaka (Pratidin, 2024). A total of 485 cases have been reported so far this year, with 827 patients discharged from hospitals. Currently, 352 patients are admitted in hospitals across the country, with 190 in Dhaka and 162 outside the city. [[Full article](#)]
- **India:** A child died from dengue fever in Vaniyampadi, India (Nadu, 2024). His father was in the area and took him to Vaniyambadi Government Hospital. After three days of treatment, the child died without any results. His body was taken to his hometown, and arrangements are being made for his last rites. The incident has caused both sadness and excitement in the area. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Israel:** A child and adult from the north contracted measles without a confirmed infection source and no recent travel abroad (Gilboa, 2024). The highly contagious virus can cause fever, malaise, runny nose, and rash, with severe complications. If symptoms appear, contact a physician and stay in public spaces until a medical examination. The Ministry of Health emphasizes the importance of routine vaccinations, as some may cause severe complications and death. [[Full article](#)]
- **Sweden:** An adult in Gothenburg has been infected with measles, and infection control in Västra Götaland is working to map their contacts and prevent the spread of the contagious disease (Kardell, and Persson, 2024). The person has sought care and their contacts have been exposed to the infection. Vaccination provides good protection against measles, and most residents are vaccinated. Due to high vaccination coverage, measles is now an uncommon disease in Sweden. Last year, a case was discovered in Västra Götaland, but no major outbreaks occurred. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Two more measles cases were confirmed by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, increasing the total to eight since the outbreak began at December 23, 2023 (Ignudo, 2024). Seven of the eight cases are in Philadelphia, while the other is from outside the city. The city is offering measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines for free at health centers. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, red watery eyes, and a rash starting at the forehead. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

COVID-19

- **Malaysia:** Flood evacuees in Pontian and Mersing have only detected two COVID-19 cases (Bernama, 2024). 938 victims have been screened by the Johor Health Department, and those found positive are placed in separate rooms. A total of 61 infectious diseases have been detected, including 53 acute respiratory infections, two conjunctivitis cases, and three skin disease cases. Clinics in Kota Tinggi have resumed operations. [[Full article](#)]
- **Lao PDR** health authority recommends continued vaccinations for high-risk groups, including booster shots, amid the COVID-19 pandemic's economic difficulties and health system challenges, with 218,906 cases and 722 confirmed deaths as of January 7. [[Full article](#)]



- The **Philippines**: The weekly rate of COVID-19 positives in Metro Manila has dropped to 17.4%, from 20.1% a week earlier, according to the OCTA Research Group (D. Ordoñez, 2024). The Department of Health reported 502 new cases nationwide, with 154 detected in Metro Manila. The Health Secretary reassured public about the minimal increase during holidays. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Indonesia**: Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases in Kendari City, Southeast Sulawesi Province, have increased by 43% as the rainy season enters (Mubarak, 2024). The increase is attributed to the faster growth of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes this season. To combat the spread, the public is advised to adopt a healthy lifestyle and clean their surroundings. The City Health Office has conducted mobile outreach and increased fogging focus due to high demand. In 2023, 253 cases were reported, with 5 deaths. [[Full article](#)]

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