

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center

Media Monitoring for Infectious and Emerging Diseases

ASEAN REGION

09 – 10 May, 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

- **Bangladesh** reported eleven more COVID-19 cases, with 262 samples tested, a 4.20% positivity rate (The Daily Observer, 2024). The country's total deaths remained at 29,494, with 2,050,060 cases and 2,017,529 recoveries. The first case was reported in March 2020. [[Full article](#)]

Dengue

- **Bangladesh:** Dengue in Bangladesh has increased to 29 fatalities this year, with 31 more patients hospitalized with viral fever (UBN News, 2024). The disease has affected 1,705 people last year, making it the deadliest year on record. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) recorded 321,179 cases and 3, 18,749 recoveries in 2024, with September being the deadliest month. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **United Kingdom (UK):** Ireland has reported 20 measles cases this year, with 13 more under investigation (Magliocco, 2024). Three outbreaks occurred in private homes, with one involving four, three, and two cases. The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) reports 13 cases under investigation, including probable and possible cases that haven't been laboratory confirmed. The majority of confirmed cases are aged 25-34, with one involving a 45-54 year old. The remaining cases range from 1 to 19 years old. [[Full article](#)]

Middle East respiratory syndrome

- **Saudi Arabia** has reported four new cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), a coronavirus that first emerged 12 years ago (BNO News, 2024). Two of the cases were caused by human-to-human transmission. The World Health Organization reported three cases in Riyadh between April 10 and April 17. The index case, a 56-year-old school teacher, had no clear history of exposure to MERS risk factors. Two more cases were found in the hospital, including a 60-year-old man who developed a fever and was admitted to the ICU. The fourth case, a 32-year-old man, had recent contact with camels and passed away on February 17. MERS has infected 2,613 people in 27 countries, including 941 who died. There is no vaccine or treatment for MERS, but several vaccines and therapeutics are currently in development. [[Full article](#)]



Pertussis

- **Canada:** Eastern Newfoundland is experiencing an outbreak of whooping cough, with 42 cases reported since February, mainly affecting children (The Canadian Press, 2024). The health authority has opened an appointment-only testing in clinics for those experiencing symptoms or in contact with a confirmed infection. The province's chief medical officer of health has issued a news release urging residents to ensure their vaccinations are up to date. Whooping Cough is a highly contagious bacterial infection that can be prevented through routine childhood vaccinations and antibiotic treatment. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **Spain:** In Aragon, 290 cases of whooping cough have been recorded this year, with 10 cases in the last week (Heraldo, 2024). This is higher than the last five years, with a median of two affected people. The Aragonese Government's Public Health Surveillance Service, Begoña Adiego, acknowledged the increasing incidence of the disease, warning that it reproduces in cycles of five and six years. [\[Full article\]](#)
- **United Kingdom (UK):** The Public Health Agency (PHA) has reported a significant increase in whooping cough cases in Northern Ireland, with 769 confirmed cases from the start of the year to 5 May (Glynn, 2024). This follows five babies dying in England from whooping cough. The PHA is urging pregnant women and parents of young children to book an appointment for the pertussis vaccine, which provides protection against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), and hepatitis B. The vaccine is given as part of the childhood vaccination program to children aged 8, 12, and 16 weeks, and is available at GP practices. [\[Full article\]](#)
- The **United States (US):** four cases has been confirmed among Ashe County High School students (Staff Report, 2024). All individuals diagnosed with pertussis are being treated according to guidelines established by the State of North Carolina and the Centers for Disease Control. The community is encouraged to ensure all family members, especially infants, young children, pregnant women, and older adults, are up to date on their vaccinations to protect against severe illness and death from pertussis. [\[Full article\]](#)

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) remains a significant threat to Situbondo District, particularly children. At least three children have died due to contracting DHF and were referred to the hospital too late (Laksana, 2024). In May 2024, the number of patients undergoing inpatient treatment at the Dr. Abdoer Rahem Situbondo General Hospital reached nine. However, no reports of patients dying from DHF have been reported. The number of DHF cases has increased from early 2024 to April, reaching 450 cases. [\[Full article\]](#)

The Bandar Lampung City Health Service reported 133 cases of DHF from January to early May 2024 (Sri, 2024). The number is higher than the previous period, with no cases of death. Four sub-district areas, Tanjung Karang Pusat, Sukarame, Sukabumi, and Rajabasa, have potential for an endemic increase in cases. [\[Full article\]](#)



Pertussis

- **Philippines:** Pertussis, or "whooping cough," affected 46 people in the Bicol Region from January 1 to May 4, 2024, according to data from the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit of the DOH Bicol CHD (Bicol, 2024). The disease, caused by *Bordetella pertussis*, is primarily affecting children, particularly infants and those not fully vaccinated, and spreads through droplet transmission. [[Full article](#)]

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