

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

- **China:** In March 2024, the Chinese mainland reported 588 new severe cases and 26 deaths due to the Omicron variant, with the JN.1 series variant being the most prevalent (Times, 2024). The daily number of patients seeking treatment at fever clinics fluctuated, with flu-like cases accounting for 5.6%, 5.3%, 4.9%, and 4.9% of visits. The positivity rate for flu-like cases increased from 18.2% to 21.1%, before declining to 15.9%. [[Full article](#)]
- **New Zealand:** New COVID-19 cases have been reported, with 13 deaths attributed to the virus (Rnz, 2024). Canterbury is the worst affected region, followed by Waitematā, Capital, Coast, and Counties Manukau. 3,399 new cases and seven deaths were reported last week. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** Ohio has seen a significant decrease in new COVID-19 cases, dropping from 2,224 to 1,877 this week, marking the lowest level since mid-July (Washington, 2024). The state has received at least 1,337,062 Ohioans, representing 11.4% of the population. The total COVID-19 case count since early 2020 in Ohio has reached 3,741,277. The state has also reported an increase in hospitalizations and ICU admissions, with 106 new cases and 43,896 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. Death reporting sometimes lags by weeks. [[Full article](#)]

Measles

- **Australia:** Two more measles cases have been identified in South Australia, triggered by an infant growing (Crouch, 2024). Both cases were household contacts of the case reported on April 4, and there are no new exposure sites to add to the earlier list. The fourth and fifth cases of measles in South Australia this year, compared to three cases at the same time last year, are the fourth and fifth cases recorded in 2023. Most measles cases in Australia occur in overseas visitors and returning residents who did not have two doses of the measles vaccine. The first measles case this year was in an infant from metropolitan Adelaide who had returned from overseas in early March. The second case was a 17-year-old male from metropolitan Adelaide who was exposed to the measles case in the infant. A third case was reported on April 4 of a person who was a contact of the second case. The cascade has continued with the latest two cases but no other cases have been reported from community contact. [[Full article](#)]



- **Sweden:** Three people in Gothenburg have contracted measles in three weeks, with an unvaccinated child and an adult believed to have been infected abroad (Andersson, 2024). There is no known connection between the first two cases, and the third person is connected to the first. The infection control unit in Västra Götaland has started infection tracking again, but it will be less than before. As long as the person is vaccinated, there is no reason for concern. The measles vaccine is offered in two doses, with the first administered at 18 months and the second around 6-8 years. Sporadic cases are not expected, but it is difficult to predict more cases. [[Full article](#)]
- The **United States (US):** A new measles case has been detected in Georgia, involving an unvaccinated individual traveling with an international group of students (Curley, 2024). The case is being treated at an Atlanta hospital. The CDC has documented over 100 measles cases nationwide this year, nearly double the total in 2023. The disease is highly contagious and can be prevented with the MMR vaccine. The CDC recommends children receive their first dose between 12 to 15 months of age and their second dose between 4 to 6 years old. [[Full article](#)]

Pertussis

- The **United States (US):** Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco has reported small clusters of pertussis, or whooping cough, among students (Ho, 2024). Since January, 13 cases of pertussis have been confirmed in the city, with most cases among vaccinated high school students and their close contacts. There have been no reports of serious illness, hospitalizations, or deaths, and there is no evidence of widespread community transmission. The San Francisco cases coincide with a recent outbreak in Marin County, which has reported about 100 cases since December, most of them among high school students at Tamalpais High in Mill Valley. Infectious disease experts say it is not unheard of for vaccinated teens to contract pertussis because protection from the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine fades over time. [[Full article](#)]

Regional Situation

Dengue

- **Indonesia:** Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases in Indonesia have surged due to extreme weather changes and increased cases (Butar, 2024). The Ministry of Health reported a total of 60,296 cases in the 14th week of 2024, with 455 deaths. The highest dengue cases were recorded in Tangerang District, followed by Bandung, West Bandung, Lebak, and Depok City. Bandung District had the highest death rate, followed by Jepara, Subang, Kendal, and Bogor Districts. People are advised to be cautious of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito bites and avoid puddles around their homes to minimize mosquito larva breeding. [[Full article](#)]
- **Singapore** has seen a surge in dengue cases, with 416 new infections reported from March 31 to April 6, a 67-percent increase from the previous week (Cue, 2024). Over 5,500 people have been infected with dengue during the first 14 weeks of 2024, with seven deaths, mainly elderly, as of March 25. The increase in cases in 2024 may be due to factors such as warmer weather and an increase in mosquito breeding places. [[Full article](#)]



Pertussis

- **Philippines:** Negros Occidental and Bacolod have issued a joint public advisory following five confirmed cases of pertussis or whooping cough (Panay News, 2024). Governors urged the public to be aware of the increasing number of cases. Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by the bacterium *bordetella pertussis*. Parents are advised to bring their infants for free vaccinations, while healthcare facilities are encouraged to coordinate with the PHO and Bacolod CHO for proper information dissemination and surveillance. [[Full article](#)]

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